



Bible Journey: Old Testament Prophecy & Restoration

Winter 2023

Guide: Dr. Tim Laniak

Coach: Mary Frances Giles, MATS

Study* Description

Bible Journey: Old Testament Prophecy & Restoration is an introduction to the content of the historical and poetic books (“In the Text”), their historical-cultural background (“Behind the Text”), and their theology and implications for the Church (“In Front of the Text”). This Study intentionally balances these three dimensions while providing guidelines for biblical interpretation and application. The primary “text” for this Study is the Bible Journey curriculum, available at <https://biblejourney.com/certificate>.

This Study (looking at prophecy & restoration) is Part 3 of a 3-part sequence that tours the entire Old Testament. Although it is possible to pick and choose among these online Studies, it is strongly recommended that you engage in the whole journey through the Old Testament and then continue through the New Testament the following year.

*Note that the term “Study” is used for the three sections of each Testament. We use “Course” or “micro-course” for the 7-8 sections of each Study.

Format, Dates and Times

Bible Journey: Old Testament Prophecy & Restoration is offered in a “flipped classroom” model: online content is engaged individually and supported by asynchronous group discussion forums and biweekly synchronous Zoom sessions with Dr. Laniak or a designated coach. The Study will run for fourteen weeks, from January 9 through April 23, 2023, which includes one week “off” for Holy Week. Students completing this certificate should submit all assignments by May 21, 2023.

The curriculum is fully available to students by subscription at www.biblejourney.com. Students are encouraged to begin reading Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah and Isaiah – Malachi and using the Bible Journey curriculum as soon as possible.

Cohorts and Coaches

Students will be organized in cohorts of up to twenty with a designated coach (teaching assistant). Our coaches are advanced seminary students and graduates who care about your success on this journey. Your coach is the first person to reach out to for any questions. The cohort is the primary place for group discussion (both online and in Zoom sessions). The larger class discussion for all students will take place via Zoom with Dr. Laniak. The Basecamp platform will be used to manage our learning. Details will be provided to those who register.



Technology

Students need to have reliable internet access for the video-intensive curriculum and the Zoom sessions. For questions about your devices, connectivity, or anything else, write to help@biblejourney.com.

Registration

An active subscription to Bible Journey and registration for the History & Poetry Certificate Study is required. Please visit biblejourney.com/certificates or contact help@biblejourney.com to be enrolled.

Certification

Credit students who meet all of the requirements for each 3-Study sequence (in Old or New Testament) are eligible to receive a Certificate in Biblical Literacy. This certification can be useful in the following ways:

- Verification of continuing education units, other forms of professional development, and personal enrichment.
- Ramp for prospective facilitators of Bible Journey who serve either in their own ministry settings or as designated coaches for Bible Journey cohorts.
- Ramp for prospective students at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary by preparing them for Bible competency exams. Those who pass these exams are exempt from Old Testament and New Testament Survey courses.

Note: The cost of the 6-Study sequence is about half the cost of just one graduate level course.

Program Objectives

1. To provide students and participants with a comprehensive grasp of the main figures, events, and themes of the Bible, the relationship between the Testaments, and their ongoing significance for our lives.
2. To enlighten students and participants with background information and resources that clarify God's revelation in its original setting.
3. To equip students and participants to interpret the Bible correctly by introducing appropriate tools and methods, and by listening to the Historical and Global Church.
4. To stir a life-long passion for Scripture's role in life, work and ministry.
5. To raise up a tribe of competent teachers who can communicate biblical truth effectively. These teachers are part of a global movement intentionally addressing "Bible poverty."

Requirements*

1. A reading log demonstrating timely completion of all Bible readings (include each date with what you read; *see sample below*). Notice that all Bible readings are done ahead of the Bible Journey curriculum in each lesson. We want to ensure that Bible reading is always the first thing you do when preparing to study.
2. Engagement of all non-"bonus" content in the curriculum (videos, interactives, prompts, etc.). Each lesson (bulleted in the schedule) takes about an hour. The analytics for each student will be reviewed by their coaches. We engage a "flipped classroom" in which you do your primary study individually first, and then engage with the group and your coach for discussion.

3. Participation in Q/A sessions with coach and faculty (one miss allowed without permission). **These are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 7-8/8:30 pm ET on the ODD weeks of the course. We will revisit this time once we have our cohorts in place.** *These sessions provide a regular “check in” as well as an opportunity for larger questions that often surface along the journey.*
4. Workbook Journals are available for download at the beginning of each micro-course. These will be filled in electronically and turned in at the end of each course. You are only responsible for the non-“bonus” questions. Workbooks serve as the place where you answer questions that require some research and/or thought.
5. Successful completion of the quiz at the end of each micro-course (10 questions each).
6. Successful completion of the test at the end of the Study (50 questions). Quizzes and tests provide assessments for objective content you are mastering.

Sample Reading Log

Date: Jan 5	Reading: Joshua 1-12
Date: etc	Reading: etc
Date: etc	Reading: etc

*** Plan on 10 hours each week for reading and assignments.**

Grading

Students will be given a pass or fail grade. Satisfactory engagement must be demonstrated in each type of assignment (reading, forums, prompts for workbooks, quizzes). Coaches will give feedback to students to ensure that they are on track to pass.

Discounts and Refunds

Gordon-Conwell has significantly reduced the tuition for these Studies to make them affordable to our community. Churches may further subsidize this outreach for their members if hardship exists. Full refunds will be provided only through the second week of the Study for any reason.

OT: PROPHECY & RESTORATION STUDY OUTLINE**Week 1:** Jan 9 - 15

Course 1: Minor Prophets, part 1

L1: Introductions to the Prophets

L2: Prophets & Prophecy

L3: Amos

Week 2: Jan 16 - 22

Course 1: Minor Prophets, part 1, cont'd

L4: Hosea

L5: Jonah

***Submit workbook by Jan 22 at midnight ET**

Week 3: Jan 23 - 29

Course 2: Isaiah & Micah

L1: Isaiah – YHWH & the Nations

L2: Isaiah – YHWH & His People

L3: Isaiah's Anticipated Messiah

***Zoom Q/A on Jan 24 at 7pm ET:** Dr. Laniak

Week 4: Jan 30 - Feb 5

Course 2: Isaiah & Micah, cont'd

L4: The Authorship & Unity of Isaiah

L5: Micah

***Submit workbook by Feb 5 at midnight ET**

Week 5: Feb 6 - 12

Course 3: Minor Prophets, part 2

L1: Nahum

L2: Nephaniah

L3: Habakkuk

***Zoom Q/A on Feb 7 at 7pm ET:** Dr. Laniak

Week 6: Feb 13 - 19

Course 3: Minor Prophets, part 2, cont'd

L4: Joel & Josiah

L5: Interpreting Prophecy

Week 7: Feb 20 - 26

Course 4: Jeremiah & Lamentations

L1: The Prophet Jeremiah

L2: Jeremiah: Idolatry & Anguish

L3: Jeremiah: Shame & Dignity

*Zoom Q/A on **Feb 21 at 7pm ET**: Dr. Laniak

Week 8: Feb 27 - March 5

Course 4: Jeremiah & Lamentations, cont'd

L4: Jeremiah: A Future Hope

L5: Lamentations

Week 9: March 6 - 12

Course 5: Ezekiel & Daniel

L1: Ezekiel's Prophetic Word

L2: Ezekiel: Israel's Shame & Restoration

L3: Ezekiel's Distinctive Message

*Zoom Q/A on **March 7 at 7pm ET**: Mary Frances

Week 10: March 13 - 19

Course 5: Ezekiel & Daniel, cont'd

L4: Daniel: Dreams & Prophecies

L5: Daniel: Kings & Kingdoms

Week 11: March 20 - 26

Course 6: Esther, Ezra, & Nehemiah

L1: Diaspora Stories

L2: Overview of Esther

L3: The Character of Ester

*Zoom Q/A on **March 21 at 7pm ET**: Mary Frances

Week 12: March 27 - April 2

Course 6: Esther, Ezra, & Nehemiah, cont'd

L4: Ezra

L5: Nehemiah

****Holy Week/Study Break: April 3 – 9****



Week 13: April 10 - 16

Course 7: Minor Prophets, part 3

L1: Obadiah

L2: Haggai

L3: Zechariah

*Zoom Q/A on **April 11 at 7pm ET**: Dr. Laniak

Week 14: April 17 - 23

Course 7: Minor Prophets, part 3, cont'd

L4: Malachi

L5: OT Wrap-Up

*Additional Zoom Q/A on **April 25 at 7pm ET**: Mary Frances

*All assignments due for certificate students: **May 21, 2023 at midnight ET**
(reading log, remaining 5 workbooks, quizzes, final test)

Additional Resources

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story* (Baker Academic, 2004).

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. *The True Story of the Whole World: Finding Your Place in the Biblical Drama* (Faith Alive, 2009).

Duvall, J. Scott and Hays, J. Daniel. *Journey into God's Word* (Zondervan, 2008).

- *Grasping God's Word* 4th ed (Zondervan, 2020).

Evans, Craig A. *God Speaks: What He Says, What He Means* (Worthy Books, 2015).

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* (Zondervan, 2014).

- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Zondervan, 2014).

Kaminski, Carol. *CASKET EMPTY: God's Plan of Redemption through History* (Casket Empty Media, 2012)

Richter, Sandra L. *The Epic of Eden* (InterVarsity, 2008).

Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament* 2nd ed (Baker, 1998)

Williams, H. H. Drake. *Making Sense of the Bible* (Kregel, 2006).

Williams, Michael D. *Far As the Curse is Found* (P&R Publishing, 2005).

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God* (InterVarsity Press, 2006).

The following InterVarsity Press reference books are highly recommended:

IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament

IVP Dictionary of Biblical Imagery

IVP Dictionary of Biblical Theology

IVP Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch

New Bible Atlas

New Bible Commentary

New Bible Dictionary