

## **Readings in the Book of Exodus**

### **Description and Teaching Method**

This course undertakes a study of modern critical problems of interpretation in the Book of Exodus. It focuses on establishing a translation, using text-critical apparatus. It examines the rise of source and form criticism as these have been used in the exegesis of Exodus. It analyses the way in which it has been proposed to combine these methods, and the problems inherent in that. It looks at some of the newer efforts to give priority to the deuteronomistic over the priestly hand in the final formation of the book. Canonical interpretation, as seen through a critical engagement with historical methods, will be reviewed (in the Old Testament Library commentary of BS Childs). This will also provide an occasion to examine the benefits/drawbacks of consulting the earlier history of interpretation.

Seminar format. Translation of Hebrew and Greek texts. Discussion of secondary readings. Brief seminar papers. Meets M/W/F (10.30 to 1.00). Required attendance at the Scripture-Theology event on 29-30 April.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Competence in assessing text-critical options for translation
2. Grasp of the aims and strengths/limitations of source, form, and redaction criticism
3. Appreciation for the questions raised by the earlier history of interpretation
4. The ability to evaluate modern commentaries on Exodus and secondary literature from the modern period

### **Assessment**

1. One 5000-word (genre of a publishable) paper, in the form of a scholarly article (30% engagement with previous literature and 'state of the question') (50%)
2. One paper which evaluates the method of Childs and the use of the history of interpretation, to be disseminated for class discussion (30%).
3. Class participation (20%)

**Major paper due date is 25 August 2016.**

### **Schedule**

1. **Exodus 1:1-2:25**
2. **Exodus 3:1-22**
3. **Exodus 6:1-30**
4. **Exodus 13:1-22**

5. Exodus 16:1-36
6. Exodus 19:1-24
7. Exodus 23:20—24:18
8. Exodus 32—34

### Exodus Bibliography

BS Childs, *Exodus* (OTL; Philadelphia: Westminster, 1972)

Walter Moberly, *The Old Testament of the Old Testament* (OBT; Philadelphia: Fortress, )

Martin Noth, *Exodus* (OTL; Philadelphia: Westminster:, )

William Prop, *Exodus* (AB; Vol 1 and Vol 2)

R. Rendtorff, History of Pentateuchal Traditions

C Seitz, *Word Without End* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)

History of Interpretation: Rashi, Calvin, Gregory of Nyssa, Origen