

COURSE SYLLABUS

OT505: The Book of Psalms

Course Lecturer: Bruce K. Waltke, Th.D., Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Knox Theological Seminary

Course Description

How important are songs in the life of Israel and the Church? In this course, learners study the Book of Psalms, giving attention to the various forms of the Psalms and their function within the historical experience of Israel. The course begins by focusing on the formulation and interpretation of the psalms. Students then examine in detail the various types of psalms: lament, royal, pilgrimage, wisdom, messianic, and psalms of descriptive praise. Dr. Waltke gives sermonic treatment of selected psalms with application for today's Church.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

- Understand the historical setting and development of the Psalter.
- Analyze the various forms, contents, and settings of the Psalms.
- Acquire the ability to interpret the figures of speech found within the Psalms as a means of understanding the message of the Psalms.
- Demonstrate the application of the Psalms to the Church today.

Course Lecturer



Dr. Bruce Waltke is the Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Knox Theological Seminary. An expert in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, he was also a postdoctoral fellow at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.

Over his distinguished teaching career of more than 50 years, Dr. Waltke has established himself as one of the preeminent scholars in Old Testament Studies. Dr. Waltke has been the author of more than a thousand articles and several books. Among his most well known works are *Knowing the Will of God*, *An Old Testament Theology*, which garnered an ECPA Christian Book Award in 2008, and *Genesis*, a book he coauthored with C. J. Fredricks. It won the Gold Medallion Award in 2002.

Education:

- Houghton College, A.B.
- Dallas Theological Seminary, Th.M. and Th.D.
- Harvard University, M.A. and Ph.D.

Other Our Daily Bread Christian University courses by this professor:

- OT506 Understanding the Old Testament
- OT507 The Book of Proverbs

Course Texts

Though not required, we recommend that the student have access to the standard lexicons, concordances and other lexical and exegetical aids especially E. W. Bullinger's, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003).

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.