

Hebrew Exegesis

Spring

OT 5150-D1

2026

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Monday, 1-3pm

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Course Description

In this course, we will (1) continue to study Biblical Hebrew morphology, grammar, and syntax; (2) continue to acquire new Hebrew vocabulary; and (3) learn how to study the Bible – the science of Hebrew exegesis! Prerequisites: Hebrew 1 and Hebrew 2.

Course Protocols

1. *Grading Schedule.* The letter grading scale is stipulated by the institutional catalogue.
2. *Attendance and Late Assignments.* Attendance is a requirement. Due to the nature of the course offering, absence is not permitted. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class section. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.
3. *Special Needs.* In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
4. *Computers.* The use of a computer in class is not recommended. One may be used, if necessary, for note taking purposes. The playing of games, the use of the internet, or work unrelated to the course is prohibited. A first offence will result in the loss of a letter grade. A second offence will result in course failure.
5. *Disclaimer.* This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of the syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the semester.

Textbooks

1. Piotrowski, Nicholas G. *In All the Scriptures: The Three Contexts of Biblical Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2021.
2. Stuart, D. K. *Old Testament Exegesis*, 5th ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2022.
3. BHS. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.
4. HALOT. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*.

Course Requirements

1. We will read the entire book of Ruth. Translations will be turned in on the last day of class, April 27. 10% of the final grade.
2. Major exegesis paper. Due April 27 at class-time. 90% of the final grade.
3. Attendance and class participation are required.

Course Schedule

February 2	Introduction and Syllabus History of Interpretation. Please have translated for today Ruth 1:1-5. Read Piotrowski, 19-51.
February 9	Introduction to BHS. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 1:6-14. Select and translate a narrative passage from the OT for your exegesis paper. The pericope should be between 8-10 verses in length. Read Stuart, 5-32.
February 16	Textual Criticism. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 1:15-18. Enter the Hebrew text of your passage into your word processor and, in footnotes, translate the textual apparatus of BHS and comment on any other textual issues.
February 23	Lexical Studies. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 1:19-22. Select two important words from your text and conduct a thorough word study of each. Type a one-page summary of each study. Read Piotrowski, 74-96.
March 2	Grammatical and Syntactical Analysis. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 2:1-7. Make a list of 25 grammatical and syntactical observations related to your text. You should make reference to grammars such as Jouon-Muraoka, Waltke and O'Connor, Arnold and Choi, etc.

- March 9 Reading week.
- March 16 Structure. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 2:8-13. Produce a formal outline of your text. Read Piotrowski, 198-233.
- March 23 Literary and Historical Contexts. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 2:14-23. Using any necessary secondary literature (see Stuart, 83-194), identify the genre of your text and demonstrate the significance of this literary type for your text. Write a one-page summary describing the historical context of your text. Read Piotrowski, 97-120.
- March 30 Biblical Context. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 3:1-13. Identify the appearance of your passage elsewhere in either the OT or the NT. Do these texts help to interpret, explain, or apply your text? Make a list of references and briefly explain what these passages contribute to your understanding and interpretation of the text. Read Piotrowski, 121-162.
- April 6 Systematic Theology. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 3:14-18. To what categories of systematic theology does your passage contribute? Select one appropriate category from systematic theology and write a one-page summary detailing how your passage contributes to this area of study. Read Piotrowski, 163-197.
- April 13 Secondary Literature. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 4:1-6. Create the bibliography for your paper. List only those works cited in the footnotes or body of your paper. Be certain that your bibliographic entries comply with the appropriate format. Read Piotrowski, 234-258.
- April 20 Application. Assignment for today: translate Ruth 4:7-12. Apply the message of your passage to the life of the modern-day believer. How does the passage speak to us today? From Exegesis to Sermon Preparation. Assignment: Create a one-page sermon outline based on your text.
- April 27 Assignment for today: translate Ruth 4:13-22. Turn in your final exegesis paper and translations.

Exegesis Paper

Your exegesis paper must include the following items. Before you turn in your final paper, you must have a fellow student read, edit, and sign the last page of the bibliography.

1. Title Page. See attached example.
2. Hebrew Text. The first step is to import the Hebrew text into your word processing application. At this point, footnote and discuss any relevant text critical issues that appear in the textual apparatus or secondary literature.
3. English Translation. Provide your own translation of the Hebrew text. Footnote any relevant information that relates to your translation. For example, you may comment on how your translation differs from one or more of the standard English Bibles.
4. Introduction and Outline. Give a basic introduction to the content and structure of your passage. In other words, provide the big picture before you begin the verse-by-verse commentary.
5. Verse by Verse Commentary. Describe the basic content of each verse. Detailed analysis of grammar, syntax, word studies, and historical issues are to be considered.
6. Theological Summary and Conclusions. Tie it all together! This is the “so what” section of the paper. What is the biblical-theological contribution of this passage to the larger narrative complex and to the whole of Scripture? How does it fit in the unfolding of God’s redemptive history? What does your passage teach us of Christian living?
7. Sermon Outline. Create a one-page sermon outline from which you could preach.
8. Bibliography. Provide a complete listing of all secondary literature cited in your paper. Entries may include Hebrew grammars, lexicons, word study books, monographs, dissertations, journal articles, or commentaries. Note that one’s consultation of commentaries should be restricted to the final stages of study. It is important that you develop your own exegetical skills rather than rely upon the work of others.

Strike that Rock!
A Study of Exodus 17:1-7

A Paper
Presented to
Dr. John D. Currid
Reformed Theological Seminary (Dallas)

In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Hebrew Exegesis (OT 506)

By
Joe Student
April 27, 2026