



Preaching from the Old Testament (BMIN5840)
Dave Bland

Fall 2017
Tuesdays 6:00-8:45PM

Syllabus

M.Div. Outcomes:

- A. **Students will demonstrate advanced skills in the interpretation of scripture.**
- B. **Students will demonstrate the skills required for theological reflection.**
- C. **Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate the scriptures and theological tradition with diverse contemporary cultural contexts.**
- D. **Students will demonstrate the skills associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities.**
- E. **More specific outcomes:**
 1. To appreciate the difficulties and opportunities that underlie the task of preaching from the Old Testament.
 2. To become aware of the variety of genres in the Old Testament and the preaching challenges that are unique to each.
 3. To gain an understanding of the theological themes of the Old Testament literature that will enable one to preach and teach faithful and challenging messages.
 4. To inspire students to make the Old Testament more central to their preaching agenda.

Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: dbland@harding.edu

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7722

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Textbooks

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books. By going through our website, HST will receive some credit from the order. Thanks for your support.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

All students in this course will use **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>). Distance students will use the video platform www.Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation

Equipment Requirements for using Zoom:

1. **Ear buds with microphone required. Apple Earbuds with mic have worked flawlessly and are required.** (Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic - Standard Packaging - White) Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Apple-MD827LL-EarPods-Remote-Mic/dp/B0097BEG1C/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1490297738&sr=8-3&keywords=apple+earbuds
2. **Additional monitor for remote students required. Used monitor is okay.**
3. Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera. On-ground students are encouraged to bring their laptops with camera to class and connect to the Zoom meeting with their computer.
4. Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred), Google Chrome, or Microsoft Internet Explorer.
5. Latest version of Zoom software. This does change periodically without notification.

Canvas can be accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>. If you have problems gaining access to the Canvas system, contact technical support for students by calling (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor. Of course, there are many email providers, and many students and professors hold more than one email address. To promote timely and secure communication about class related issues, students and professors will only use Canvas email.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

Required Text Books:

Olbricht, Thomas. *He Loves Forever: The Enduring Message of God from the Old Testament*. Revised and Expanded. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000. ISBN – none. **Book Review Due August 29th**.

Wright, Christopher. *How To Preach & Teach the Old Testament For All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. ISBN 9780310524649. **Book Review Due September 12th**.

Rutledge, Fleming. *And God Spoke to Abraham: Preaching from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2011. ISBN 9780802866066. **Book Review Due September 26th**.

Davis, Ellen F., *Preaching the Luminous Word: Biblical Sermons and Homiletical Essays*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7423-8. **Book Review Due October 10th**.

Bland, Dave and Webb Sean Patrick. *Creation, Character, and Wisdom: Rethinking the Roots of Environmental Ethics*. Eugene: Wipf&Stock, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-4982-3730-7. **Book Review Due October 24th**.

Course Requirements:

A. Book Reviews

1. The reviews should be 3-4 pages in length and follow the IDeA format. Here is a summary of the IDeA format:
 - a. Devote a paragraph to **Identify** (identify the author where author preaches or teaches; is the book in any series; what other book author has written that is related to the same topic, etc.), one page to **Describe** (briefly summarize the contents), and two pages to **Assess** (or evaluate). **Use three other reviews on each book to aid you in your assessment part of the review.**
 - b. Limit to **no more** than four pages double-spaced.
2. Olbricht review **Due August 29**
3. Wright review: **September 12**
4. Rutledge review: **Sept. 26**
5. Davis review: **October 10**
6. Bland & Webb review: **October 24**

B. Do an exegesis and a sermon on three texts from one particular book of OT literature we have focused on in class (**Due Nov 28**). This assignment has two parts:

1. Do an exegesis of each of the three texts (devote about 2 pages to each text).
 - a. follow the standard procedure of exegesis:

- 1) First Reading of the Text--a spontaneous even naive, engagement with the text.
 - a. What is the mood of the text?
 - b. Read it as though sitting among the congregation. The preacher goes to the text on behalf of the congregation. Or possibly read it orally in a different context, e.g. a text dealing with creation in a park, etc.
 - c. This would be one or two brief paragraphs that reflect your initial reading of the text.
 - 2) Establish the Text—
 - a. original language. But if don't know original language, compare 2 or 3 reliable translations.
 - b. Jerusalem Bible has good textual footnotes.
 - c. This will only be a paragraph in length
 - 3) Determining the Parameters of the Text—
 - a. Clues for beginnings and endings: thematic and literary.
 - b. The context
 - c. This will only be a paragraph in length.
 - 4) Employ various interpretive approaches—
 - a. Historical
 - b. form criticism
 - c. theological
 - d. rhetorical
 - e. literary
 - f. This will take up the majority of your two pages.
 - 5) State the sermon focus and function (Greidanus speaks of theme and purpose)
 - a. state the exegetical idea in the most exact and memorable sentence possible. The sermon aims to convey only one major idea.
 - b. Determine the sermon's function
 - i. The function is for the hearer to: understand, identify, explain, be persuaded, be encouraged, rebuked, etc.
 - ii. what does the text do? commanding, singing, explaining, warning, praying, reciting, narrating etc. If this text were put to music, what kind of music would it be?
 - 6) Decide on the Form of the Sermon: Deductive and inductive forms and sub-forms, narrative, dialogical, etc.
- b. Use quality scholarly exegetical resources.
 - c. Conclude your exegesis by stating a sermon focus and sermon function that flows out of the text. (See Long, *Witness of Preaching* chapter 4 for an explanation of these).
 - d. Must be in term paper form with footnotes/endnotes and bibliography
2. Based on the above exegesis, develop three sermons (devote about two pages to each sermon)
 - a. Use sermon focus and sermon function to guide the sermon development.
 - b. Sermons must be in full manuscript form.
 - c. Be intentional about the form of the sermon: Use O Wesley Allen's book, *Determining the Form* to help you decide how you will develop the sermon.
 - d. Consider how you will connect it with your audience. What images, experiences, illustrations, examples will you use?
 - e. Write one of these sermons to be preached in chapel. This sermon is limited to 10 minutes.
 3. You will also be graded on the use of good Turabian style.
 4. The total project should be about 12 pages in length.
- C. Preach one of the above three sermons in chapel. Keep in mind the HST theme for the year is "The Law of the Lord."

Tentative Schedule
Fall, 2017 - Tuesdays 6:00-8:45PM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
August 22	Introduction/Syllabus Preaching the Old Testament Discuss Olbricht's book
August 29	Preaching Genesis
Sept 5	Preaching Genesis
Sept 12	Preaching Numbers Discuss Wright's book
Sept 19	Preaching Joshua and Judges
Sept 26	Preaching Ruth Discuss Rutledge's book
Oct 3	Mid Term Exam
Oct 10	Preaching 1 and 2 Samuel Discuss Davis' Book
October 17	Preaching 1 and 2 Samuel
October 24	Preaching Job Discuss Bland/Webb's Book
October 31	Preaching Job
Nov 7	Preaching Song of Songs
Nov 14	Preaching Song of Songs
Nov 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 28	Preaching Jonah Exegesis/Sermon Paper Due
Dec 5	Final Exam

Select Bibliography for Preaching from the Old Testament

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth. The Old Testament and the Proclamation of the Gospel. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1973.
- Achtemeier, Elizabeth. Preaching from the Old Testament. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Achtemeier, Elizabeth. Preaching from the Minor Prophets. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Allen Ronald J. and Holbert, John C. Holy Root, Holy Branches: Christian Preaching from the Old Testament. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Bright, John. The Authority of the Old Testament. Nashville: Abingdon, 1967, reprinted by Baker Book House 1975.
- Brueggemann, Walter. Texts Under Negotiation: The Bible and Postmodern Imagination. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Brueggemann, Walter. Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Brueggemann, Walter. Charles L. Campbell, ed. The Threat of Life: Sermons on Pain, Power, and Weakness. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
- Cosser, W. Preaching the Old Testament. London: Epworth, 1967.
- Crenshaw, James L. Trembling at the Threshold of a Biblical Text. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Gowan, Donald. Reclaiming the Old Testament for the Christian Pulpit. Atlanta: John Knox, 1980. Reissued Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.
- Hauerwas, Stanley M. Willimon, William H. The Truth About God: The Ten Commandments in Christian Life. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
- Holbert, John C. Preaching Old Testament: Proclamation & Narrative in the Hebrew Bible Abingdon, 1991.
- Holbert, John C. Telling The Whole Story: Reading and Preaching Old Testament Stories. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2013.

- Holbert, John C. The Ten Commandments: The Great Texts, a Preaching Commentary. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.
- Holladay, William L. Long Ago God Spoke: How Christians May Hear the Old Testament Today. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Holmgren, Fredrick C. and Schaalman, Herman E. eds. Preaching Biblical Texts: Expositions by Jewish and Christian Scholars. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Kaiser, Walter. The Old Testament in Contemporary Preaching. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1973.
- Klein, George L. Ed. Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle: Preaching the Old Testament Faithfully. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Leggett, Donald A. Loving God and Disturbing Men: Preaching from the Prophets. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.
- McCurley, Foster R. Proclaiming the Promise. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974.
- McCurley, Foster R. Wrestling with the Word: Christian Preaching from the Hebrew Bible. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press, 1996.
- Moore, Michael, S. Reconciliation: A Study of Biblical Families in Conflict. Joplin: College Press, 1994.
- Rad, Gerhard, von. Trans. John E. Steely. Biblical Interpretations in Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon, 1978.
- Scroggs, Donald, H. The Value of the Historical-Critical Method upon Preaching the Old Testament. Dallas: Perkins School of Theology, 1984.
- Stevenson, Dwight E. Preaching on the Books of the Old Testament. New York: Harper, 1961.
- Stuempfle, Herman. Preaching Law and Gospel. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.
- Toombs, Lawrence E. The Old Testament in Christian Preaching. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1961.
- Ward, James and Christine. Preaching from the Prophets. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Watson, Paul. Expository Preaching from the Old Testament Inman Bible Forum, Ohio Valley College, 1987.

Westermann, Claus, ed. Essays on Old Testament Hermeneutics. Atlanta: John Knox, 1979.

Wolff, Hans Walter . Old Testament and Christian Preaching. Fortress Press: Philadelphia, 1986.

Articles on Preaching from the OT

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. "The Relevance of the Old Testament for Christian Preaching." In A Light unto My Feet: Old Testament Studies in Honor of Jacob M. Myers, edited by Howard N. Bream, Ralph D. Heim, and Carey A. Moore, 3-24. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1974.

Alleman, Herbert C. "Personal Religion: How to Preach from the Wisdom Books and the Psalms." Interpretation 2 (July 1948): 299-312.

Balentine, Samuel E. "Preaching the Prayers of the Old Testament." Journal for Preachers. 17 no 2 (1994): 12-17.

Birch, Bruce, C. "Homiletical Resources: The Psalter as Preaching Test." Quarterly Review 1 (Winter 1981): 61-93.

Bjornard, Reidar B. "Christian Preaching from the Old Testament." Review and Expositor 56 (January, 1959): 8-19.

Brueggemann, Walter. "As the Text 'Makes Sense': Keep the Methods of Exposition as Lean and Uncomplicated as Possible (Examples: Jer. 8:18-9:3; Jer 31: 16-22)." The Christian Ministry 14 (November 1983): 7-10.

Chernick, Michael. "Homiletical Resources from the Hebrew Bible for Lent (Gen 17:1-10, 15-19; Ex 20:1-17; Jer 31:31-34)." Quarterly Review 4 (Winter 1984): 82-102.

Currents in Theology and Mission. "How are They to Hear?" Special issue on Preaching from the Old Testament. 20 (August, 1993): 242-267.

Davidson, Robert. "Biblical Classics, pt. 5. George Adam Smith: Modern Criticism and the Preaching of the Old Testament." Expository Times 90 (January, 1979) : 100-104.

- Deuel, David C. "Suggestions for Expository Preaching of Old Testament Narrative." The Master's Seminary Journal 2 (Spring 1991): 45-60.
- Fretheim, Terence E. "The Old Testament in Christian Proclamation," Word & World III (Summer, 1983): 223-330.
- Holbert, John. "The Book of Job and the Task of Preaching." Journal for Preachers. 13 no 2 (1990): 13-22.
- Jasper, F. N. "Preaching in the Old Testament." Expository Times 80 (Summer 1969) : 356-361.
- Juel, Donald H. "The Old Testament in Christian Proclamation: A New Testament Perspective." Word & World 3 (Summer 1983).
- Kromminga, Carl G. "Remember Lot's Wife: Preaching Old Testament Narrative Texts." Calvin Theological Journal (April, 1983): 32-46.
- Long, Thomas G. "The Fall of the House of Uzzah . . . and Other Difficult Preaching Texts." Journal for Preachers (Spring, 1983): 3-13.
- Mayer, Herbert T. "Old Testament in the Pulpit." Concordia Theological Monthly 35 (October 1964): 603-608.
- McCann, Clinton. "Preaching on Psalms for Advent." Journal for Preachers. 16 no 1 (1992): 11-16.
- Miles, Carol Antablin. "'Singing the Songs of Zion' and Other Sermons from the Margins of the Canon." Koinonia 6 no 2 (Fall, 1994): 151-173.
- Miller, Patrick D. Jr. "The Old Testament and Christian Faith." Currents in Theology and Mission 20 (1993): 245-252.
- Olson, Dennis T. "Rediscovering Lost Treasure: Forgotten Preaching Texts of the Old Testament," Journal for Preachers 13 no. 4, (1990): 2-10.
- Preaching. "Preaching the Old Testament." 10 no 1 (July-August, 1994).
- Read, David H. C. "Old Testament and Modern Preaching." Union Seminary Quarterly Review 12 (January 1957): 11-15.
- Ridenhour, Thomas E. "The Old Testament and Preaching." Currents in Theology and Mission 20 (1993): 253-258.

- Storley, Calvin. "Reclaiming the Old Testament." Lutheran Quarterly ns 1 (Winter 1987): 487-494.
- Stuart, Douglas. "Preaching from Old Testament Poetry." In Newell Lectureships, edited by Timothy Dwyer. Anderson: Warner press, Vol I (1992): 133-206.
- Toombs, Lawrence E. "The Problematic of Preaching from the Old Testament." Interpretation 23 (July, 1969): 302-314.
- Troeger, Thomas H. "The Shaping of a Sermon: The Text Shapes the Preacher Shapes the Sermon Shapes the Listener (Example: Jer 1:4-10)." The Christian Ministry 13 (May 1982): 15-18.
- Tucker, Gene M. "Reading and Preaching the Old Testament," Ch. Two in Listening to the Word: Studies in Honor of Fred B. Craddock. Gail R. O'Day & Thomas G. Long, eds. Nashville: Abingdon Press, (1993): 33-51.
- Watson, Paul. "The Authority of the Old Testament for Christians." Vol 2, Institute For Christian Studies Faculty Bulletin, 1981.
- Watson, Paul, "Preaching From the Old Testament," Leaven Vol 5, no 1 (1997): 23-27.
- Westermann, Claus. "From the Old Testament Text to the Sermon." Review and Expositor 72 (Spring, 1975): 169-179.
- Wood, William P. "Preaching from the Old Testament." Journal for Preachers. (1985), 13-20.