

Seminari Theoloji Malaysia

TEE Biblical Interpretation April 2019

Rev Dr Tan Jin Huat & Rev Aaron Decker

Course Aims

This is a core course for the TEE programme. The aims of the course are as follows:

1. That students understand issues of biblical interpretation so that ministry of the word (whether in sermons, Bible studies, children's or youth ministry, etc) will be faithful to the text
2. To equip students with guidelines of biblical exegesis of the various biblical genre
3. To encourage and enthuse students in teaching and preaching the Bible

Weekend 1: April 12–14 — New Testament Methods

Rev. Dr. Tan Jin Huat

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DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Friday April 12	2000-2230	Understanding the Interpretative Task
Saturday April 13	0900-1045	Grammatical Considerations in Interpretation
	1115-1300	A Short History of Bible Interpretation
	1400-1545	Interpreting the Gospels
	1615-1800	Interpreting the Epistles
Sunday April 14	1400-1545	Interpreting Acts
	1615-1800	Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature

Weekend 2: April 26–28 — Old Testament Methods

Rev. Aaron Decker

Email: RevADecker@gmail.com (Preferred method of contact)

WhatsApp: 010-929 1678 — Course-related messages only please

Website: www.RevAaronD.com

Preparation for Class

Please familiarize yourself with each of the Bible passages listed below. We will be looking at them in detail in class. Please also visit the instructor's website under "Courses" to find readings and resources for this course (Available Tuesday, 12-Mar at the latest). Be sure to bring copies of the items under "resources" to class, either in hardcopy or electronically.

It is also highly recommended that you explore, if possible, the short books by Mary F Foskett (*Interpreting the Bible*) and Robert Alter (*The Art of Biblical Narrative*) listed in the Bibliography below. You do not *need* to read them for class, but they will be helpful to your understanding of this course's work, and for your continuing practice of ministry.

Fri. Eve, 26-Apr 20:00–22:30 **The Church's Text**

Communication and the Interpretive Spectrum
History of Interpretation Song of Songs 1:2–4
The Fundamentalist–Modernist Controversy

Sat. Morn, 27-Apr 09:00–13:00 **Behind the Text**

Which Bible? Transmission and Translation 1 Samuel 10:27–11:1
Form, Genre, and Why it Matters Psalms 121–124, 133–134
Oral Composing, Writing, and Editing Exodus 15:1–21

Sat. Eve, 27-Apr 14:00–18:00 **Within the Text**

Literary and Canonical Context Leviticus 19
Excursus: One Bible, Two Testaments
Historical and Social Context Exodus 12:1–13
History and Theology 2 Samuel 6

Sun. Eve, 28-Apr 14:00–18:00 **In Front of the Text**

Subculture—Gender, Race and Ethnicity Numbers 27:1–11
Socio-cultural—Liberation, Postcolonial Ruth
Theological—Doctrine, Tradition Exodus 20:1–21
Prayer—Calling on the Holy Spirit

Assessment

Students are to write two exegetical essays of 2500 words each. The word limit is +/- 10%, including footnotes. One essay is to be on a New Testament passage and one on an Old Testament passage from the list below. **The due date is September 26** by hardcopy direct to CTEE office and soft copy to the respective lecturers. Please have the two essays *separately* stapled.

Old Testament:

Students may choose any passage from the Old Testament they wish. The passage should be of substance, keeping in mind matters of context. A single verse is not an appropriate choice (even from Proverbs!). The student could choose a whole narrative episode, a poem or song, a series of related laws or sayings, etc. The student could also place two related passages in dialogue with each other. Students are expected to use at least three of the interpretive tools discussed in class, and should use appropriate research materials.

Part of the goal of a seminary education is to help the student learn to communicate more effectively, both in spoken and in written formats. Do not be afraid to invite other students—or even the instructor—to read your work before the due date to help you improve your writing. Please send your final paper to the instructor at RevADecker@gmail.com.

New Testament:

Choose one of the following passages: (Please send to jspdtan2015@gmail.com)

- i. Mark 3:20-35
- ii. 1 Cor 14:20-40
- iii. Rev 7

Bibliography

We especially recommend:

- Duvall, J.S, Hays, J.D, *Grasping God's Word* (Zondervan, 2005 [2ndedn])
Foskett, Mary F. *Interpreting the Bible: Approaching the Text in Preparation for Preaching*. (Fortress Press, 2009)
Fee, G and Stuart, D.K, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Zondervan, 2003 [3rd Ed.]

Other Resources (General):

- Kostenberger, A.J and Patterson, R, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation* (Kregel, 2011)
Osborne, G.R, *The Hermeneutical Spiral* (IVP Academic, 2010)

Other Resources (Old Testament):

- Alter, R, *The Art of Biblical Narrative* (Basic Books, 1981)
Alter, R, *The Art of Biblical Poetry* (Basic Books, 1985)
Amit, Y, *Reading Biblical Narratives* (Fortress Press, 2001)
Berlin, A, *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative* (Almond Press, 1983)
Briggs, R.S, *The Virtuous Reader: Old Testament Narrative and Interpretive Virtue* (STI; Baker Academic, 2010)
Brown, William P, *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis*. (Westminster John Knox, 2017)
Chisholm, R.B, *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook* (Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis; Kregel, 2006)
Douglas, M, "The Forbidden Animals in Leviticus." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament (JSOT)* 59 (1993) 3–23
Fokkelman, J, *Reading Biblical Narrative* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1999)
Goldsworthy, G, *Gospel-Centred Hermeneutics* (Apollos, 2006)
Greidanus, S, *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text* (Eerdmans, 1988)
Kaiser, W.C, *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament* (Baker, 2003)
Lalleman, H, *Celebrating the Law? Rethinking Old Testament Ethics* (Paternoster, 2004)
Licht, J, *Storytelling in the Bible* (Magnes Press, 1986 [2nd Ed])
Long, V.P, *The Art of Biblical History* (Zondervan, 1994)
Patte, Daniel. *Global Bible Commentary*. (Abingdon Press, 2004)
Pratt, R.L, *He Gave Us Stories* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1990)
Reventlow, Henning Graf, *History of Biblical Interpretation*, 4 vol., (Society of Biblical Literature, 2009)
Ryken, L & Longman, T, *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible* (Zondervan, 1993)
Vogt, P.T, *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook* (Kregel, 2009)
Walsh, J.T, *Old Testament Narrative: A Guide to Interpretation* (Westminster/John Knox, 2009)
Wright, C.J.H, *Walking in the Ways of the Lord* (Apollos, 1995)
Yee, Gale A, *Judges and Method: New Approaches in Biblical Studies*. 2 ed. (Fortress Press, 2007)

Other Resources (New Testament):

- Blomberg, Craig & Markley, J.F, *A Handbook of New Testament Exegesis* (Baker, 2010)
Blomberg, Craig, *Interpreting the Parables* (IVP, 2012 [2ndedn])
Bock, Darrell L & Fanning (ed), Buist M, *Interpreting the New Testament Text*(Crossway, 2006)
Burge, Gary, *Interpreting the Gospel of John: A Practical Guide*(Baker, 2013 [2nd end])

Fee, G.D, *New Testament Exegesis* (Westminster, 2002 [3rdedn])
Greidanus, S, *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text* (Eerdmans, 1988)
Klein, William, Blomberg, Craig & Hubbard, R.I, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*
(Thomas, Nelson, 2004 [revised])
Liefeld, Walter, *Interpreting the Book of Acts* (Baker, 1995)
McKnight, Scot, *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels* (Baker, 1988)
McKnight, Scot, *Introducing New Testament Interpretation* (Baker, 1990)
Michaels, J. Ramsey, *Interpreting the Book of Revelation* (Baker, 1998)
Porter, Stanley (ed), *Hearing the Old Testament in the New Testament*
(Eerdmans/Cambridge, 2006)
Schreiner, Thomas R, *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles* (Baker, 1990)
Trotter, Andrew, *Interpreting the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Baker, 1997)