

Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan-Kaplan
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COURSE OUTLINE (rev. April 10)
 HB641 - Zechariah: Spiritual Activism for Difficult Times
 Vancouver School of Theology, Summer 2025
 In person and via Zoom

PREREQUISITE: HB500 (Hebrew Bible I) or permission of instructor

PURPOSE: Apocalyptic biblical prophet Zechariah speaks hope into a changing geopolitical landscape. He calls us to act communally with justice and integrity. But he encodes the message in dream-time metaphors, symbolic performances, and intertextual allusions. Using various interpretive lenses, we will explore his message, style, and contemporary relevance.

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

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

REQUIRED READINGS: Available via Populi

Primary sources:

Book of Zechariah, NJPS Translation (New Jewish Publication Society), 1985.
<https://www.sefaria.org/Zechariah.1?lang=bi>

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

Short excerpts from: King, Edward G., trans. *The Yalkut on Zechariah* (excerpts) (Cambridge: Deighton Bell and Co.), 1882.

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

Maimonides on Prophecy, Mishneh Torah, Foundations of Torah 1.

Secondary sources:

Introductions to Zechariah

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

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

Duhan-Kaplan, Laura. "Humans, the End-Times Are in Your Hands: A Literary Reading of the Book of Zechariah" in *Visions of the End Times: Revelations of Hope and Challenge*, eds. Laura Duhan-Kaplan, Anne-Marie Ellithorpe, and Harry O. Maier (Pickwick Publications, 2022), 10-20.

Explorations of Themes in Zechariah

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

Duhan-Kaplan, Laura. "Donkey: Spiritual Guide" in *Mouth of the Donkey: Re-imagining Biblical Animals* (Cascade), 2021.

Lichtenstein, Murray H. "Biblical Poetry" in *Back to the Sources*, ed. Barry W. Holtz (Simon and Schuster, 1984), 104-128.

Strickling, Bonnelle Lewis. "Dreaming About the Divine" (chapter 3) in *Dreaming About the Divine* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press), 2007.

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 or 10 minute presentation demonstrating mastery of course material and engagement with it.

For Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIIS):

- A 1500 word research paper or 15 minute presentation 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., GDTS):

- A 3000 word research paper or 30 minute presentation 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 course Populi 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. *Minor Prophets, Major Themes* (Wipf & Stock), 2009.
- Brettler, Mark. *How to Read the Bible* (Jewish Publication Society), 2010.
- Cohen, A. *The Twelve Prophets* (Soncino), 1948.
- Collins, John. J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination* (Eerdmans), 1998.
- Conrad, Edgar W. *Zechariah* (Sheffield Academic).
- Feinberg, Charles L. *God Remembers: A Study of Zechariah* (Wipf & Stock), 2003.
- Hanson, P. *The Dawn of Apocalyptic* (Fortress), 1975.
- Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Prophets* (HarperPerennial), 2001.
- Jauhiainen, Marko. *The Use of Zechariah in Revelation* (Mohr Siebeck), 2005.
- Kimhi, Rabbi David (1160-1235), *Commentary Upon the Prophecies of Zechariah*, transl. A. McCaul (Wipf & Stock), 2007.
- Klein, George L. *Zechariah: The New American Commentary*, (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* (Harvard University Press), 1990.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi* (Moody), 1994
- Nelson, Richard. "Priestly Purity and Prophetic Lunacy," in *The Priests in the Prophets*, ed. Lester L. Grabbe and Alice Ogden Bellis (T & T Clark International), 2004, pp.115-133.
- Rosenberg, David, ed. *Congregation: Contemporary Writers Read the Jewish Bible*, (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich), 1987.
- Smith, Gary V. *The Prophets as Preachers: An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets*. (Broadman & Holman), 1994.
- Strickling, Bonnelle Lewis. *Dreaming About the Divine* (SUNY Press), 2007.
- Von Rad, Gerhard. *The Message of the Prophets* (HarperOne), 1972.
- Zackheim, Dov. S. *Nehemiah: Statesman and Sage* (Maggid Books), 2016.