



Overview

Israel Matters: A Theology of People and Land

SB THEO 304 [Gerald R. McDermott](#)

Fall 2021 - 3 credits Oct 11 - Dec 13, 2021

Hybrid Asynchronous/Synchronous - Three Mondays 5:00-6:00PM Jerusalem; 10-11:00AM EST

Course Instructor and Meeting Times:

Instructor: [Gerald R. McDermott](#), Ph.D. The course will be presented in 13 sessions between the dates October 11th- December 13th 2021 with 10 pre-recorded videos, one per week, to be viewed at the students pace within the week. In addition there will be three live sessions at 5:00-6:00 PM Jerusalem Standard Time (10:00-11:00 AM EST): the first on Monday October 11th, the second Monday November 15th, and the third Monday December 13th.

Course Summary Description:

Since the Holocaust, Christian theologians have come to realize that the Church made some serious mistakes in their understanding of Jesus and Israel, that Jesus and the apostles were far more Jewish than most had realized, and that Israel as a people and land have continuing significance for God's work of redemption.

This course will be a study in biblical, historical, and systematic theology. But it is far more than academic. For those with ears to hear, it will help create and enlarge mountain-moving mustard seeds. The course will explore the following questions. In the Bible, what was Israel's role in Torah and the prophets? Where is Israel in the New Testament and early Christianity? Does the New Testament see a future for the Jews, even those who have not seen Yeshua as messiah? Did the NT authors see a role for the land of Israel in their day and the future? How did the Church understand these things in its last 2000 years—in its first three centuries, under Constantine, in the Middle Ages, the Reformation, and eighteenth through twentieth centuries? What significance does all of this have for Christian theology—its understanding of humanity and God, the history of redemption, prophecy, the Church, and the problem of evil?

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will gain an overview of a theology of Israel from the Hebrew Bible through Church history, and become familiar with misconceptions and corrected understandings.



2. Students will be able to compare and criticize a variety of beliefs of Israel's place in the Bible and Christian theology, as well as review and analyze their own previous conceptions of these matters.
3. Students will gain the tools to develop a well-informed theology of Israel for themselves and the ability to communicate that theology to others.
4. Students will have a new understanding of God and his ways with Israel and the nations.

Course Requirements (for Credit):

- Students are required to watch the 10 weekly lectures and attend the three live sessions.
- Weekly quizzes must be completed within one week of the corresponding lesson on the online learning platform.
- A 10-15 page research paper (not including works cited) must be completed by the final live session.
- At least one interaction with the main Forum post of the week and one other fellow student's posts
- 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D and under 60 is no credit.

Attendance (3) and Video Lectures Viewing	20%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Forum	15%
Final Research Paper	50%

Textbooks:

- 1) McDermott, Gerald R. *Israel Matters: Why Christians Must Think Differently About the People and the Land*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2017.
- 2) McDermott, Gerald R., ed. *Understanding the Jewish Roots of Christianity: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Essays on the Relationship between Christianity and Judaism*. Lexham Press, 2021.

Lecture Topics and Supplemental Readings (Note: Two to four weekly Supplemental Readings will be provided or linked on the Course Page, except for the two textbooks above.)

- **LIVE SESSION 1: Monday October 11th (5:00-6:00 PM Jerusalem Standard Time (10:00-11:00 AM EST)): Overview of the Course, Expectations and Community**
- Lecture 1 (Oct 11) : Israel in the first human societies: from Eden to Noah and the nations
- Lecture 2 (Oct 18): Israel's formal beginnings: Abraham and the patriarchs



- Lecture 3: (Oct 25): Available Israel's national development: Moses to David
- Lecture 4 (Nov 1): Israel's spiritual development: David to the Captivity
- Lecture 5 (Nov 8): Israel in the New Testament: Jesus
- **LIVE SESSION TWO: Monday November 15th (5:00-6:00 PM Jerusalem Standard Time (10:00-11:00 AM EST)): Brief Review of 1-5, Summary of Lecture 6 and Q&A**
- Lecture 6 (Nov 15): Israel in the New Testament: Paul and the early church
- Lecture 7 (Nov 22): Israel diminished: the first three centuries of Christianity
- Lecture 8 (Nov 29): Israel under attack: Constantine through the Reformers and the Enlightenment
- Lecture 9 (Dec 6) Israel recognized: from the Puritans to the New Christian Zionists
- **LIVE SESSION THREE Monday December 13th (5:00-6:00 PM Jerusalem Standard Time (10:00-11:00 AM EST)) Review and Summary, Q&A and Closing**
- Lecture 10 (Dec 13) Israel at the center: new ways for theology