

“Of Whom the World was not Worthy”: Saints of the Old Testament

Fr. Andrew Kishler

St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

Instructor

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Course Description

This class is for high schoolers (9th-12th grade), and meets each Wednesday at 1:00pm ET.

Each week, we will focus on a saint or event in the Old Testament according to the Orthodox Study Bible. Our weekly class periods will go more or less chronologically, focusing on the major personalities and “mighty acts of God” throughout the Old Testament.

Required Books

- *The Orthodox Study Bible* (Old and New Testaments)

Suggested Books

- Patrick Henry Reardon, *Christ in His Saints*. This book contains 150 short chapters on Biblical saints. This book is a good introduction to their historical context, with an eye to what they have to say about our life in Christ today.
- C. S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*. Many find praying the Psalms to be a challenge; this book, with both gravitas and a healthy sense of humor, presents a candid take on the difficulties and joys of reading the Psalms of David as prayers.
- Barry J. Beitzel, *The Moody Bible Atlas*. This and many other Bible atlas books can bring the text of the Old Testament to life, with maps, historical charts, etc.

Course Competencies/Learning Objectives

- The major saints (and sinners) and events of the Old Testament books
- How the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ and His Church
- What the Old Testament has to say to us today about our life in Christ

Grading/Evaluations

This is a pass/fail course. A “passing” grade will be given based on the following:

- *Attendance*. Students are expected to log in ON TIME, and be present for each class. If a student is unable to participate for any reason, please let me know ahead of time. Students who are absent should watch the recorded video of the class at least before the next session (although live interaction is always better).

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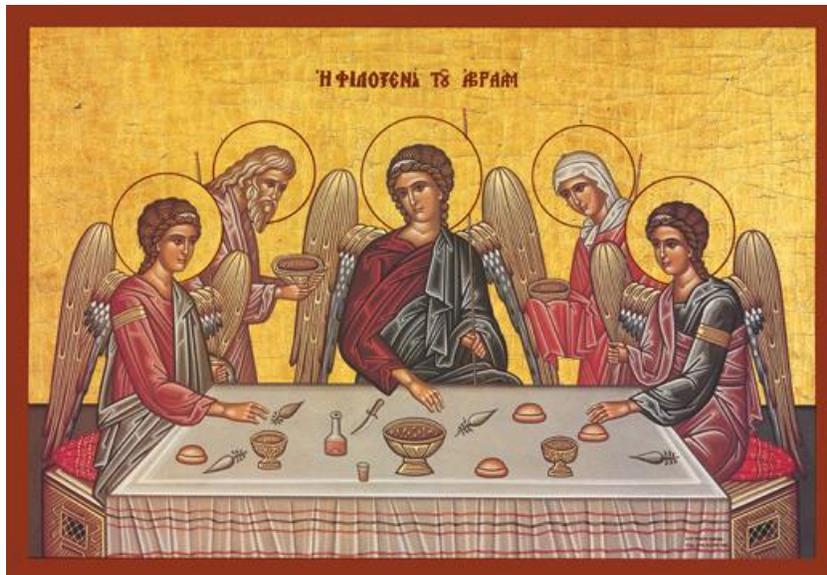
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- *Assigned readings.* Each week, I will assign 4-5 chapters of the Old Testament for personal reading. The Orthodox Study Bible is our preferred translation, although if you'd like to use another, please let me know.
- *Weekly memory verses.* There is great spiritual benefit in committing the Word of God to memory! Each week, I will give a short verse that we will do our best to memorize together.
- *Class participation.* Please be prepared to ask questions, answer questions, and discuss material during class!

Remember the class is pass/fail, so I do not expect perfection on any of the above. What I'm mainly looking for is *active interaction* and *participation*. My desire is for students to learn some basic tools for Bible reading and to develop a love for the Holy Scriptures.

Classroom Expectations

- **Attend each virtual class, and log in on time.** If anyone needs to miss a class session, please let me know ahead of time. Classes will be recorded for later viewing.
- **Keep your microphone and camera ON.** I may keep everyone muted during “lecture” portions of class to avoid distractions, but each class will involve questions/answers and discussion.
- **Be prepared each class to discuss any assigned readings.** I reserve the right to call upon anyone!
- **Be honest!** Assigned readings and memory verses will be largely on the “honor system” due to the virtual format.



The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18)