

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BOT 539 Stu. Hist. Bks.: Preaching from Chronicles

Roger D. Cotton

Post Session 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical and homiletical study of 1 and 2 Chronicles, section by section, with the focus on the Old Testament theological message of the writer. Attention will be given to principlizing and homiletical application to the church today.

OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Outline the message of 1 and 2 Chronicles.
2. Identify, explain and apply the major theological themes and concepts taught in these books.
3. Preach legitimately and effectively the theological principles underlying any passage in the books of Chronicles.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version. American Bible Society, 1995.

Cotton, Roger D., ed. *BOT 539 Chronicles Handouts, 2005*, Springfield, MO: by AGTS.

Dillard, Raymond B. 2 Chronicles. Word Biblical Commentary, 15. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

Selman, Martin J. 1 Chronicles: Introduction and Commentary and 2 Chronicles. 2 vols. TOTC. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1994.

Recommended:

Barker, Kenneth, ed. The NIV Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

COURSE OUTLINE

June 27-July 5 understanding	1 Chronicles	Focus on foundational principles for the writer's message
Tues, June 28		Read through 1 and 2 Chronicles in the CEV.
Wed, June 29		Read the author's prefaces and the introductions to both required commentaries, if possible.
Thurs, June 30		Read article by Kenneth Mathews (on reserve) "Preaching Historical Narrative," from <u>Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle</u> , ed. George L. Klein, if possible. Read Walter Kaiser's article (on reserve) "The Blessing of David: A Charter for Humanity," from <u>The Law and the Prophets</u> , ed. John Skilton and pp 161-171 of Martin Selman's article (on reserve) "The kingdom of God in the Old Testament," <u>Tyndale Bulletin</u> 40 (1989), as soon as possible.
Tues, July 5		Turn in your choice of passages for your exegetical sermon project and a simple outline of the flow of thoughts in it.
July 6-8	2 Chronicles	

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, readings, researched sermon outlines and themes essays.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Be prepared to discuss the passages and readings assigned for each day.
2. Read the required commentaries for the passages covered each day. The intent is to glean the important points contributed by each and cover the major issues.
3. A. Read through 1 and 2 Chronicles in one or two sittings by the second class.

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- B. Read the author's preface and the introduction to the required commentaries by the third class, Wednesday, June 29, if possible.
 - C. Read the article by Kenneth Mathews (in handouts) "Preaching Historical Narrative," from Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle, ed. George L. Klein by Thursday, June 30, if possible.
 - D. Read Walter Kaiser's article (in handouts) "The Blessing of David: A Charter for Humanity," from The Law and The Prophets, ed. John Skilton, and pp. 161-171 of Martin Selman's article (on reserve) "The Kingdom of God in the Old Testament," Tyndale Bulletin 40 (1989), as soon as possible.
4. Turn in on **Tuesday, July 5**, your choice of passages for your exegetical sermon project and a simple outline of the flow of thoughts in it.
5. Turn in **by Monday, July 25**, a 5-7 page typed, researched exegetical sermon outline. The style should conform to Turabian 6th ed. with your choice of citation method: footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references (see Turabian 6th ed. chap. 10). However, for a sermon outline few citations are expected. Most of those needed will be for explanations to the professor, not to the sermon audience. A bibliography listing all the sources you consulted, not just cited, is needed for proper evaluation of your research. I greatly prefer (required for an A) to see any signed articles from multi-author works, such as NIDOTTE and encyclopedias, listed by author and title of the article rather than the editor of the book, (see Turabian 11.26). Also, the outline need not be double spaced throughout, but do **NOT** justify the right margin. Provide a title page but no cover, just staple it.

Thorough, detailed, exegetical research for an expository sermon, to me includes the following steps:

- A. Understanding the language of the text(s) through comparing translations and doing some word studies, which include the use of (New) Englishman's Hebrew Concordance (coded to Strong's) or Kohlenberger, John R., III, and James W. Swanson. The Hebrew English Concordance To The Old Testament With The New International Version or a computer program that searches on the Hebrew words, and the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.
- B. Understanding the significance of the historical and cultural references in the passage through background studies, including Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, and scholarly, exegetical commentaries.

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- C. Understanding the literary intent of the passage(s) by outlining the flow of thought and studying the literary devices used by the writer. Be sure to turn in your diagram incorporating suggestions from the professor and use it to make observations on the points of the passage. . If your sermon does not follow the outline of the passage, you must supply a separate, simple outline of the flow of topics in the passage.

- D. Understanding the theology intended through analyzing the theological and thematic terms and ideas used in context of the book and the whole Old Testament, and determining the underlying principles intended as the message of the inspired writer. Here again the best commentaries should be consulted, as well as Old Testament theologies, including House, and the essays in the 4th volume of NIDOTTE, and any other related theological studies. Be sure to research journal articles and read at least one for “A” level work.

The sermon needs to be capsulized at the end of your introduction in a proposition and a transitional question about that proposition which is answered by the main points of the sermon. The points must come from the text though not necessarily in the same order. The main points must be sentences and the points parallel to one another.

I recommend the approach of Lloyd Perry in a Manual for Biblical Preaching, the Foundational Pattern, pp. 65-72, 82.

Detailed explanations of significant exegetical decisions need to be written out just as they will be referred to in the sermon. If certain reasons will not be discussed publicly to avoid unnecessary confusion, then they need to be put in some kind of note to the professor set off from the rest of the material. You need to demonstrate the thoroughness and soundness of your exegetical work to the professor if not always to the people. Be sure to include what the text meant to the Chronicler’s readers as well as the principles you see that you want your people to apply to their lives today. You may include brief descriptions of the illustrations you plan to use but it is not necessary.

Write a careful conclusion summarizing how you have established your proposition or answered your question and then suggesting specific applications for our lives today. Be sure to end with something that will effectively impress the message on the hearers’ hearts.

- 6. Turn in **by July 25** a 5-7 page typed paper on a theme in Chronicles. This should involve your own study of both books, using a concordance and NIDOTTE for key words and consultation of the best commentaries. “A” level work requires creative research in other sources that deal with your theme, especially any journal articles.

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7. Turn in **by July 25** an outline of both books in terms of theological message and historical content, down to the third level for an “A.” This should show the overall theological message and major themes as preached by the Chronicler in the writing of this two-volume history. Include some reference to the theological significance of the temple in the context of Chronicles.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading assignments and class participation	
15%	
Researched, exegetical, sermon outline	38%
Paper on a theme in Chronicles	26%
Theological outline of 1 and 2 Chronicles	21%

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SPECIFIC DATA

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