

Survey of the Latter Writings

Syllabus

Overview

The Writings stretch from Ruth to Chronicles. These twelve books compose the third part of Jesus' Bible. Within the Writings, there are the former (first) and latter (second) Writings.

In this class, we'll consider the structure and main theme(s) of the Latter Writings: Daniel, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah and 1-2 Chronicles. (NOTE: Due to scheduling issues, Lamentations is included in the first class. It's difficult to discern whether it's meant to be part of the former or latter prophets). The Writings focus on living with wisdom—how think and live as Yahweh's covenant people. The Latter Writings specifically deal with *how to live faithfully in exile*; Esther and Daniel are two examples for us.¹ In Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles we see how Israel's return fell short of their anticipated restoration; indeed, there's a sense in which the people are still in exile, awaiting a new and greater exodus!² In each class, we'll also focus on each book's unique contribution to Scripture. We'll study what it meant to the original readers ("them-then"), how it points to Jesus and what that means for "us-now." Each lesson will prepare you to make the most of your readings each week.

Reading Plan

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Week 1	April 24-29	Lam 1-3	Lam 4-5	Dan 1-4	Dan 5-7	Dan 8-9	Dan 10-12
Week 2	May 1-6	Esther 1-2	Esther 3-4	Esther 5-6	Esther 7-8	Esther 9-10	(catch up)
Week 3	May 8-13	Ezra 1-3	Ezra 4-6	Ezra 7-10	Neh 1-5	Neh 6-9	Neh 10-13
Week 4	May 15-20	1 Chron 1-5	1 Chron 6-10	1 Chron 11-15	1 Chron 16-20	1 Chron 21-25	1 Chron 26-29
Week 5	May 22-27	2 Chron 1-6	2 Chron 7-12	2 Chron 13-18	2 Chron 19-24	2 Chron 25-30	2 Chron 31-36

¹ Miles Van Pelt, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction*, 38-39.

² Ibid.

Schedule

Date:	Book:	Teacher:
Apr 23	Lamentations & Daniel	Paul McDonald
Apr 30	Esther	James Bi
May 7	Ezra-Nehemiah	Mitch Hogeveen
May 14	Mother's Day ----- NO CLASS -----	N/A
May 21	1-2 Chronicles	Paul McDonald
May 28	Overview of The Law, the Prophets & the Writings	Paul McDonald

Class Book

Jason DeRouchie, ed. *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Jesus' Bible*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013.

Dig Deeper Option (on Psalms, from Former Writings)

ONLY 2 SPOTS LEFT! Sign up with Paul ASAP if you want in. Here are the requirements:

1. **Read** (1) DeRouchie pages 296-316; and (2) *Flow of the Psalms* (Palmer Robertson)
2. **Write** a 3 page book report on *The Flow of the Psalms*. DUE **Wed May 24**
 - a. Page 1 - a summary; Page 2 - critical interaction; Page 3 - application
3. **Pick a Psalm and Present:**
 - a. How the literary structure & flow of Psalms influences your Psalm
 - b. What your Psalm meant to "Them-then" (first readers; and/or those who read it within the final form of the Psalter, before the ministry of Jesus)
 - c. What it meant to Jesus & how did he read it & understand himself to fulfil it
 - d. What it means to "us now" & how does it applies to us
4. **Present** your findings in 15 minutes (max) at our Group Discussion Meeting on **Sun May 28, 6-9 pm** @ GFC Offices & be ready to answer questions

Schedule: 6:00 - speaker 1; and Q & A; 6:25 - speaker 2; and Q & A; 6:50 - BREAK
7:00 - speaker 3; and Q & A; 7:25 - speaker 4; and Q & A; 7:50 - BREAK
8:00 - speaker 5; and Q & A; 8:25 - speaker 6; and Q & A; 8:50 - Final Words