

Spring 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My spring schedule began with the long trip from Detroit to Cape Town, South Africa—not quite halfway around the world, but close enough. It was late summer/fall in South Africa, which means I escaped the last of the snows in Michigan. Indeed, I found it fascinating to talk to one young woman in my South African class who had never personally experienced snow and hoped some day to be able to do so. (I'd have been happy to share some from Michigan!)

I had taught at this University of the Nations campus previously, but not since the Covid debacle. This trip, I lectured for two weeks on the primitive church and the letters of the New Testament, touching on the epistles of Peter, Paul, James, Jude,

and the unknown author of Hebrews.

As usual, I had a variety of students, mostly from South Africa, but also some from England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Brazil, and one from western Michigan.



Here are some of my students coming from South Africa and other countries.

South Africa is experiencing a good deal of political turbulence these days, and their power grid is being sustained only by load-shedding, which means, that two or three times per day there were a couple of hours or more when there was no electricity. To be fair, the government does publish a schedule, so, for instance, they might announce on Wednesday there will be no

electricity from midnight to 2:30 AM, from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM, etc. Thursday might be a different schedule altogether. At the very least, it made for some interesting class time, since sometimes I would be lecturing in a very dim room which only had ambient light through the windows. If one wants to recharge a laptop or phone, planning ahead is the name of the game!



The U of N campus is just beyond the large buildings in the left center, only a five-minute walk from this lovely bay, which is nearly always peopled with about 75-100 surfers. There are warnings alerting surfers if the shark spotters have seen a shark in the area. Not being a surfer, sharks were the least of my worries.

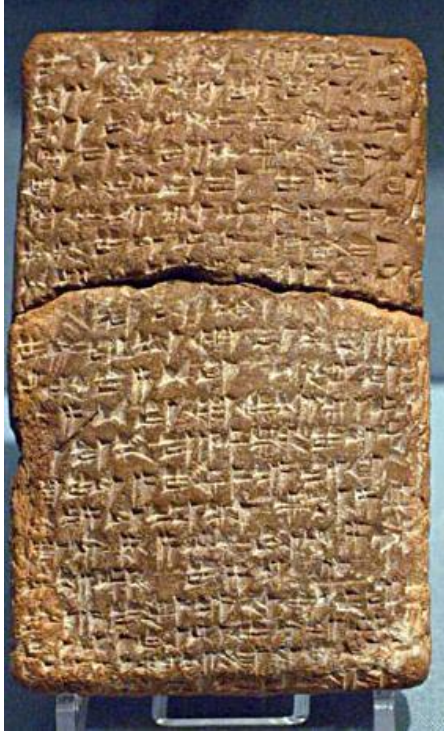
There was some danger in Cape Town, also, and some dear friends had warned me that I was taking a significant risk in going at all. Indeed, the last week I was there, some 45 people were reportedly killed in Cape Town due to political protests and unrest. I'm grateful to be home again safely!

I was home for two weeks (and busy, preaching on both Palm Sunday and Easter at Mariners Church in Detroit) before flying to Orlando to another U of N campus, this time to lecture for a week on the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy in the Torah.

Here, I had students from England, Switzerland, Canada and the USA,

Here are a handful of the DBS students from Orlando.





This Hittite Suzerainty Treaty, housed in the British Museum in London, comes from about the 15th century BC. Many scholars have noted the similarity between this treaty and the Book of Deuteronomy.

and together we explored ancient Near Eastern covenants and how they relate to the covenant of Moses. Deuteronomy, especially, follows the pattern of suzerainty treaties from the Hittite Empire, from the opening lines of the treaty, “These are the words of the Great King...” to the series of blessings and curses for obedience or disobedience at the end. Deuteronomy begins with the identical phrase, “These are the words...,” and it closes with the curses for covenant violation, the last curse being exile from the land, a curse that the Israelites would surely experience in the long history of their nation.

A couple of weeks at home gave me a chance to catch my breath, and then Peggy and I were off to Amsterdam in the Netherlands for two more weeks of lectures.

The Netherlands are lovely in spring, and the School of Biblical Studies hosted our first week there, where I lectured on Jeremiah and the acrostic poems in the Lamentations.



Standing in front of the four-story campus building of University of the Nations, this is the view of Amsterdam one sees.

My class consisted of some 20 excellent students, and in addition to the Netherlands, they came from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Canada, and the USA.



Sander, one of the Departmental Leaders of the SBS, discusses classroom matters with me before lectures.

While in Amsterdam, Peggy and I also were able to visit Anne Frank's House, the place where Anne and her family hid for more than two years from the Nazi's. While in hiding, Anne composed her famous diary that has been published over and over again many times since World War II. If you've never read it, it should be high on your book list of things to read.

The second week, we changed departments. It often works best to lecture for two different schools with only a single plane ticket, and this was the case here, where I taught for a week in the Discipleship Bible School, covering the 7th and 6th century prophets of Israel. Again, my students, more than 25 of them, were from all



Here are my 25+ students in the Discipleship Bible School. They came from the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, and the USA.

over Europe and North America. They were an exciting and engaged group!

Two of the staff I had worked with previously in Australia and Kona, Hawaii, so it was very nice to connect with them once more.

The summer schedule for us will be a bit lighter. We will drive to the U. of N. campus in Richmond, Virginia, where I am scheduled to lecture on the Letters of Peter, James, Jude and Hebrews. In addition, I will have lectures in Niagara Falls, Canada on Ezra and the Intertestamental History. July will be free, and in August I'll be lecturing in Toronto on Kings and Chronicles plus Ecclesiastes and the Song. That will wrap up the summer.

Here's hoping you all are well, and I want to also say how much I appreciate the many of you who regularly support this mission. We feel very blessed!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".