COURSE OUTLINE
HB5/741 - Zechariah’s Dreams of the Apocalypse
Vancouver School of Theology, Summer 2018

PURPOSE:
The prophet Zechariah’s apocalyptic dreams have challenged interpreters of Hebrew Bible for centuries. In our class, we will rise to the challenge! We will explore Zechariah’s relevance to our own challenging times, as we study prophecy, history, justice, dreams, eschatology, symbolism and intertextuality. Our studies will focus on Zechariah’s relevance in his own biblical context and in Jewish liturgy.

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:
Students will be expected to learn and demonstrate the ability to

◦ summarize the content and styles of the Book of Zechariah
◦ relate Zechariah’s images of justice, war, and restoration to our own time
◦ identify different types of prophetic oracles
◦ name and use four different tools of Biblical interpretation
◦ recognize characteristics of apocalyptic and eschatological literature

REQUIRED READINGS: Posted on Moodle

Primary sources:


Short rabbinic commentaries on: “Not By Might: Zechariah 4:6” “On that Day: Zechariah 14:9”

Secondary sources:


Duhan-Kaplan, Laura, “Resistance Never Ends” (Zechariah as read in a Jewish liturgical context) http://www.sophiastreet.com/2017/12/13/hanukkiah-zechariah-resistance/

Evanier, David, “Zechariah” in Congregation: Contemporary Writers Read the Jewish Bible, ed. David Rosenberg (Orlando: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich), 1987


ASSIGNMENTS

For all students:
• Attendance (100%) in accordance with VST policies
• Thoughtful, engaged participation in class discussion and activities
• Completion of assigned readings

For Certificate-level students:
• One 1000-1200 word reflection paper demonstrating mastery of course material and engagement with it.

For Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIIS):
• A 1500-1875 word research paper on a topic of the student’s choice, demonstrating engagement with some combination of Talmudic, apocalyptic, biblical, and historical sources, and involving research (5 sources) beyond the assigned course readings.

Additional for Advanced-level students (Th.M.):
• A 3700-4250 word research paper on a topic of the student’s choice, demonstrating engagement with some combination of Talmudic, apocalyptic, biblical, and historical sources, and involving significant research (10 sources) beyond the assigned course readings.

Further details about assignments will be provided on the classroom “Moodle” site, and handed out in class.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi* (Chicago: Moody), 1994


