

Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan
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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:

Book of Zechariah, NJPS Translation (Philadelphia: New Jewish Publication Society), 1985.

"Metaphors of Geographic Change in Zechariah 14:1-11: Some Intertextual References," source sheet compiled by Laura Duhan Kaplan, January 2018.

Short excerpts from: King, Edward G., trans. *The Yalkut on Zechariah* (excerpts) (Cambridge: Deighton Bell and Co.), 1882. [Translation of Yalkut Shimoni, 11th century. midrash compilation.]

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

Secondary sources:

Berrigan, Daniel, "Zechariah" in *Minor Prophets, Major Themes* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock), 2009.

Brettler, Mark, "Those That Sleep in the Dust...Will Awake" (excerpt from Chapter 21) in *How to Read the Bible* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society), 2010.

Duhan-Kaplan, Laura, "Wars of the Lord: A Pacifist Reading of Zechariah's Apocalyptic Visions." Paper presented at "Visions of the End Times" conference, Vancouver School of Theology, May 2017

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

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

Smith, Gary V. "Zechariah: What Are God's Purposes?" in *An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets* (Broadman & Holman), 1991.

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, MAIS):

- 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

Assis, Elie. "The Structure of Zechariah 8 and Its Meaning." *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* (12:12), 2012.

Berrigan, Daniel. *Prophets, Minor Themes* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock), 2009.

Brettler, Mark. *How to Read the Bible* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society), 2010.

- Cohen, A. *The Twelve Prophets* (New York: Soncino), 1948.
- Conrad, Edgar W. *Zechariah* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press).
- Feinberg, Charles L. *God Remembers: A Study of Zechariah* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock), 2003.
- Hanson, P. *The Dawn of Apocalyptic* (Philadelphia: Fortress), 1975.
- Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Prophets* (New York: HarperPerennial), 2001.
- Jauhainen, Marko. *The Use of Zechariah in Revelation* (Tubingen: Mohr Siebeck), 2005.
- Kimhi, Rabbi David (1160-1235), *Commentary Upon the Prophecies of Zechariah*, transl. A. McCaul (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007).
- Klein, George L. *Zechariah: The New American Commentary*, (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing), 2008.
- Leonhard, Robert. *Visions of Apocalypse: What Jews, Christians, and Muslims Believe about the End Times, and How Those Beliefs Affect Our World*. (The Johns Hopkins University), 2010.
- Maier, Harry O. *Apocalypse Recalled: The Book of Revelation After Christendom* (Fortress Press), 2009.
- Marks, Herbert, "The Twelve Prophets" in Robert Alter and Frank Kermode, *The Literary Guide to the Bible* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press), 1990.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi* (Chicago: Moody), 1994
- Nelson, Richard. "Priestly Purity and Prophetic Lunacy," in *The Priests in the Prophets*, ed. Lester L. Grabbe and Alice Ogden Bellis (London: T & T Clark International), 2004, pp.115-133.
- Rosenberg, David, ed. *Congregation: Contemporary Writers Read the Jewish Bible*, (Orlando: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich), 1987.
- Smith, Gary V. *The Prophets as Preachers: An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets*.(Nashville: Broadman & Holman), 1994.
- Strickling, Bonnelle Lewis. *Dreaming About the Divine* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press), 2007.
- Von Rad, Gerhard. *The Message of the Prophets* (New York: HarperOne), 1972.
- Zackheim, Dov. S. *Nehemiah: Statesman and Sage* (Jerusalem: Maggid Books), 2016