

“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 an overview of the Old Testament story for high schoolers (9th-12th grade), meeting each Wednesday at 11:00am ET.

Travelling more or less chronologically through the fascinating personalities and events of the Old Testament, we will zero in each week on stories of individual saints, how they contribute to the overall story of God’s people, and how they point us to Jesus Christ and our life in His Holy Church.

Required Reading

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

Suggested Reading

- Patrick Henry Reardon, *Christ in His Saints*. This book contains 150 short chapters on Biblical saints. It presents 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*. I have always found that the Old Testament makes more sense if read alongside of maps, charts, and pictures.
- Stephen DeYoung, *God is a Man of War*. Many modern Christians find themselves disturbed by the violence and warfare in the Bible; Fr. DeYoung helps us to understand these problems while taking seriously the history of the Bible.

Course Competencies/Learning Objectives

- The major saints (and sinners) 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:

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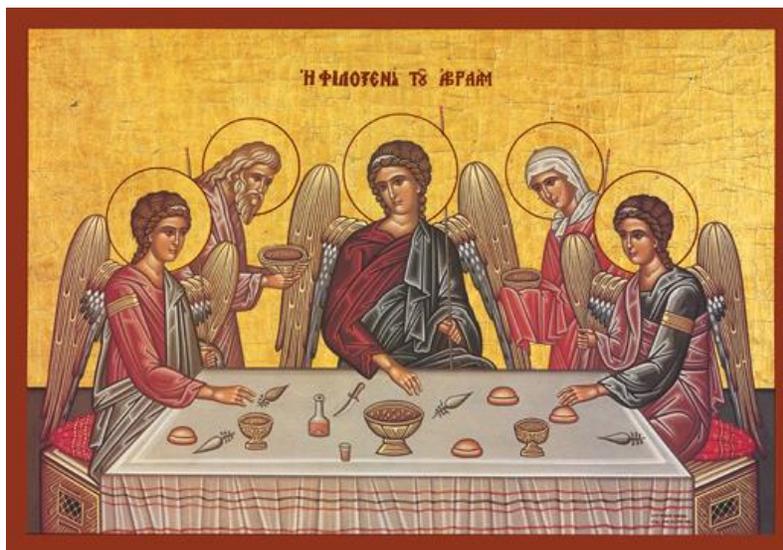
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- *Attendance.* Students are expected to log in ON TIME, and be present for each class. If a student is unable to participate for any reason, please let me know ahead of time. Students who are absent should watch the recorded video of the class at least before the next session (although live interaction is always better).
- *Assigned readings and weekly quiz.* Each week, I will assign 4-5 chapters of the Old Testament for personal reading, with a brief “open Bible” quiz at the beginning of each class session.
- *Weekly memory verses.* There is great spiritual benefit in committing the Word of God to memory! Each week, I will ask you to memorize a short Bible verse, which will all be listed ahead of time in the posted schedule.
- *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 camera on.**
- **Be prepared each class to discuss any assigned readings.**
- **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)