

# **The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Then and Now**

## **Brandeis University**

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The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is a complex compilation of material, reflecting a millennium of beliefs, desires, and norms from ancient Israel. In this course, we begin to understand this diversity of material, and the various approaches that have been taken in the scholarly world toward it. We will accomplish this by reading a significant portion of the Hebrew Bible in English, along with representative selections from secondary literature. In addition, we will look at selections of modern “texts” (e.g., court cases, artistic works, films, song, etc.) that interpret the Bible to develop an understanding of the difference between what the Bible once meant, and what it now means.

The main goals of this class are:

- To learn how to analyze and understand a culture that is different from our own, and reflects values of a different era and geographical location.
- To see how different cultures interacted in antiquity.
- To understand how ancient cultures continue to inform contemporary life.
- To appreciate the role of the Bible as a core text in American life.
- To become more aware of how different post-biblical cultures, especially Judaism and Christianity, have used the same core text in very different ways.

The class will meet on-line once a week for 14 or 15 weeks for 1.5 hours. You will be expected to prepare for each class meeting by completing all the weekly assignments, including reading, looking at and listening to related material (written works, court cases, artistic works, films, song, etc.), and handing in assignments.

Course requirements include engaged attendance for all synchronous classes; you are expected to participate actively in the synchronous classes, and may be penalized if you do not participate. You are expected to prepare for each class by completing and thinking about the



primary and secondary readings; I will sometimes email or post study questions that will help to focus our synchronous meetings. In addition, you are expected to complete all coursework, which consists of individual and group assignments, weekly quizzes and emails concerning the readings, a paper or presentation that concerns a comparison between the ancient meaning of the Bible and its modern use, and the final examination, which will focus on the historical-critical interpretation of the Bible. All of these assignments are noted on the document concerning “assessment,” and you will be provided with more details for each assignment.

If you are a student with a documented disability and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, or if you have any special needs in relation to this course, please contact me immediately. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not provided retroactively.

All students should purchase *The Jewish Study Bible (JSB)*, eds. Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler. This Bible has maps, annotations, and essays that you are encouraged to use. You might want to read other Bibles as well, but this is the translation we will use in “class,” and you will read several essays from it. Also, purchase Marc Zvi Brettler, *How to Read the Jewish Bible (HtR)*. Other readings will be made available on the “Readings” page of each Unit and in the “Documentation” folder in the course “Tool Box.” In the syllabus that follows, all primary readings (from the Bible and other ancient texts) are marked with an \*.

### **Assessment:**

- 1. (15%) Class Preparation (Weekly quizzes and email to instructor):** Completing all of these, every week, with a pass rate of at least 60%, will count for 15% of the grade. Quizzes count for 10% and emails to instructor count for 5%.
- 2. Individual and group assignments:** 25% of your grade. (15% for individual assignments; 10% for group assignments.)
- 3. A paper or presentation:** a comparison between the ancient meaning of the Bible and its modern use, to be shared by the entire class, is **due at the end of week eleven**, and will comprise 30% of your grade. I will discuss the paper in week seven, and you need to hand in a proposed topic during week eight.



**4. The final examination:** will focus on the historical-critical interpretation of the Bible, namely what the Bible meant in its original contexts, and will comprise 30% of your grade. It will be comprised of two take-home essays and, in a live session, identifications of names, concepts and biblical passages. A description of the final may be found on the “Final Examination Structure” page in Unit 15.

**5. Extra Credit:** For up to five extra points added to your grade, watch four lectures in either <http://members.bib-arch.org/videos/dever/dever.asp> (after the course begins, you will receive instructions to access this website) or <http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-145#sessions>. Write down a total of ten questions you would like to ask the lecturer based on his or her lectures (you must have at least two questions on each lecture) as well as three new things that you learned from each lecture that were not covered in class.

**Additional notes concerning assessment:** You will be penalized 5% for each class beyond one that you miss unless you have proof of a severe medical condition or death in the family. You also need to “meet” with me virtually during the first five weeks of the semester for at least ten minutes, and will be penalized if you fail to do so.

## **Week 1: Introduction**

### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Brettler, Marc Zvi, and Adele Berlin. “The Modern Study of the Bible.” Pages 2084-2096 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. Brettler, Marc Zvi, and Adele Berlin. “Historical and Geographical Background to the Bible.” Pages 2048-2061 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
3. Fassberg, Steven E. “Languages of the Bible.” Pages 2062-2066 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
4. Coogan, Michael D. *et al.* “Translation of the Bible into English.” Pages 2197-2201 in



- The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. Edited by Michael D. Coogan, Marc Zvi Brettler, Carol Newson, and Pheme Perkins. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
5. Greenspoon, Leonard J. "Jewish Translations of the Bible." Pages 2005-2020 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  6. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "What is the Bible, Anyway?" Pages 7-12 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  7. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "The Art of Reading the Bible." Pages 13-18 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  8. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "A Brief History of Israel." Pages 19-28 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  9. Familiarize yourself with maps 1-9 at end of *The Jewish Study Bible*.

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Validator: Map of the ancient Near East Part I
3. Validator: Hebrew Bible Chronology Part I
4. Working Group Activity
5. Survey
6. E-mail instructor two questions that you had about the primary or secondary readings, OR two things that you did not understand or found confusing or problematic. No more than two paragraphs, please. **(NOTE: You will be responsible for doing this every week.)**

### **Week 2: Creation and Creationism**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Torah." Pages 1-7 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. Levenson, Jon D. "Genesis: Introduction." Pages 8-11 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
3. \* Genesis 1:1-4:1 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
4. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "With Scissors and Paste: The Sources of Genesis." Pages 29-36 in



- How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
5. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Creation vs. Creationism: Genesis 1-3 as Myth." Pages 37-47 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  6. Dalley, Stephanie. "Epic of Creation [Enuma Elish]" Pages 228-277 in *Myths from Mesopotamia*. Rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
  7. Coogan, Michael D., and Mark S. Smith. "Baal." Pages 97-115, 139-140 in *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. 2d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.
    - Read Introduction, tablet 2: columns 1 and 4, and tablet 5: column 1.
  8. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitzmiller\\_v.\\_Dover\\_Area\\_School\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitzmiller_v._Dover_Area_School_District)
  9. (Optional) [http://ncse.com/files/pub/legal/kitzmiller/highlights/2005-12-20\\_Kitzmiller\\_decision.pdf](http://ncse.com/files/pub/legal/kitzmiller/highlights/2005-12-20_Kitzmiller_decision.pdf)

**Assignments (for each week, see the LMS for more specific details)**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Working Group Activity
3. Survey on the Kitzmiller versus Dover Area School District Case
4. E-mail to instructor

**Week 3: Genesis 4–50**

**Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. \* Genesis 4-50 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
2. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "The Ancestors as Heroes." Pages 49-59 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
3. Dalley, Stephanie. "Gilgamesh: Tablet XI." Pages 109-120 in *Myths from Mesopotamia*. Rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
4. Gaster, Theodor. "The Tower of Babel." Pages 132-138 in *Myth, Legend, and Custom in the Old Testament*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.
5. Reading on rabbinic exegesis of Genesis 22 (Such readings are found on the "Readings" page of each Unit and in the "Documentation" folder in the course Tool Box).



6. Auerbach, Eric. "Odysseus' Scar." Pages 3-23 in *Mimesis*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
7. McCarter, P. Kyle Jr. "The Patriarchal Age." Pages 1-29 in *Ancient Israel*. Edited by Hershel Shanks. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1988.
8. Watch Christine Hayes' Open Yale Course Lecture 5 - Critical Approaches to the Bible: Introduction to Genesis 12-50 (**especially chapters 1 and 2**) <http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/r1st-145/lecture-5>
9. (optional) Watch the first 7 minutes of Episode 18 in season 10 in of The Simpsons (<http://www.wtsof.com/watch/S10E18-simpsons-bible-stories>)
10. (optional) <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=WL7YYLNX>

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Short Form Response and Wall: Rabbinic or Patristic Commentary on Genesis
3. Validator: Map of the ancient Near East Part 2
4. Working Group Activity
5. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 4: Exodus**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Tigay, Jeffrey H. "Exodus: Introduction." Pages 102-107 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \* Exodus 1-18 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
3. \* Psalm 78:42-51 and Psalm 105:23-38 in *The Jewish Study Bible* (consider comparison with Exodus).
4. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Biblical Law: Codes and Collections." Pages 61-72 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
5. Wells, Bruce. "What is Biblical Law? A Look at Pentateuchal Rules and Near Eastern Practice." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 70 (2008): 223-243.
6. \* Exodus 19-24 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.



7. Roth, Martha T. "Laws of Hammurabi." Pages 76-81, 85, 103-104, 119-123, 125, 127-128, 133-140 in *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*. 2d ed. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 1997.

- Note: From these pages, you only need to read the prologue, epilogue, along with laws ¶21-25, ¶117-119, ¶190-214, ¶228-232, ¶244-252.

## Assignments

1. Readings Quiz
2. Each of the four working groups should watch one-quarter of the 1956 edition of "The Ten Commandments." You are all encouraged to watch the entire movie, and even its silent 1923 precursor. As you watch the movie, think about how it differs from the biblical account, how it interprets the biblical account, and how it chooses between various sources in the biblical account. Groups should present in L/S.
3. Short Form Response and Wall 1: 2 Assumptions about the 10 Commandments
4. Short Form Response and Wall 2: Post article, artifact, song, or video clip on position of 10 Commandments in contemporary American culture or life.
5. Working Group Activity
6. Survey: 10 Commandments Court Cases
7. E-mail to instructor

## Week 5: Biblical Law and Ritual: Priestly and Deuteronomic Perspectives

### Reading

Read the following (in this order):

1. \* Exodus 40:35-38 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
2. Schwartz, Baruch J. "Leviticus: Introduction." Pages 203-206 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
3. \* Leviticus 4-5, 12-26 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
4. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Incense is Offensive to Me: The Cult in Ancient Israel." Pages 73-83 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
5. Hurowitz, Victor. "P – Understanding the Priestly Source." *Bible Review* 12 (1996):



- 30-37, 44-47.
6. Hallo, William. "The Origin of Israelite Sacrifice." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 37 (2011): 59-60, 71.
  7. (Optional) Klawans, Jonathan. "Concepts of Purity in the Bible." Pages 2041-2047 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  8. Levinson, Bernard M. "Deuteronomy: Introduction." Pages 356-363 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  9. \* Deuteronomy 4:44-7:26, 12-26, 28-34 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
  10. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'In the Fortieth Year...Moses Addressed the Israelites': Deuteronomy." Pages 85-94 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  11. Reiner, Erica. "The Vassal-Treaties of Esarhaddon." Pages 534-541 in *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3d ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
  12. Tigay, Jeffrey H. "Excursus 27." Pages 494-497 in *The JPS Torah Commentary: Deuteronomy*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2003.
  13. Greenberg, Moshe. "Some Postulates of Biblical Criminal Law." Pages 8-37 in *The Jewish Expression*. Edited by Judah Goldin. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976.
  14. Douglas, Mary. "Introduction." Pages 1-6 in *Purity and Danger*. London: Routledge, 1984.
  15. Douglas, Mary. "The Abominations of Leviticus." Pages 42-58 in *Purity and Danger*. London: Routledge, 1984.
  16. McCarter, P. Kyle Jr. "The Art and Science of Textual Criticism." Pages 11-25 in *Textual Criticism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
  17. (Optional) Brettler, Marc Zvi, and Adele Berlin. "Textual Criticism of the Bible." Pages 2067-2071 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  18. Penkower, Jordan S. "The Development of the Masoretic Bible." Pages 2077-2083 in



- The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
19. Eshel, Esther. "The Bible in the Dead Sea Scrolls." Pages 1920-1928 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  20. (Optional) Numbers in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
  21. Neusner, Jacob. "Sukkah 1." Pages 279-281 in *The Mishnah: A New Translation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988. (This reading is a translation of the first chapter of Mishnah Sukkah, an early rabbinic work.) 358
  22. *Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael*. Page 358 and 366 of Vol 2. Translated by Jacob Z. Lauterbach. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2004.
  23. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/shema.html>

## Assignments

1. Readings Quiz
2. Short Form Response and Wall: Historical Speech or Item that uses Bible in discussion of slavery in the United States
3. Working Group Activity
4. E-mail to instructor

## Week 6: Introduction to Biblical Historical Texts

### Reading

Read the following (in this order)

1. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Nevi'im." Pages 451-461 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. Meyers, Carol. "Joshua: Introduction." Pages 462-464 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
3. \* Joshua 1-11; 21:43-24:33 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
4. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'The Walls Came Tumbling Down': Reading Joshua." Pages 95-



- 105 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
5. Amit, Yairah. "Judges: Introduction." Pages 508-510 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  6. \* Judges in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
  7. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'May My Lord King David Live Forever': Royal Ideology in Samuel and Judges." Pages 107-115 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  8. Fewell, Danna Nolan. "Judges: Introduction." Pages 67-77 in *The Women's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Carol A. Newsom and Sharon H. Ringe. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.
  9. Shanks, Hershel. "Defining the Problems: Where We are in the Debate." Pages 1-25 in *The Rise of Ancient Israel*. Edited by Hershel Shanks, William G. Dever, Baruch Halpern, and P. Kyle McCarter Jr. Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1992.
  10. Alter, Robert. "Sacred History and the Beginnings of Prose Fiction." Pages 23-46 in *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. 2d ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011.
  11. Bar-Efrat, Shimon. "First Samuel: Introduction." Pages 558-561 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  12. \* First and Second Samuel in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
  13. McKenzie, Steven L. "Finished Portrait: A Synopsis." Pages 185-189 in *King David: A Biography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
  14. Tsevat, Matitiah. "Israelite History and the Historical Books of the Old Testament." Pages 177-187 in *The Meaning of the Book of Job and Other Biblical Studies*. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1980.

## Assignments

1. Readings Quiz
2. Individual Activity
3. Working Group Activity
4. Begin thinking about topic proposal due Week 8 for final paper due Week 11



5. E-mail to instructor

## **Week 7: Biblical Historical Texts (continued)**

### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Zevit, Ziony. "First Kings: Introduction." Pages 668-671 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \* 1 Kings in *The Jewish Study Bible*. We will concentrate on chapters 1-14 and 16:17-28.
3. \* 2 Kings 1-11, 18-25 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
5. Horowitz, Victor. "Solomon's Temple in Context." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 37 (2011): 46-57, 77-78.
6. Rothstein, David. "First Chronicles: Introduction." Pages 1712-1716 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
7. \* 1 and 2 Chronicles in *The Jewish Study Bible* (skim 1 Chronicles 1-9).
8. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Revisionist History: Reading Chronicles." Pages 129-136 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
9. Sommer, Benjamin D. "Inner-Biblical Interpretation." Pages 1829-1834 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
10. Ullendorff, Edward. "Bilkis." *Encyclopaedia of Islam*. Edited by Peri J. Bearman, Thierry Bianquis, Clifford E. Bosworth, Emeri van Donzel, and Wolfhart P. Heinrichs. 2d ed. Online: [http://www.brillonline.nl/entries/encyclopaedia-of-islam-2/bilkis-SIM\\_1417](http://www.brillonline.nl/entries/encyclopaedia-of-islam-2/bilkis-SIM_1417)
11. Abdulaali, Wafaa. "Echoes of a Legendary Queen." *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* 40 (2012): No pages. Online: <http://www.hds.harvard.edu/news-events/harvard-divinity-bulletin/articles/echoes-of-a-legendary-queen>
12. Cogan, Mordechai. "Sennacherib's Siege of Jerusalem." Pages 302-303 in



*Monumental Inscriptions from the Biblical World*. Edited by William Hallo. Vol. 2 of *The Context of Scripture*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997.

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Individual Activity
3. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 8: Introduction to Prophecy**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. \* Reread 1 Kings 17 through 2 Kings 13 in the *Jewish Study Bible*.
2. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Introduction to Prophecy." Pages 137-148 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
3. Biggs, Robert D, trans. "Oracles Concerning Esarhaddon." Page 605 in *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3d ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
4. Huffmon, H. B. "Ancient Near Eastern Prophecy." Pages 477-482 in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Edited by David Noel Freedman. New York: Double Day, 1992.
5. \* Isaiah 1, 40; Jeremiah 1, 25:1-11, 33:1-13; Ezekiel 4; Amos 1-2 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
6. Muffs, Yochanan "Who Will Stand in the Breach? : A Study of Prophetic Intercession." Pages 16-24 in *Love and Joy: Law, Language, and Religion in Ancient Israel*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992.
7. Ben Zvi, Ehud. "Amos." Pages 1176-1177 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
8. \*Amos in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
9. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Let Justice Well Up like Water." Pages 149-160 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
10. Berlin, Adele. "Reading Biblical Poetry." Pages 2097-2104 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.



11. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream." <http://www.archives.gov/press/exhibits/dream-speech.pdf>

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Individual Activity
3. Working Group Activity
4. Paper proposal due
5. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 9: The Prophets (continued)**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Sommer, Benjamin. "Isaiah." Pages 780-784 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  2. \*Isaiah 1-6; 11, 13, and 31 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
  3. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares.': Reading (First) Isaiah." Pages 161-172 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
  4. Sweeney, Marvin A. "Jeremiah." Pages 917-920 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
  5. \*Jeremiah 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 18, 20, 25, 28, and 31 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
  6. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'I Will Make This House like Shiloh': Reading Jeremiah." Pages 173-184 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- \* Please be sure to review and familiarize yourself with key chronological events listed in the LMS.

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Working Group Activity
3. Validator: Hebrew Bible Chronology Part 2



#### 4. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 10: The Prophets (conclusion): Ezekiel**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Sweeney, Marvin A. "Ezekiel." Pages 1042-1045 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \*Ezekiel 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 33, 36-39, 40 and 48 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
3. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'I Will Be for Them a Mini-Temple': Reading Ezekiel." Pages 185-198 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
4. \*Haggai, Isaiah 40-55 (Deutero-Isaiah) in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
5. \*Ezra-Nehemiah in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
6. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'Comfort Oh Comfort My People': The Exile and Beyond." Pages 199-208 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
7. \*Cogan, Mordechai, trans. "Cyrus Cylinder." Pages 314-316 in *Monumental Inscriptions from the Biblical World*. Edited by William Hallo. Vol. 2 of *The Context of Scripture*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997.
8. \*Zechariah, Malachi, and Daniel in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
9. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'Those that Sleep in the Dust Will Awake': Zechariah, Apocalyptic Literature, and Daniel." Pages 209-218 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
10. Levine, Lee I. A. "The Age of Hellenism: Alexander the Great and the Rise and Fall of the Hasmonean Kingdom." Pages 177-204 in *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Edited by Hershel Shanks. Boston; Washington: Prentice Hall, 2011.

#### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Working Group Activity



### 3. E-mail to instructor

## Week 11: Psalms

### Reading

Read the following (in this order):

1. Berlin, Adele and Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Psalms." Pages 1280-1284 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \*Psalms 1-6, 8, 14, 15, 20, 23, 29, 30, 41, 44, 47, 50, 53, 72, 83, 89, 103, 104, 106, 119 (skim), 121, 122, 137, and 150 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
3. Halton, Charles. "An Ershahunga to Any God." Pages 461-462 in *Reading Akkadian Prayers & Hymns: An Introduction*. Edited by Alan Lenzi. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.
4. Wilson, John A., trans. "A Universalist Hymn to the Sun." Pages 367-368 in *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3d ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
5. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "Prayer of Many Hearts: Reading Psalms" Pages 219-230 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
6. Sarna, Nahum. *Songs of the Heart: An Introduction to Psalms*. Pages 3-23. New York: Schocken Books, 1993.
7. Gunkel, Hermann. *The Psalms: A Form-Critical Introduction*. Translated by Thomas M. Horner. iii-25. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1967.
8. Abegg, Martin Jr., et al., ed. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*. Pages 545-586. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.
9. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian\\_chant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_chant) (read introduction and skim the rest)
10. ALSO watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcLz2LV8Tfg&feature=youtu.be>

### Assignments

1. Readings Quiz
2. Individual Activity
3. Working Group Activity



4. Final paper/project due
5. E-mail to instructor

## **Week 12: Poetry and Wisdom**

### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Stern, Elsie. "Song of Solomon (Song of Songs)." Pages 1564-1566 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \* Song of Solomon (Song of Songs) in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
3. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'Drink Deep of Love!': Reading Song of Songs." Pages 257-266 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
4. Falk, Marcia. *Love Lyrics from the Bible: A Translation and Literary Study of The Song of Songs*. Sheffield: The Almond Press, 1982. Pages 13-51 (odd only).
5. Bloch, Ariel and Chana. *The Song of Songs : A New Translation with an Introduction and Commentary*. New York: Random House, 1995. Pages 43-117
6. Pope, Marvin. *Song of Songs : A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. New York: Double Day, 1977. Pages 1-13.
7. Fox, Michael V. "Proverbs." Pages 1447-1449 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
8. \* Proverbs 1-3, 7-9, 15, 3:5-10, 10:27, 14:27, 16:20, 21:31, 24, and 29:25 in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
9. Machinist, Peter. "Ecclesiastes." Pages 1603-1606 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
10. \* Qohelet (Ecclesiastes) in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
11. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'Acquire Wisdom': Reading Proverbs and Ecclesiastes." Pages 231-242 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Compare the selections of Proverbs to Qohelet



3. Individual Activity
4. Working Group Activity
5. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 13: Job**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Gruber, Mayer. "Job." Pages 1499-1505 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \*Job in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
3. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'Being But Dust and Ashes': Reading Job." Pages 243-256 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
4. Tsevat, Matitiah. "The Meaning of the Book of Job." *Hebrew Union College Annual* 37 (1967): 73-106.
5. Fox, Michael V. "God's Answer and Job's Response." *Biblica* 94 (2013): 1-23.
6. Annus, Amar, and Lenzi, Alan, ed. *Ludlul Bel Nemeqi : The Standard Babylonian Poem of the Righteous Sufferer*. Vol. 7 of *State Archives of Assyria Cuneiform Texts*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2010. Pages 31-34.

#### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Individual Activity
3. Working Group Activity
4. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 14: Diversity within the Canon**

#### **Reading**

Read the following (in this order):

1. Reinhartz, Adele. "Ruth." Pages 1578-1579 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2. \*Ruth in *The Jewish Study Bible*.



3. Berlin, Adele. "Esther." Pages 1623-1625 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
4. \*Esther in *The Jewish Study Bible*.
5. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "'Why Are You So Kind... When I Am a Foreigner' : Reading Ruth vs. Esther." Pages 267-272 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
6. Tribble, Phyllis. "A Human Comedy." Pages 166-199 in *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.
7. Reinhartz, Adele. "Jewish Women's Scholarly Writing on the Bible." Pages 2000-2005 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
8. Brettler, Marc Zvi. "The Creation of the Bible." Pages 273-278 in *How to Read the Jewish Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
9. Friedman, Richard Elliott, and Dolansky, Shawna. "Women's Status." Pages 64-125 in *The Bible Now*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
10. Geller, Stephen A. "The Religion of the Bible." Pages 2021-2040 in *The Jewish Study Bible*. Edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

### **Assignments**

1. Readings Quiz
2. Individual Activity
3. Working Group Activity
4. E-mail to instructor

### **Week 15: Review Week**

### **No Readings**

### **Assignment**

1. Final Exam