

Augustine School
7th-8th Grade Bible and Theology
2008-2009

Augustine School seeks to form wise and virtuous young men and women by offering an education to the glory of God that is biblically-based, gospel-centered, and classically informed. Augustine's Bible and Theology class for 5th-8th grades seeks to further this mission by grounding students in the teaching of Holy Scripture. The course is structured as a Bible *and* Theology class because of the nature of Holy Scripture itself. The Bible is fundamentally a *theologically-driven* and *theologically-rich* set of documents. To study the Bible faithfully *is by necessity* to engage in the task of theology—which in its most basic sense is simply the endeavor of understanding what the whole Bible says on the myriad of issues which it touches.

Being a course for 7th-8th grade students it (1) includes basic facts, persons, dates, and (2) is designed to help students think at a deeper level—including thinking theologically, thinking about the overall meaning and structure of the Old Testament, understanding how the Old Testament points to the New Covenant/the Gospel, and how the Old Testament can be applied today.

Below is listed what a 7th-8th grade Bible and Theology student should know, and the wisdom, insights, and habits we hope students will have obtained by the end of this year. Please note that at this level the course includes *but is not limited to* the acquisition of basic Bible facts. It is also essential as students develop to begin to see the links between various passages, the continuities and discontinuities as one moves from Old Testament to New Testament, the way many Old Testament events are linked to previous covenant commitments that God has made (e.g., the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants), how a Christian should read the Old Testament through a Christ-centered prism, and how contemporary Christians can understand and apply the Old Testament today.

Augustine School expects its 7th-8th grade students to:

- Be able to map out the story line of the entire Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi, including key persons, events, and dates.
- Be able to recite several large passages of the Old Testament from memory.
- Have developed an appreciation and understanding of the applicability of the Old Testament to the contemporary Christian.
- Be able to describe a Christian approach to the Old Testament, as seen in Jesus in Luke 24.
- Be able to describe the six days of creation in Genesis.
- Be able to discuss what Genesis 1:26-31 means when it speaks about man being made in the “image of God.”
- Be able to discuss what Christians have historically understood it to mean for man to bear the image of God.
- Be able to translate *imago Dei* from the Latin.
- Be able to discuss how the Christian doctrines of *imago Dei* and the Creation/Stewardship Mandate might serve as a corrective to the more radical components of the environmentalist movement.
- Be able to explain Jonathan Edwards’ answer to the question, “why did God create the world?”
- Be able to explain the difference between pantheism, deism, and Christian theism.
- Be able to explain the consequences of sin as seen in Genesis 3.
- Be able to explain the *protevangelium* from Genesis 3:15.
- Be able to explain the nature and purpose of the covenant with Noah from Genesis 6-9.
- Be able to explain the story of the Tower of Babel, and relate it to the Creation/Stewardship Mandate of Genesis 1:26-31.
- Be able to explain the significance of Abraham as one of the key persons in redemptive history.
- Be able to explain the covenant with Abraham.
- Be able to explain the significance of Abraham’s son Ishmael, and what group derives from Ishmael.
- Be able to understand Genesis 15:6 (“Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness”), and be able to relate this passage to Paul’s’ usage of this passage in Romans and Galatians.
- Be able to explain the story of Abraham and Isaac from Genesis 22, and discuss how human obedience relates to being a part of the Abrahamic covenant.
- Be able to outline the Joseph narrative from Genesis.
- Be able to outline the story of Moses.
- Be able to explain the significance of the Passover in Exodus.
- Be able to list the Ten Commandments.
- Be able to explain the three-fold covenant structure found in Exodus and the Mosaic Covenant.
- Be able to explain how the three-fold covenant structure found in Exodus can help Christians from viewing the Old Testament and the Law as simply a “works-based” system.
- Be able to discern how the “blessings and curses” of the Mosaic Covenant play out in the rest of Israel’s history, and how, ultimately, it was the New Covenant which finally and fully dealt with the covenant curses.
- Be able to explain the significance of the Tabernacle instructions as revealed by God.
- Be able to explain the significance of the different components of the Tabernacle.
- Be able to describe the different sacrifices/offerings found in Leviticus.

- Be able to describe key events of the wilderness wanderings found in the book of Numbers.
- Be able to explain the meaning and purpose of the book of Deuteronomy.
- Be able to explain the relationship between Joshua and Deuteronomy.
- Be able to describe the purpose of the book of Joshua and how the events of Joshua are linked to Abraham.
- Be able to explain the four-fold cycle found in the book of Judges.
- Be able to explain the similarity between the four-fold cycle of Judges and what Paul teaches in Romans 1.
- Be able to explain the significance of Samuel as a key transitional figure between the period of the Judges and the period of the Kings.
- Be able to explain the significance of Israelite's error in wishing to have a king.
- Be able to explain possible applications from Israel's wish for a king to modern day political structures.
- Be able to explain the nature of Saul's failure as king.
- Be able to explain the significance of David and the Davidic Covenant.
- Be able to explain the ways in which the Davidic Covenant influences later Israelite history, and the emergence of Israel's messianic hopes.
- Be able to explain the relationship between the Davidic Covenant and Matthew 1:1, and the relationship between the Davidic Covenant and Jesus more generally.
- Be able to explain both Solomon's virtue and vices as Israel's king.
- Be able to explain the significance of the temple, and the re-affirmation of the Davidic Covenant that God makes with Solomon.
- Be able to explain the significance of the division of Israel into two kingdoms, and be able to identify the first king of both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom.
- Be able to explain the significance of the prophets Elijah and Elisha, and their struggle with Baalism.
- Be able to explain the significance of Josiah's discovery of the Book of the Law, Josiah's attempt at reform, and possible applications to the modern church.
- Be able to explain the function the book of Psalms in Israel's life.
- Be able to summarize key theological themes in Psalms.
- Be able to identify key psalms where the psalmist is reflecting upon God's covenant promises, and be able to explain the significance of such reflection.
- Be able to identify and explain certain Psalms which later Christians would read in a Christ-centered way.
- Be able to explain and summarize the characteristics of "Wisdom Literature".
- Be able to summarize in one's own words the events of the book of Job.
- Be able to explain the traditional "problem of evil," and how the book of Job speaks to this perennial challenge.
- Be able to explain the importance of Proverbs, and how they functioned in Israel's history.
- Be able to explain why Proverbs can be a source of wisdom for modern-day Christians.
- Be able to explain the relationship between texts like Proverbs 1:7 and Augustine's notion of "faith seeking understanding."
- Be able to explain how Ecclesiastes –seemingly a "negative" book—links back to common themes found in earlier parts of the Old Testament.
- Be able to explain how Ecclesiastes can help Christians to overcome the false secular/sacred dichotomy that often plagues the modern church.
- Be able to explain the role of the prophet in Israel's history, and the reason for the emergence of the prophets.
- Be able to summarize the historical background to the prophets—particularly the fall of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, the return from Babylonian exile, and the time leading up to the end of the Old Testament era.
- Be able to explain the difference between the "Major" and "Minor" Prophets.
- Be able to explain the relationship between (1) judgment and salvation/restoration in the prophets and (2) God's earlier covenantal dealings with Israel.
- Be able to understand the nature of the prophet's role as one who can preach both judgment and future salvation.
- Be able to understand the theological significance of the prophets' emphasis on a "remnant" that will be delivered, as seen throughout the prophets.
- Be able to explain the significance of Isaiah's call in Isaiah 6.
- Be able to explain the significance of the promise of the Messiah in Isaiah 7.
- Be able to explain the significance of a "remnant" in Isaiah 11.
- Be able to explain the significance of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53.
- Be able to explain the significance of the "New Heavens and New Earth" in Isaiah 65.
- Be able to explain the nature and importance of Jeremiah's call in Jeremiah 1.
- Be able to explain the significance of Jeremiah's different pictures/portrayals of divine judgment.
- Be able to explain the significance of the covenant curses of Jeremiah 11.
- Be able to explain the significance of Jeremiah's teaching on the heart in Jeremiah 17.
- Be able to explain the significance of Jeremiah's teaching of the potter and the clay in Jeremiah 18.
- Be able to explain the nature and significance of the New Covenant as seen in Jeremiah 31, and to be able to contrast the coming New Covenant with the Old (Mosaic) Covenant.
- Be able to explain the significance of Ezekiel's call in Ezekiel 3, and the significance of the eating of the scroll.
- Be able to explain the significance of Ezekiel's teaching on the watchmen in Ezekiel 3, and be able to apply this passage to personal evangelism.
- Be able to explain the significance of Ezekiel's teaching that "the one who sins is the one who dies" (Ezekiel 18), and to address how this might be a shift from earlier biblical teaching (e.g., from Exodus 20).
- Be able to explain the significance of Ezekiel's New Covenant teaching in Ezekiel 36, and be able to relate it to our own personal sanctification and growth in holiness.
- Be able to explain the nature and significance of Ezekiel's vision of the "Valley of Dry Bones" in Ezekiel 37.
- Be able to summarize the key events in the book of Daniel, and be able to articulate the nature of true faithfulness in comparison with worldly gain as seen in Daniel's life.
- Be able to summarize and explain the significance of Nebuchadnezzar's downfall.
- Be able to articulate the relationship between the "Son of Man" passage in Daniel 7, and Jesus as the "Son of Man."
- Be able to explain what the "Book of the Twelve" is (essentially the shorter/minor prophets).

- Be able to understand the nature of Hosea's "redemption" of his wife Gomer, and relate this to the cross of Christ.
- Be able to explain the meaning of Hosea's notion of "reaping the whirlwind" found in Hosea 8.
- Be able to explain what the prophet Joel means by the "Day of the Lord" (Joel 2) and the use Peter makes of this passage at Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2.
- Be able to explain the importance of Amos's five visions of judgment.
- Be able to explain the importance of the restoration of Israel as recorded in Amos 9.
- Be able to explain the theological significance of Jonah's travels, as well as his response to Nineveh's repentance.
- Be able to explain what is being described by Micah in Micah 4?
- Be able to explain what is the relationship between Micah 5 and the birth of Jesus?
- Be able to explain what do the opening verses of Nahum tell us about the character of God?
- Be able to explain what is the relationship between Habakkuk 2:4 and Paul's epistle to the Romans (1:17)?
- Be able to explain the historical background of what God promises in Zephaniah 3:14ff.
- Be able to explain the importance of the temple after the exile, according to Haggai 1.
- Be able to explain the significance of the changing of Joshua the priest's garments in Zechariah 3, and relate this to justification by faith alone.
- Be able to relate the Yahweh passages of Malachi 3 and 4 to the coming of Christ.
- Be able to explain the significance of the closing verses of Malachi, and relate this to both the past (the Law) and future (the Gospel/New Covenant).
- Be able to explain the historical background of the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.
- Be able to explain the significance of pagan kings helping advance God's purposes in the book of Ezra, and be able to explain the significance of the rebuilding the temple after the Babylonian exile.
- Be able to draw out examples from Nehemiah on the nature of perseverance, and the significance of rebuilding the city walls.
- Be able to explain the historical background to Esther's actions, and the wisdom and significance of Mordecai's words in Esther 4:14.

For Further Study:

Bill Arnold and Bryan Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*

William J. Dumbrell, *The Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: An Introductory Biblical Theology*

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Gospel and Kingdom: A Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament*