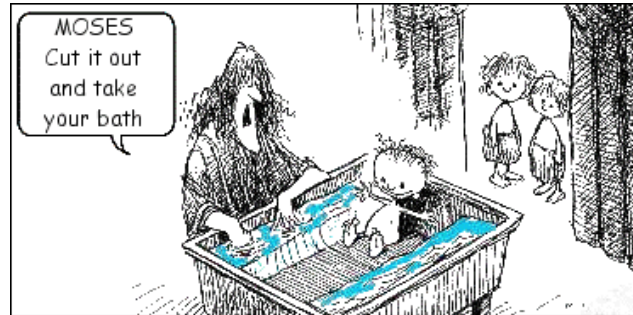


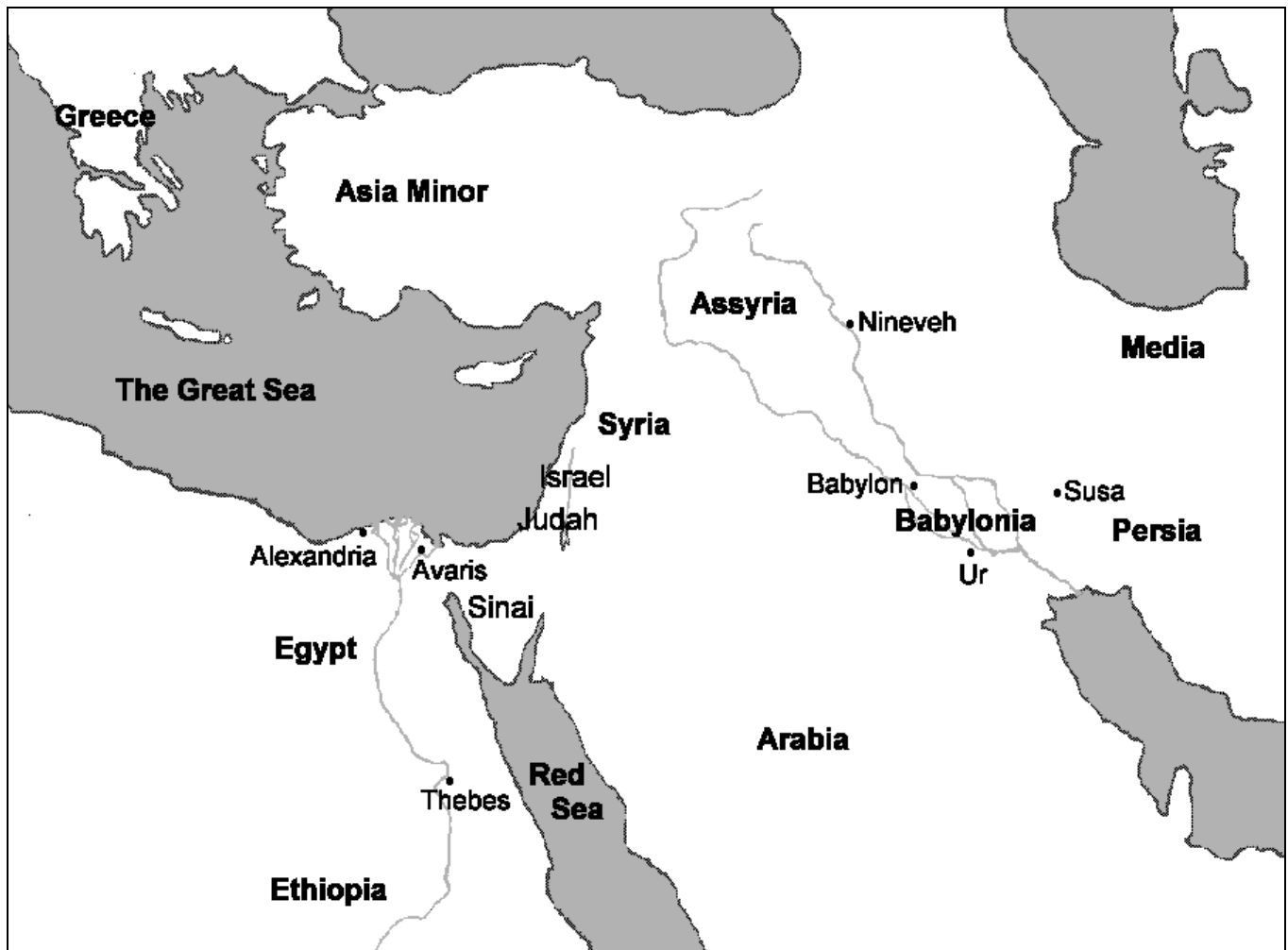
Introduction to the Old Testament

A Survey in Ten Sessions

San Bernardino CBI 2010 – 2011



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The Stage for the Play: The Ancient Near East

Texts:

Required:

(1) Fr. Anthony Ceresko, OSFS, Introduction to the Old Testament: A Liberation Perspective (Second Edition, Orbis Books: New York, 2001)

(2) The Bible (New American, New Revised Standard Version, New Jerusalem, or New International Versions preferred. NO “King James Versions”, please, nor paraphrases). I recommend the New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha (Oxford Univ. Press).

Suggested for personal study, but not required:

- (1) Oxford Bible Atlas (2007)
- (2) The New Jerome Biblical Commentary (1990)
- (3) Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible (2000)

Schedule of Lecture Topics:

(1) September 11, 2010 – Overview and Introduction to the Course

Recommended Reading after this session: Ceresko: 3–28.

In this introductory session, Dr. Felix Just and Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher will go over some preliminary surveys of the subject ahead, including for Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher, an introduction to the geographical and political context of Biblical History, and an overview of Critical Problems of studying the Bible.

(2) September 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Genesis and the Documentary Hypothesis
Ceresko: Pp. 29–78
Bible: Genesis

(3) October 09, 2010

SUBJECT: The Exodus and Biblical Law
Ceresko: 79–96, Hand-outs
Bible: Exodus 1–23; Deuteronomy 14–31; Leviticus 1–6

(4) November 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Early Israel, Judges, and Traditions of “Conquest”
Ceresko: 97–122
Bible: Joshua and Judges

(5) December 04, 2010

SUBJECT: The Monarchy and the Problem of Warfare in Ancient Israel

Ceresko: 123–180

1 Sam. 7-8; *SKIM 1 Sam 16 – 2 Sam 10*; READ 2 Sam 11–12; 1 Kings 1–9
2 Kings 16–25.

(6) January 08, 2011

SUBJECT: Early Prophets

Ceresko: 181–223

Bible: Amos, Hosea, Micah, *Skim Isaiah 1–39*

(7) February 05, 2011

SUBJECT: The Exile and Exilic Prophets

Ceresko: 224–270

Bible: Jeremiah 1–29; *Skim Ezekiel*; Isaiah 40–55

(8) March 12, 2011

SUBJECT: The Exile and Persian Period; Psalms; Daniel 1–6; Esther

Ceresko: 271–303; 331-340

Bible: Daniel 1–6 (and Susanna, Bel, and the Dragon); Esther; Read any 20 Psalms;
Ezra–Nehemiah

(9) April 09, 2011

SUBJECT: Apocalyptic, Wisdom, & Deutero-Canonical Books

Ceresko: 331–340 (review); 316–330; Hand-Out on Hellenistic Period

BIBLE: Daniel 7–12; Proverbs 1–12; Ecclesiastes; 1 Maccabees, Wisdom, Tobit, and Judith.

(10) May 14, 2011

SUBJECT: On the Problems of Old Testament Theology for Christians, and Other Fun Topics... (like oppression of women, minorities, indigenous peoples, Fundamentalism, and other abuses of the Old Testament....)

Also: “Are there LOST books of the Bible?”

Ceresko: 341–350, Handouts

Assignments:

There will be assignments for short reflective essays for most of the sessions, and in addition, a final project graded by Dr. Smith-Christopher.

FINAL PROJECT

The final project will be 10 pages minimum. The project is based on the notion that you have been asked to give a talk to a group of Catholic lay people on the following topic:

“Ten Reasons Why a Modern Catholic Should Study the Old Testament”

Basically, when you finish this project, you will be ready to give this presentation. The project is your speaking notes for the presentation.

You *MAY* provide illustrations, maps, drawings, or anything else to accompany your presentation, but these illustrations, maps, or drawings will *NOT* count as part of the basic 10 pages.

This does not have to be written out formally (as if you could simply read it) – it could consist of pages of bullet points, or notes, to prompt you as you give this as a talk. In fact, it is often *BETTER* to give an oral presentation from bullet points or notes rather than being tempted to read it out word for word!

You *MAY* wish to “illustrate” each of your 10 points with a particular scripture reference that somehow relates to the point you are making.

During the course of this year, if you have ideas for some of your “Ten Points”, please feel free to discuss them with Dr. Smith-Christopher.

THE TEN POINTS PROJECT WILL BE DUE *APRIL 09*, SO THAT I CAN GRADE THEM, MAKE SUGGESTIONS, AND GET THEM BACK TO YOU!