



# OT365: 1 & 2 Kings: An Anatomy of Religious Decline in Israel and Judah

Dr Philip Satterthwaite | 1.5CR

## Course Purpose

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1 & 2 Kings tell the history of the Israelite monarchy from its high point in the reign of Solomon to the twin low points of the exiles to Assyria and Babylon. They attribute this sad decline, not primarily to political and historical factors, but to Israel's gradual turning away from God during this period. The Books of Kings, then, focus on the issue of religion (beliefs and practice). They may be regarded as a study of different forms of religion, their strengths and their weaknesses. This course takes up this theme, working through the text of 1 & 2 Kings, and focusing on the reigns of five kings of Israel and Judah who each illustrate a different type of religion: Solomon (conventional religion); Jeroboam (designer religion); Ahaz (corrupt establishment religion); Jehu (revolutionary religion); Josiah (restoration religion).

### Dates (2021)

Mar 30  
Apr 13, 27  
May 4, 11  
(7:15pm – 10:00pm)

### Location

Zoom Classroom

### Credits

1.5CR

### Fees\*

S\$225 (Credit)  
S\$120 (Audit)

### Class Format

- Self-Paced+Live (In-Person)
- Self-Paced+Live (Online)**
- Self-Paced+Live (In-Person+Online)

OT 365 will be taught by blended learning, using a mixture of recorded lectures and class-based study of 1 & 2 Kings. It may be necessary to conduct all class sessions online.

## About the Lecturer

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**Dr Philip Satterthwaite** has been Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew at BGST since 1998.

His main research areas are the OT Historical and Wisdom Books. In 2007 his book *Exploring the Old Testament 2: The Histories* (written with J.G. McConville) was published by SPCK/IVP. Philip has preached and taught in a number of churches in Singapore. He is a member of Prinsep Street Presbyterian church. He is married to Eileen.



AY2020 – 21, Semester 2 (Jan – Jun 2021)

# Academic Information

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## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will have studied 1 & 2 Kings in some detail. They will have produced two reflection papers: one based on a portion of 1 or 2 Kings; the other responding either (i) to a modern study of a period of church history (read in the light of the teaching of 1 & 2 Kings or (ii) to a recent study of 1 & 2 Kings which highlights the issue of religious belief and practice.

## Assignments:

The grade point for OT365 will be based on the following:

1. A reflection (1500 words) on one of the following biblical texts: 1 Kings 13; 1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 3; 2 Kings 12; 2 Kings 17. **[50% of the grade point]**
2. Either: (a) a reflection (1500 words) responding to a section of D. MacCulloch, *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* (London: Allen Lane, 2009), and analysing the period of church history described in that section according to the teaching of the Books of Kings.\*

Or: (b) a review of J. Goldingay, *1 & 2 Kings for Everyone*, paying particular attention to those parts of the book which address the issue of types of religion and religious practice. **[50% of the grade point]**

\*More details about this assignment will be made available at a later date.

## Course Text:

J. Goldingay, *1 and 2 Kings for Everyone* (London/Louisville: SPKC/WJKP, 2011)

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**  
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