

Adult Forum Schedule for Summer 2022 (version 2; changes in RED)

The lectures listed below (and their descriptions) are from the Great Courses courses “Old Testament” by Amy-Jill Levine and “New Testament” by Bart Ehrman. I know we have seen some of these before. The sermons are from *Unspoken Sermons* by George MacDonald, whom Wikipedia describes thus: “George MacDonald (10 December 1824 – 18 September 1905) was a Scottish author, poet and Christian minister. He was a pioneering figure in the field of modern fantasy literature and the mentor of fellow writer Lewis Carroll. In addition to his fairy tales, MacDonald wrote several works of Christian theology, including several collections of sermons.” Photocopies of the sermons will be available. There are also audio versions.

June 26: OT Lecture 17. *From King Solomon to Preclassical Prophecy*

Biblical prophets were known less for predicting the future than for communicating divine will, usually through poetry, and often in debate with kings and priests. This lecture focuses on the “preclassical” (nonwriting) prophets, particularly Elijah.

July 3: No meeting

July 10: OT Lecture 18 *The Prophets and the Fall of the North*

Amos and Hosea, the first two classical prophets whose words are preserved in the canon, offer poetic critiques of the government of Israel, the priesthood, and the rich. What followed from their warnings about both personal behavior and political machinations?

July 17: George MacDonald sermons: “The Inheritance” on Colossians 1:12 (read July 10) and “Love Thy Neighbor” on Matthew 22:39 (parallel passage to Luke 10:25-28, read July 10).

July 24: George MacDonald sermon “The Heart with the Treasure” on Matthew 6:19-21 (parallel passage to Luke 12:34, which will be read Aug 7).

July 31 & August 7: NT Lecture 21 *The Book of Hebrews and the Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism*

Did you know that the so-called epistle to the Hebrews is neither an epistle nor addressed to the Hebrews? To whom is it addressed, then, and for what purpose? Why does it teach what it does about the superiority of Christianity to Judaism, and why did the early Christians include it in the canon?

August 14: No meeting

August 21: George MacDonald sermon: “The Consuming Fire” on Hebrews 12:29 (read Aug. 21)

~~August 21: OT Lecture 20: *Babylonian Exile*~~

~~This lecture begins on the eve of the Exile, with the prophetic warnings of Jeremiah. It introduces the prophecies, narratives, and law by which the Judean exiles maintained their identity.~~

August 28: NT Lecture 20 *The Pastoral Epistles*

What makes the letters 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus pastoral epistles? Why are scholars convinced that Paul himself could not have written them?

Bonus: There are two MacDonald sermons on the readings for Oct 16: “The Word of Jesus on Prayer” and “Man’s Difficulty Concerning Prayer.”