

**INTERTESTAMENT SURVEY**  
Course Requirements

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PMP 2007-2008

COURSE GOAL: The student will master a survey of 1) the history of Palestine from its Persian occupation through Herod the Great with special emphasis on the impact of the introduction of Hellenistic dynamics into Palestine from the Seleucid and Ptolemaic dynasties; 2) the development and importance of the LXX; 3) the archaeological and textual significance of the DSS; and 4) the background and historical relevance of the apocryphal and early apocalyptic [pseudepigraphal] writings of the intertestamental period.

TEXTBOOK and SELECT READINGS: The *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, edited by Frank Gaebelin, is a key text for this course, as well as for Bible Introduction. Some other texts can be borrowed from a public library or the pastor's library, like Josephus, *ZPED*, and Edersheim. You may wish to purchase either Pfeiffer or Cate on the history of the period. For the apocryphal readings, the books of Macabees, Tobit, and Ecclesiasticus may be read from a Roman Catholic Bible, but for the rest it is recommended that you borrow a collection of the apocryphal books from a library.

DUE before Memorial Day 2008

- Charles F. Pfeiffer. *Between the Testaments* (recommended)  
    **OR** R.L. Cate, *A History of the Bible Lands in the Inter-biblical Period*
- Josephus. *Wars of the Jews*. Book I, Chpts. 1-7, 27, 33
- Hoehner, "Between the Testaments" in the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, I:179ff.
- Apocryphal Writings: *I & II Macabees*
- Apocryphal Writings: *Tobit, Additions to Esther, Ecclesiasticus, Prayer of Manasseh*
- William Edersheim. *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*, chpts. 14-16, 18
- Blaiklock. "The Septuagint" in *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia*, V:342-347
- LaSor. "The Dead Sea Scrolls" in the *Expositors Bible Commentary*, I:395ff.
- Metzgar. "The Apocrypha" in the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, I:161ff
- Gasque. "Apocalyptic Literature" in *ZPBE*, I:200-204

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two short papers due on the dates listed below. While suggestions are offered for your paper topic, you may choose to develop a topic not suggested.

Each short paper should be in standard, typed form and at least four pages in length. Bibliography should include at least three non-encyclopedic, non-internet sources.

If you prefer, you may substitute one eight-page paper for the two shorter papers. One long paper is due on May 27, 2008.

DUE

9 March  
2008

Intertestamental History and the LXX

Suggestions: 1) develop the importance of the synagogue for NT worship and polity; 2) trace the origin and beliefs of the Essenes (possible comparative study with Saducees and Pharisees); 3) develop a particular theological belief of the Essenes; develop the importance of the LXX for textual studies; 4) illustrate how the LXX set the background for and helps define NT terms like "ekklesia" and "kurios"

4 May  
2008

Rabbinics, DSS, Apocrypha, Apocalyptic

Suggestions: 1) Develop the value of the DSS in corroborating the authenticity and antiquity of the OT canon; give special attention to the Scrolls' bearing on Daniel's authenticity and traditional date (be sure to reference Archer's *Survey of OT Introduction*); 2) summarize the origins and later veneration of the RC apocrypha books, with the weaknesses of the apocrypha that disqualify them for inclusion in the canon.

EXAMS: 1) Mid-course Exam Due March 28, 2008  
2) Final Exam Due June 27, 2008

GRADING: Exams = 55%                  Papers = 20%                  Readings = 25%