

# COURSE OUTLINE

## NOTES

### *The Rise and Fall of an Historical Kingdom and the Rise of a Moral and Spiritual Kingdom*

- I. A nation begins with God's promise of land and seed to the patriarch Abraham (Genesis 11-50).
- II. Israel, the nation, is born under the leadership of Moses
  - A. through the deliverance from Egypt and wilderness experiences (Exodus & Numbers),
  - B. founded on a law (Sinai Covenant), other laws added through the years (Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Leviticus).
- III. The promised land is reached and settled
  - A. as Joshua leads the people across Jordan and in early conquests (Joshua),
  - B. as the Shechem Covenant binds tribes to God and each other in a League (Joshua 8:30-35, Joshua 24),
  - C. as Canaanite culture presents challenges (Judges).
- IV. A monarchy is attained (with political sovereignty)
  - A. despite the opposition of God expressed through Samuel (I Samuel 8),
  - B. as Saul first welds the tribes into a nation for war (I Samuel 9 to II Samuel 1),
  - C. as David subdues enemies, extends borders, and conquers Jerusalem (I Samuel 16 to II Samuel 24),
  - D. and under Solomon the united kingdom reaches its peak (I Kings 1-11).
- V. The kingdom divides into Israel (northern tribes) and Judah (with Benjamin)
  - A. through the tyranny of Rehoboam (I Kings 12),
  - B. and the two separate kingdoms decline and fall (Israel, to be destroyed by Assyria, and Judah, to go into captivity to Babylonia — I Kings 12-II Kings 25),
  - C. while the prophets contribute to the moral and spiritual kingdom by their great work.

1. Elijah (I Kings 17- II Kings 2)	3. Amos	6. Micah	9. Jeremiah
2. Elisha (II Kings 2-13)	4. Hosea	7. Zephaniah	10. Habakkuk
5. Isaiah (1-39)	8. Nahum		
- VI. The exile of Judah to Babylonia is a period of
  - A. despondency and humiliation (Lamentations; Psalms 137),
  - B. development (Ezekiel; Holiness Code; Deutero-Isaiah: (40-); Genesis 1; Obadiah; the synagogue).
- VII. The return of the exiles to Judaea under Persian rule brings problems of rebuilding
  - A. the temple (Ezra 1-6; Haggai; Zechariah),
  - B. the wall (Nehemiah),
  - C. the community, covenanted anew to the Law (Ezra; Nehemiah),
  - D. protests against narrowness and segregationism (Ruth; Jonah).
- VIII. Alexander the Great conquers Persia, and Hellenism dominates the Middle East with such effects on the Jews as these:
  - A. the development of Wisdom Literature (Job; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes),
  - B. the collection of songs of individual and group prayer and worship (Psalms),
  - C. the translation into Greek of the Jewish Scriptures (the Septuagint).
- IX. The Jews regain political independence in the Maccabean Period through
  - A. the persecution of a Greek ruler of Syria, Antiochus IV,
  - B. the Maccabean Revolt (Daniel; Apocryphal books I and II Maccabees),
  - C. the Hasmonean Dynasty, with religious decline and political intrigue, during which Jewish sects arise (Pharisees; Sadducees; Zealots; Essenes, some of whom withdraw to form a Covenant Community at Khirbet Qumran near the Dead Sea).