SYLLABUS FOR B.A.R. DEGREE
OT421--Old Testament Interpretation: Daniel & Zechariah
B.M.A. Theological Seminary   Fall Semester 2007
Professor--Dr. Greg W. Parsons

I. Course Description
This is an historical and interpretative study of Daniel and Zechariah. Emphasis is placed on the literary structure (outline), suggested purpose and the historical context to interpret individual passages.

II. Objectives
1) To identify the literary structure (natural basic outline) of the Books of Daniel and Zechariah and to suggest a purpose statement for each. The two-fold intent is to assist each student:
   (a) to acquire an over-all view of these two prophetic/apocalyptic books;
   (b) to begin to master the subject matter of both Daniel and Zechariah (namely, knowledge of the contents of each chapter or natural division).

2) To help the student to learn a proper method of interpreting individual passages in the text of Daniel and Zechariah in light of two important contexts: the historical-cultural background and the overall structure and purpose of the book.

3) To emphasize the proper hermeneutical approach to the prophetic/apocalyptic books of Daniel and Zechariah--namely, understanding the text in light of both historical/cultural and Biblical contexts.
   a) To formulate and learn some hermeneutical guidelines for these two books as prophetic-apocalyptic to promote accurate interpretation.
   b) To apply these guidelines in Bible study and exposition.

4) To guide the student in teaching or preaching from Daniel and Zechariah with emphasis on making valid applications to life situations in the 21st century.
   a) To seek to derive timeless principles from the biblical text which are true to the original context and yet relevant to our modern society.
   b) To try to determine some homiletical guidelines to encourage maximum communication of God's truths.

1 This syllabus is tentative & may be changed. [Syllabus date: 7-25-2007]
2 Contact information-- E-mail: gwpbmats@juno.com or gparsons@bmats.edu
III. Requirements

A. Reading

B. Term paper and report
Each B.A.R. student is responsible for a term paper of about 8 to 12 typewritten pages consisting of an exegetical summary of some passage in Daniel or Zechariah followed by an expository sermon or lesson. An oral report of perhaps 20 to 25 minutes emphasizing the exposition of the text and its valid application will be presented (normally on the day the Bible passage is scheduled for class discussion). The paper should exhibit a proper balance between doctrine (being true to the historical/cultural background and the literary context of Daniel or Zechariah and previous OT writings) and practical exhortation (being validated in light of the rest of the Old Testament and of the New Testament). The student must consult with the instructor before proceeding with a sermon passage.

The paper should include at least the following aspects: (1) The student must summarize the passage and trace the argument (i.e., the flow of thought) in light of the whole Book of Daniel or Zechariah and its historical/cultural context. Be certain to utilize the three textbooks as well as at least two or three other commentaries throughout the paper. (2) There ought to be an exegetical or expository outline (summarizing in complete sentences the exact thought of the Bible text) with a brief

\[ \text{See Ross, Creation and Blessing (especially pp. 42-44) for the concept and examples of an exegetical outline.} \]
commentary on each verse which expresses your research into the text. (3) The sermonic portion of the paper should bring out the biblical teaching and timeless principles which find valid application for today. It is very important to consider later Old Testament evidence as well as New Testament quotations or allusions in discerning timeless principles. The student should show how the doctrine (or theology) of the text may impact our modern society. However, do not force an application if there is not a valid one.

Notes: Be sure to observe the following rules: (a) To follow the suggested guidelines for interpreting Old Testament prophecy/apocalyptic and any specific application to Daniel and Zechariah; (b) To discuss (in the last part of the paper) how the doctrine (or theology) of the text impacts our modern society; (c) To document your research by author's last name and the page number placed within parentheses in the text (or by footnotes if you prefer) with a bibliography at the end.

A detailed outline of the paper should be distributed to each class member (and to the professor) at the time of the presentation. Furthermore a complete copy of the entire paper must also be given to the professor at the same time (namely before the oral report).

C. Exams

Two exams will be given during the semester as recorded on the class schedule below. Emphasis is normally placed on knowledge of the literary structure (outline) as presented in class and other items discussed in the lectures--including any handouts. However the precise nature of these major tests will be explained later.

D. Grading guidelines for BAR

Exams approximately 25% to 30% each; term paper--25% (plus 1% for the oral report); daily grade 14% (including 10% for weekly reading as documented on reading slips and 4% for class participation and attendance). Possible "pop" quizzes over daily reading (perhaps 5% to 10%).

4Also see Ross, ibid., especially pp. 46-48 for the concept of an expository outline and timeless principles. Furthermore consult Walter Kaiser's Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981) especially chapter 7 for tips on seeking to glean timeless principles from the text.

5Be sure to give credit to sources you use in coming up with an exegetical and/or expository outlines. It is best to rework what others have done (or start out on your own & consult others to polish up your efforts) rather than copying someone verbatim. However it is still necessary to document the source(s) you utilized or revised.
IV. Class Schedule (2007)

Aug 28  Course syllabus (brief review. Introduction to Daniel (an overview of the date & authorship, nature, structure, purpose & historical background. Brief hermeneutical guidelines for Hebrew prophecy and/or apocalyptic (emphasizing Daniel and Zechariah). Study of Daniel chap. 1. Assignment: read all of Daniel (preferably at one sitting in a modern translation such as the NIV, NASB, or NKJV). Read Miller, 21-74 & Lucas, 17-59, 317-326.

Sept. 4  Study of Daniel chaps. 2 and 3. Assignment: Read specific assigned text of Daniel (i.e. chaps. 2 and 3). Then read Miller, 75-126 & Lucas, 60-96 & review 318-321.


18  Study of Daniel 6 and 7. Assignment: read the specific assigned text of Daniel (=chaps. 6-7). Read Miller, 171-218 & Lucas, 142-201.


9  MID-TERM EXAM

Oct. 16  Introduction to Zechariah (the date & authorship, nature, structure, purpose & historical background). Study of Zechariah chap. 1. Assignment: read all of Zechariah (preferably at one sitting in a modern translation such as the NIV, NASB, or NKJV); then re-read chap. 1. Read Klein, & Merrill,

23  Study of Zechariah chaps. 2 and 3. Assignment: read Zech. 2 and 3; then read Klein, & Merrill,

30  Study of Zechariah chaps. 4 & 5. Assignment: read the specific text of Zechariah 4 & 5. Read Klein, & Merrill,
Nov. 6  Study of Zechariah 7 & 8.  Assignment:  read the specific text of Zechariah.  Read Klein, & Merrill,

13 Study of Zechariah 9 & 10.  Assignment:  read the specific text of Zechariah.  Read Klein, & Merrill,

Nov. 20 Study of Zechariah chaps.11 & 12. Assignment:  read the specific text of Zechariah.  Read Klein, & Merrill,

27 Study of Zechariah chaps.13-14.  Brief review for exam. Assignment:  read the specific text of Zechariah.  Read Klein, & Merrill,

Dec. 4 FINAL EXAM