

Course Syllabus

OT 613 – Psalms (2 credits)

Dr. Michael P. V. Barrett

Objectives: The content, exegesis, and theological analysis of selected Psalms. The study of the nature and character of Hebrew poetry. Special focus on the themes of worship and messianic theology.

General Requirements:

1. **Textbook:** Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1-72* and *Psalms 1-73*. Read the introduction in the first volume and the commentary section for each Psalm discussed in class.
2. Read the following by the end of the term and write a paragraph synopsis of the basic content of each:
 - Barrett, Michael P. V., *The Beauty of Holiness*, 159-175.
 - Barrett, Michael P. V., *Beginning at Moses*, 295-320.
 - Bell, Robert D., *The Theological Messages of the Old Testament Books*, 221-255.
 - Berry, Donald K., *An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry in the Old Testament*, 357-381.
 - Bullock, C. Hassel, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*, 111-145.
 - Chisholm, Robert B., "A Theology of the Psalms," in *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, ed. R. B. Zuck, 257-304.
 - Dillard, Raymond, and T. Longman, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 211-234.
 - Estes, Daniel J., *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*, 141-211.
 - Howard, David M., "Recent Trends in Psalms Study," in *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, ed. D. W. Baker and Bill Arnold, 329-368.
 - Johnson, Terry, "Restoring Psalm Singing in Our Worship," in *Give Praise to God*, ed. Ryden, Thomas, Duncan, 257-286.
 - Kaiser, Walter C., *The Messiah in the Old Testament*, 92-135.
 - Smick, Elmer B., "Ugaritic and the Theology of the Psalms," in *New Perspectives on the Old Testament*, ed. J. B. Payne, 104-116.
 - Waltke, Bruce K., "Psalms: Theology of," in *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*, 4: 1100-1114.
3. Write an Expository Sermon on Psalm 91. The sermon is due on February 6. The sermon should be four pages. Manuscript the introduction. The introduction should include the theme and proposition. The sermon body should be in outline form, extending to level two at the minimum. Include application and illustrations where appropriate.
4. Write a paper on the use of the Psalms in modern worship (five to seven pages). Include an evaluation of exclusive Psalmody. This paper is due the **final** week (March 5) of the session. Follow the standard format for GRS papers.

Grade: The grade in this class will be based on the completion of the assigned reading with notes (100 maximum points), the sermon (100 points), the written project (150 points), and the final exam (350 points).

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