

BIBL 522: LAW & THE BIBLE LOST WORLD OF THE TORAH

John Walton

July 12 – 16; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

Live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One of the most controversial genres of the Old Testament is found in the legal provisions and accompanying narratives known at the Torah. Controversies swirl about how this material is treated in the NT, how it is relevant to Christians, and what role it should play in some of the social issues of today as supporters from multiple perspectives seek to claim it to represent a biblical position. This course will begin with an analysis of the material found in the ancient Near East, and then use that to undertake a careful study of the biblical ideas. It will conclude by considering all the many ramifications for understanding, NT, theology, and practice today. The course will be based on the book, *The Lost World of the Torah*.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Demonstrate the distinctive characteristics of Torah relative to modern ideas of “law” as well as to ANE documents containing legal provisions
2. Demonstrate that they have learned the methodological issues in comparative studies by critiquing and engaging in such studies.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the situatedness of the Torah in the context of covenant and the presence of God.
4. Demonstrate the significance of the re-focusing of Torah relating to wisdom and holiness rather than as establishing a universal social or moral system.
5. Interpret the Old Testament in light of revised understanding of Torah

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 July 12 Methodology

Day 2 July 13 Function of ANE Legal Collections

Day 3 July 14 Ritual and Torah Decalogue

Day 4 July 15 Context of the Torah

Day 5 July 16 Ongoing Significance of the Torah

REQUIRED TEXTS

(For most of these, only selected sections will be assigned)

Gane, Roy, *Old Testament Law for Christians: Original Context and Enduring Application* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2017). 2-credit students only (Students may want to purchase this book)

Hayes, Christine, *What's Divine About Divine Law? Early Perspectives* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015). 2-credit students only (Students may want to purchase this book)

LeFebvre, Michael, *Collections, Codes and Torah: The Re-characterization of Israel's Written Law* (New York: T&T Clark, 2006). (Posted on Moodle)

Roth, Martha, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor* (Atlanta: SBL, 1995). 2-credit students only (Posted on Moodle)

Strawn, Brent (ed.), *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, 2 volumes). (OEBL)

Walton, John H. *Lost World of the Torah* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019). (LWT) (Students may want to purchase this book)

Walton, J. Harvey, “The Theological Implications of Covenant as Vassal Treaty in Israel,” in *For Us, but Not to Us* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2020), 174-93. (4Us/Not 2Us) (Posted on Moodle)

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Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

