**Exodus and the Shape of Biblical Narrative**

Davenant Hall Biblical Theology

Hilary Term 2021

Teacher: Dr. Alastair Roberts

**Course Description**

The story and the theme of the Exodus are fundamental to scriptural narrative. Familiar though the narrative of the Exodus is to most Christians, the wider deployment and development of Exodus themes and motifs in the rest of the Scriptures is much less so. Discerning these themes and motifs requires skills of the hearer of Scripture that are foreign to many modern Christians. Through training these skills of hearing, this course will equip students to recognize and trace themes of Exodus throughout the biblical narrative.

**Course Format**

The format of the course will blend short lectures and guided discussion of the assigned texts. Students will be expected to come having read and engaged with the text selections for the week, and with thoughts prepared to contribute. Classes will meet via Zoom for two hours each week and will be recorded for later viewing by students who cannot participate (but not for dissemination outside of class). Additional student participation and instructor interaction can take place on a Google Classroom discussion board.

**Course Objectives**

Objectives for this course include: (1) to learn and to hone skills of attentive scriptural reading; (2) to achieve a close reading of the book of Exodus; (3) to understand the importance of the story of the Exodus for the wider scriptural narrative; (4) to grasp the unity of the Scriptures more firmly.

**Course Requirements**

Participation (20%): Attentive and sustained participation in class is the primary requirement. For-credit students may have one excused absence.

Reading Responses (30%): All students are requested and for-credit students are required to complete the assigned readings each week. Students will submit a Reading Response each week offering a brief synopsis and critical reflections on either the biblical or other reading for the week (alternating each week so that half their reading responses are biblical, and half from the other literature).

Term Paper (50%): For-credit students are required to submit a 3,000-5,000 word term paper by 3/19. Papers will combine some secondary source research with attentive reading of scriptural text and self-conscious and reflective use of interpretative approaches. They may be primarily exegetical, hermeneutical, theological, or liturgical in their orientation, or blend elements of all four, though the topic should be approved in advance.

**Course Texts**

The Bible

David Daube, *The Exodus Pattern in the Bible*

Bryan Estelle, *Echoes of Exodus*

R. Michael Fox (ed.), *Reverberations of the Exodus in Scripture*

Rabbi David Fohrman, *The Exodus You Almost Passed Over*

James Jordan, *Through New Eyes*

***Recommended further reading***

Alastair Roberts and Andrew Wilson, *Echoes of Exodus*

Yoram Hazony, *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture*

Richard Hays, *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels*

Shimon Bar-Efrat, *Narrative Art in the Bible*

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*

Rabbi David Fohrman, *Genesis: A Parsha Companion*

Rabbi David Fohrman, *Exodus: A Parsha Companion*

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Key Topic** | **Scripture Reading** | **Literature Reading** |
| 1 | 1/11 | Pangs and Plagues | Ex. 7-12 | Jordan, *Through New Eyes*, ch. 14 |
| 2 | 1/18 | The Law and the Tabernacle | Ex. 19-31, 40 | Jordan, *Through New Eyes*, ch. 15 |
| 3 | 1/25 | God and the Exodus | Ex. 3-4, 32-34 | Estelle, *Echoes*, ch. 3 |
| 4 | 2/1 | Exodus and Festival | Ex. 12, 24; Lev. 23, 25; Deut. 15-16, 26, 27 | Fox, *Reverberations*, chs. 1&2 |
| 5 | 2/8 | Anticipations of Exodus | Gen. 12-14, 18-19 | Fohrman, *The Exodus You Almost Passed Over* |
| 6 | 2/15 | Exodus in Israel’s later history | 1 Kgs 8-12 | Daube, *Exodus Pattern*, chs. 9&10 |
| 7 | 2/22 | Exodus in Psalms and Prophets | Is. 40-55 | Estelle, *Echoes*, ch. 4 |
| 8 | 3/1 | Exodus in the Gospels and Acts | Matt. 2-5; Acts 2 | Estelle, *Echoes*, chs. 7&8 |
| 9 | 3/8 | Exodus, Ethics, and Eschatology | 1 Cor. 10; Heb. 3-4; Rev. 11-15 | Estelle, *Echoes*, chs. 9&11 |
| 10 | 3/15 | Exodus in the Church’s Life | Rom. 5-8 | Fox, *Reverberations*, ch. 10 |