



Syllabus
BIB 524 Biblical Exegesis
Genesis Bible Institute

Course Description

This course equips students to engage biblical texts in order that they may accurately and responsibly draw out the author's intended meaning. Students will be introduced to the seven elements of exegesis and apply the analytical process in order to compile an exegetical paper of their own.

I. Prerequisites

None

II. Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon Completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Recite from memory Psalm 119:33-36
- Define and explain relevant vocabulary related to biblical exegesis
- Contrast different approaches to exegesis and different contexts related to biblical texts
- Apply exegetical tools and methods to various portions of Scripture
- Interpret Scripture according to original authorial intent
- Analyze historical, cultural, and literary elements within biblical texts
- Critically assess common exegetical and hermeneutical errors resulting in misinterpretation of Scripture
- Generate a working outline of a selected biblical text
- Compose an academic exegetical paper on a selected biblical text

III. Required Resources

Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020. Print.

Schultz, Richard L. *Out of Context: How to Avoid Misinterpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2012. Print.

IV. Recommended Resources

Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1996.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

V. Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Scripture Memorization

You will be memorizing Psalm 119:33-36 in this course. God's Word is central to the life of every Christian, guiding and directing decisions, behaviors, values, and vision. Therefore, Genesis requires learners to memorize Scripture throughout their degree programs. Invest time every day to hide God's Word in your heart.

B. Learning Activities

In each of the six modules, you will answer questions that correlate to the content in Gorman's book, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*. The Foundational Knowledge questions are derived directly from the assigned reading for the module. The Practical Analysis Activities require you to apply the skills and knowledge you've gleaned in the module to particular biblical texts. Included will be progressive work on your portfolio project, allowing you to compile the notes and research necessary for your final exegesis paper. Responses to the questions and prompts within the modules' learning activities do not have word limits but should be concise and focused. Some will require more depth than others depending on the detail included in the question.

Note: Throughout this course, various words may be used to refer to a selected portion of Scripture. These include "text", "passage", "selection", "textual unit", or "verses." Unless specifically noted, these words are all interchangeable and synonymous.

C. Book Critique

You will read and submit a critical assessment of Richard L. Schultz's *Out of Context: How to avoid misinterpreting the Bible*. Your book critique must be a minimum of 1000 words, conform to MLA standards, and follow the guidelines under "How to write a Book Critique" in the *Genesis Writer's Manual*. You will submit your Book Critique at the end of Module 4. It is worth 200 points.

D. Assignment

There are no additional assignments for this course.

E. Portfolio Project

Each Level 3 course at Genesis requires students to create a project that contributes to his or her Ministry Portfolio. A Ministry Portfolio is a usable, functioning body of work which demonstrates a student's leadership skills, knowledge, credentials, and abilities.

The purpose of this course is to give instruction on how to effectively execute Gorman's exegetical method when studying a biblical passage. Therefore, this portfolio project will be an exegetical paper that you will write as a culmination of your findings after you engage in biblical exegesis throughout the course learning activities. Each of the six modules has specific assignments directed toward this portfolio project and will progressively help you compile the research and analysis necessary to write your paper.

At the end of Module 1 you will select the biblical passage that will be the focus of your attention through the next five modules and then used for your exegetical paper. Use the methods described in the assigned reading for Module 1 to select an appropriate text. Also, avail yourself of the exegetical paper preparation guidelines and samples that Gorman provides in Appendices B and C at the conclusion of the book. It will benefit you to continually refer to these pages all throughout this course. The goal of this course is to provide training to Genesis students on properly and responsibly handling a biblical text, even apart from secondary source material, so that you can interpret and apply the text for yourself and effectively communicate your understanding to others.

The exegetical paper should consist of between 8 and 15 handwritten pages (approx. 2,000 – 4,000 words) depending on the length of the passage you select. A general breakdown of the paper's structure will be provided in the assigned reading for Module 1. We realize that Genesis students are still in the learning process and may not have wide ranges of expertise on ancient biblical languages, cultures, historical events, archeology, or literature. However, if the methods outlined in this course are followed properly, even novice biblical students can become effective and responsible exegetes providing rich insight on Scripture.

The following rubric will be used by graders to assess your final paper submitted for this portfolio project. You may also refer to your *Genesis Writer's Manual* for best practices on composition writing. Your paper is worth 400 points (40% of your final grade).

F. Final Exam

The Final Exam consists of vocabulary content from the assigned reading in Gorman's *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*. The purpose of this exam is to measure your knowledge of the course material. A Final Exam Review is presented after Module 6 to help you prepare for the test. The exam will be administered after all 6 modules have been completed. You will be required to write out your memory verses on the Final Exam.