

CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating and training ministerial leadership



BIB132 Historical Books

Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

Professor

Course Description

This course is an interpretative survey of the historical books of the Old Testament. It includes the books of Joshua through Esther. It covers a period of about 1000 years from the entrance of the nation of Israel into the Promised Land until they returned after the Exile. The course examines the history of the nation of Israel with special emphasis upon its messianic mission in the world. This mission is first described in God's covenant with Abraham, father of the Hebrew nation. The study will examine the background, structure, and contents of each book, with the specific purpose of gaining an understanding of the times and their relationship to God's purpose to redeem the world through Jesus Christ.

Resources

You will use Old Testament Historical Books, a Study Guide by Amos Millard with the textbook it was written to accompany: The Historical Books, second edition, by L. Thomas Holdcroft. You will also use the Holy Bible. Bible quotations in this study guide are from the King James Version (KJV) unless 9 Course Introduction otherwise noted. Some assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site or other academic sources. Instructions for accessing the Web site are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet. Suggestions for Further Reading and Research A bibliography for further reading and research is provided on pages 315– 317 of the Holdcroft textbook.

Objectives

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

Course Procedures

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

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Course Introduction

The nation of Israel plays a special and peculiar role in the history of redemption. Israel's past, present, and future are to be studied in the light of God's special purpose to redeem the world.

This course will examine a significant part of the story of redemption. It is a story that started in the Garden at the scene of man's fall (Genesis 3:15). It is a story that continued in the call of Abraham, father of the Hebrew nation. Israel's history is significantly shaped by the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1–3). For Israel, and through Israel, the Covenant promised three things: land, nationhood (elsewhere called "seed"), and blessing.

In our study of the historical books we shall see how the history of Israel was shaped by these three promises. They are promises that are still in force today. They are promises that touch our lives in a very real way, whether we be Jew or Gentile. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29). It is therefore out of a special relationship to Abraham through Christ that we express a particular interest in the nation of which Abraham is the fountainhead.

We study the past that we might better understand the present and the future. The thrilling story of redemption not only touches the past, but also the present, and it moves towards its glorious consummation, centering around the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that your study of the historical books will give you a new and deeper appreciation for and insight into redemption, and increase your effectiveness in the kingdom of God.