

Hebrew Exegetical Methods, 132  
 Instructor: R. V. McCabe, Th.D.  
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary  
 Spring Semester  
 2008 (Second revision)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the various aspects of the Hebrew exegetical process. This course is designed to acquaint the student with this exegetical methodology as applied to the literary genres contained in poetic and prophetic literature. Emphasis is also given to continued development of the student's ability to translate.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- While becoming acquainted with this exegetical methodology, the student should
1. become thoroughly acquainted with a legitimate methodology for doing exegesis in the OT;
  2. gain practice in Hebrew exegesis and, consequently, confidence as he handles the Hebrew Bible;
  3. be able to produce a substantive exegetical paper;
  4. be capable of developing an expository sermon based upon a sound exegetical methodology;
  5. continue to become more adept in his translation of the Hebrew OT; and
  6. develop an appreciation for the message and theological framework of Psalm 2 and Malachi.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Reading assignment:** The student must completely read Stuart's text by **Wednesday, March 5**. Each day that this is not done will result in one percentage point being subtracted from his final grade.
2. **Exegetical assignments:** Each student will complete ten assignments that will be turned in on the assigned date. These may be typed or handwritten (neatly, of course!) and may be approximately one or more pages in length. Every student will work through the exegetical methodology taught in class as applied to Psalm 2 in the first half of the semester. After the assignments on this psalm have been completed, the student will then choose a passage from Malachi and execute the same assignments on his selected passage in the last part of the semester. As soon as a passage from Malachi has been chosen, each student should immediately begin to search the periodical indexes and various search engines for articles and books on his passage. Beginning with the first exegetical assignment on Malachi, the student should place the bibliographic data in whatever word processing program he will use for his term paper. With each exegetical assignment, the student will have attached to the assignment a "Bibliography" that is not only pertinent for the specific assignment but for whatever additional material he has acquired at the time of the assignment. Each bibliographic entry must be recorded in accord with the requirements set forth in the Seminary Guidelines. This list of resources will be an evolving list. The final form must include legitimate lexical sources, wordbooks, encyclopedia articles, and pertinent journal articles. Theoretically, as each page of bibliographic entries for each exegetical assignment are submitted, the "Bibliography" with the first assignment will be the shortest bibliography, though it will have some "beef" to it since you must turn in a list of pertinent journal articles for your passage, and the one for the expository sermon the longest—**60% of grade**.

Assignments must be turned in on the scheduled day at the beginning of the class, unless a student has an excusable absence. If a student has an excusable absence, he must turn in the assignment no later than 4:00 P.M. on the day he returns to seminary. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on the day he returns to seminary, a late penalty of 10% per day begins accruing for each day that he goes beyond my 4:00 P.M. deadline. This penalty will be subtracted from the student's earned grade for the assignment. If a student has an inexcusable absence, he will receive a 10% penalty for not having an excusable absence. He must turn in the assignment no later than 4:00 P.M. on the assignment's scheduled day to avoid any daily late penalties. If he turns in the assignment after 4:00 P.M. on the assignment's scheduled day, his daily late penalties begin accruing after 4:00 P.M. of that same day. For example, if a student misses a class when a specific assignment was scheduled without having an excusable absence and if he turns the assignment in no later than the 4:00 P.M. deadline on the same day as the scheduled assignment, he will lose 10% as a penalty for not having a legitimate excuse. However, if this student would turn in the assignment after 4:00 P.M. on the same day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, he will lose 20% from his earned grade. He loses 10% for not having a legitimate excuse and 10% as a daily late penalty for not having turned in the assignment by 4:00 P.M. on the next day.

The following is the schedule for these assignments:

Jan	23	
	30	Text and Translation of Ps 2
Feb	6	Historical and Literary Context, Form and Structure of Ps 2
	13	Lexical and Grammatical Analysis of Ps 2
	20	Biblical Context, Theology, and Application of Ps 2
	27	<b>No class/winter recess</b>
Mar	5	Expository Sermon of Ps 2 & <b>Don't forget Stuart Reading is Due</b>
	12	Text and Translation of Mal _____, <i>bibliography should include list of relevant journal articles</i>
	19	<b>No class/Lecture Series</b>
	26	Historical and Literary Context, Form and Structure of Mal _____, <i>with evolving bibliography</i>
Apr	2	Lexical and Grammatical Analysis of Mal _____, <i>with evolving bibliography</i>
	9	<b>No class/spring recess</b>
	16	Biblical Context, Theology, and Application of Mal _____, <i>with evolving bibliography</i>
	23	Expository Sermon of Mal _____, <i>with evolving bibliography</i>
	30	<b>No class</b>
May	7	<b>No class/Turn in term papers, along with exegetical assignments on Malachi, and translation notebooks, including my interaction, no later than 4:00 PM</b>

3. **Translation Homework:** Psalm 2 and the portion from Malachi designated in the following list must be completed by the assigned date. This will be checked in class on a specified sheet with the student's name and a list of each of the assigned passages. Next to each passage will be a box representing a response of "yes," "1/2," and "no." The student will mark the box that most accurately reflects how much of the work that he actually did.

The student receives an automatic 98% grade for this phase of his homework grade. For every no response that he marks on this sheet, he will loose 4% from his 98% grade; and for every 1/2 response, he will loose 2% from his 98% grade—**10% of grade.**

The following is the schedule for the translation homework:

Jan	23	
	30	Psalm 2:1–12
Feb	6	Malachi 1:1–5
	13	1:6–11
	20	1:12–14; 2:1–2
	27	<b>No class/winter recess</b>
Mar	5	2:3–7 & <b>Don't forget Stuart Reading is Due</b>
	12	2:8–12
	19	<b>No class/Lecture Series</b>
	26	2:13–17
Apr	2	3:1–6
	9	<b>No class/spring recess</b>
	16	3:7–12
	23	3:13–18
	30	<b>No class/3:19–24 is due by 4:00 PM</b>
May	7	<b>No class/Turn in term papers, along with exegetical assignments on Malachi, and translation notebooks, including my interaction, no later than 4:00 PM</b>

- 4. Translation Notebook:** Each student is required to keep a notebook of his translation for Psalm 2, the book of Malachi, and all his assignments from Malachi along with my interaction. This notebook should contain the student's accurate and readable translation of Psalm 2 and Malachi. His translation notebook should also contain notes on significant problems along with reference to representative sources that provide solutions for the problems. Since there are currently many parsing and grammatical aids available, it is not necessary to provide information about parsing the more difficult forms. Though you are not required to parse the more difficult forms, the attached example of a translation page includes space for parsing. Let me stress that the notes are only for the more significant difficulties along with abbreviated reference to sources that identify and offer help in solving a specific difficulty. This type of notebook can be a valuable aid if one does future work on Psalm 2 or the book of Malachi. Each student who has a well-organized notebook will receive a 98% for this portion of his grade. In addition, **the notebook** that is submitted to me **must include all of the assignments over Malachi along with my interaction.** This will provide me with an aid in grading your term paper. The same rules about absences and lateness that applied to tests will be followed for this assignment. This is due no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 7—**5% of grade.**
- 5. Term paper:** Each student will write a 12 to 25 page term paper on his selected passage. This paper should reflect the exegetical methodology taught in class from Stuart's text. The paper is to be in conformity with "The Seminary Guidelines" and follow a journal format, which should also include a bibliography. Late term papers are subject to the same guidelines mentioned under "exegetical assignment." This is due no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 7—**25% of grade.**

The following reflects how the term papers will be graded:

Content and argument	80%
Form and Mechanics	10%
Bibliography	+10%
Overall percentile grade	100%

### CLASS ABSENCES:

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

### TEXTBOOKS:

1. Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
2. Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

### GRADING SYSTEM:

96–100	A	86–87	B-	76–77	D+
94–95	A-	84–85	C+	72–75	D
92–93	B+	80–83	C	70–71	D-
88–91	B	78–79	C-	69 & below	F