

# Minority Ministry in a Majority World

## *Daniel and Nehemiah*

Reformed Theological Seminary — Atlanta, GA

Spring Term, 2020

Instructor: Carl F. Ellis, Jr.

This course looks at the people of God in biblical history and how they were able to function as a distinct and unique minority in their societies. Particular focus is on the ministries of Daniel and Nehemiah and how they were able to maintain their integrity in their times with a view to what contemporary people of God can learn from them as they apply biblical wisdom in today's hostile situations.

### Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify how the basic cultural dynamics effected the people of God during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries B.C.
2. Articulate the parallels and contrasts between the people of God then and now.
3. Explain the difference between functioning from a dominant position in society vs. from a subdominant position.
4. Recognize the people of God as a distinct and unique cultural minority.
5. Distinguish between *empowerment* and *enablement* approaches to ministry in a sub-dominant cultural context.

### Required Reading

1. Chapell, Brian: *THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO DANIEL*
2. Packer, J. I., *PASSION FOR FAITHFULNESS: Wisdom from the Book of Nehemiah*
3. Newbigin, Lesslie: *THE GOSPEL IN A PLURALIST SOCIETY*
4. Naugle, David K.: *WORLDVIEW: The History of a Concept*

## Course Requirements

1. **Complete all reading assignments by April 2, 2020.**
2. Consistent class attendance and participation in class discussions.
3. **A response paper due on May 15, 2020** — 15-20 pages
4. Complete a final exam during the Examination period — **May 12-18, 2020**
5. **Guidelines for Response Papers**
  - a. CREATIVITY: Evidence of personal insight into the content.
  - b. CLARITY: Thinking and expression of thought clearly communicated.
  - c. CONCEPTUALIZATION: Analytical skills evident.
  - d. CONTRIBUTION: Practical and usable in ministry.
6. **Format Guidelines for Response Papers**

All papers must be in *Word Perfect 7* or higher; *MS Word 95 for Windows* or higher; or *MS Word for Mac* 2008 or higher.

Email the paper as an attachment to: **cellis@rts.com**

Please be sure to identify your email as “**RTS - MMMW**” (all caps)

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE DOCUMENT ITSELF.**

If you run into difficulty meeting the deadline, please call me at:

(423) 280-4183 (cell)