GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
The knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

BT633 The Prophets (Isaiah)

2025

When: 7:30-9:15pm, Thursday **Start:** 4 March

Where: Live online

Lecturer: Michael Beck, Ph.D.

1. BIBLICAL CASE

Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)
"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

Luke 24:27 (ESV)
And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION.

This course builds on an introduction to biblical theology by surveying the Old Testament prophetic books and their theological development within the canon of Scripture. As a centrepiece of this broader prophetic message, special attention will be given to the book of Isaiah, whose sweeping vision offers a breath-taking word concerning the Messiah and the new age that he inaugurates.

3. COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

3.1. Graduate Ideals

At GTC we believe that the ideal graduate is someone who, because of Christlikeness and kingdom focus, by hard work, a commitment to a lifetime of learning, becomes mighty in the Scriptures, and commits themselves to serving the church and evangelising the world.

3.2. Purpose

By studying BT633: The Prophets (Isaiah) , the student will to learn how the foundational books of the Old Testament lay a biblical-theological foundation for understanding the person and work of Christ.

3.3. *Objectives*

It is my aim that the student who has completed BT633: The Prophets (Isaiah) will:

- have a deeper understanding of the prophets and see how these books play a key role in forming a robust biblical theology.

- have a greater knowledge of (a) the broad content of each book of the prophets, (b) the specific content of Isaiah, and (c) the way in which this content points towards the person and work of Christ.

3.4 Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

3.3.1. Understand concepts such prophetic idiom, covenant lawsuit(under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant), and covenant hope (as held out in the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants).

3.3.2. Bring Christ to the fore in your understanding of the whole of the Scriptures.

3.3.3. Understand how these truths become transformational for yourself and for those you minister to.

My learning goal is:_____

4. ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Credit students should read through this outline and ask any questions about things that you are unclear on. If any of the tasks are not suitable for your optimal learning, you are welcome to discuss any concerns with the tutor.

Activity	**% grade**
Class participation	5%
Class readings	20%
Assignments	40%
Examination	35%
Total	**100%**

4.1. Classes: Attend and participate in the classes. We learn when we are present and engaged with the material. We learn better when we think through what is being presented and discuss it with others. Come to class with questions and ideas. Online students to arrange with the tutor the best way for them to participate in the class and get the most from their experience. This is usually done through Microsoft Teams. **5% of your final grade is attendance.**

<u>Note for ALL Students studying via Distance/Online/Video:</u> In this class you are required to have your device camera turned on unless you make a prior arrangement with your teacher, this is especially important for CREDIT students.

4.2. Reading:

All reading is due by the end of the term.

Grading Criteria:

- Completion of required reading.
- Demonstration of critical thinking and thoughtfully constructed answers to questions.

4.3. Exam: An examination is an opportunity for you to review everything that you have learned and attempt to recall it in your own words. If you are concerned about reading and writing in a limited time, or English is your second language, please talk to your tutor about how we can assist you.

Examination: 35% of your final grade will come from your examination results.

The exam is to be typed and submitted via email to the lecturer.

Grading Criteria:

- Recognize and explain the discipline of biblical theology.
- Identify and distinguish a variety of questions concerning the study of biblical theology.
- Identify key motifs in the prophets.
- Interpret significant moments in the redemptive story and support your answer through the means of a Reformed biblical theological hermeneutic.

4.4. Assignments: Credit students are required to complete a research paper. The most significant learning occurs when we are required to research a topic and then repackage it in our own words. Assignments are not merely a way of testing your knowledge, but also your understanding of the topic.

Research and write 2,000 – 2,500 words on ONE of the following topics:

- Trace the concepts of law and gospel through the prophets. Show how they apply these ideas to Israel and Judah, as well as the nations.

- Focus on any passage within Isaiah 1-20 to show how he uses the concept of prophetic idiom to hold out the hope of the gospel to his original audience.

- Show how the theme of the New Covenant is developed in the prophets and how this enriched our New Testament understanding of the person and work of Christ.

4.5 Allocation of Study Hours:

1	Assignments	8
2	Reading	8
3	Exam Preparation	8
4	Class Time	26
		50 ours

5. Learning Resources (* required)

Author	Title	Publisher
James M. Hamilton Jr	What Is Biblical Theology? A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns	Crossway
Carson, Goldsworthy and Desmond (Editor)	New Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Exploring the Unity Diversity of Scripture.	IVP Academic
Miles Van Pelt	A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised	Crossway
Edward J. Young	The Book of Isaiah: Volumes 1 and 2	Eerdmans Publishing
J. Alec Motyer	Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary	Wipf and Stock Publications
Meredith Kline	Structure of Biblical Authority	Wipf and Stock Publications
*Jeon Koo Jeong	Biblical Eschatology: Covenant Eschatology for the Global Mission Age	Wipf and Stock Publications
*James M Hamilton Jr	God's Glory in Salvation Through Judgment: A Biblical Theology	Crossway

6. RESEARCH

6.1. GTC library 75 Rogers Road, Manurewa. If you are a student, then you automatically receive library membership and can borrow books from our library for 1-month. Priority is given to credit students. You are welcome to come and use the library at any time between 9am and 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

We are able to post out books to students if students are willing to pay.

6.2. Christ College Library: Our friends at Christ College are happy to allow GTC students to be members of their library. While you cannot access their books without a trip to Sydney, for AU$55 per year, you can purchase access to their online database of journals and e-books. This is highly recommended for any credit student. Their librarians have also curated a large list of free online research resources.

To join the Christ College electronic library, email: library@christcollege.edu.au

6.3. Purchasing books. Books purchasing in NZ is often expensive and books can take a long time to arrive. Try your local bookstore, Christian bookstore, or online. We also recommend:

Reformers Bookshop (reformers.com.au) in Australia offers students a discount on books. Please use the (2026) discount code: **BCD26N**

Grace Books (gracebooks.co.nz) are a NZ Christian bookshop which carries a good stock of books.

6.4. Logos Software Library. Logos Bible Software is more than simply a Bible search tool. It is also an electronic library where you can purchase many of the books that you need. Once you purchase books you own them, even if you choose to use the free software version. GTC recommends that you subscribe to a library package (annual or monthly) in order to gain access to reference resources. It is worth noting Logos also has a student discount scheme and GTC is registered with them.