



Chalmers Summer School 2007

March 13, 2007

Becoming Fully Human: Genesis 1-11

Dr. Walter Vogels

July 2-6, 2007; 1:30-4:30pm

Course Description

Genesis chapters 1-11 touch upon questions fundamental to being human. In the first part of the course we will reflect upon some introductory questions, such as the origin of these chapters, their literary genre, the possible conflict between these texts and science, as well as their function in the Bible as a whole. The second part will be an in depth study of these chapters with different methods presently used in biblical studies, such as historical-critical, feminist, semiotics and others. This will lead to the discovery of the important theological teachings of these chapters often considered childish.

Course Format

The lectures will invite questions and discussion.

Class Outline

Monday July 2

Introduction to the chapters: see course description

Tuesday July 3

The creation story (Genesis 1)

Wednesday July 4

The paradise story: harmony and broken harmony (Genesis 2-3)

Thursday July 5

The growth of humanity and culture (Genesis 4-5)

Friday July 6

A new world order (Genesis 6 -11)

Required Course Texts: (Students expected to read these texts prior to course)

Students are required to bring to class a copy of the Bible on a daily basis. Students are free to use whichever edition they are familiar with (except the “Good News Bible”).

See the many commentaries on the book of Genesis. The following are strongly suggested:

- Brueggemann, Walter, *Genesis*, Coll. Interpretation Biblical Commentaries, Atlanta, John Knox, 1982.

- Van Wolde, Ellen, *Words Become Worlds: Semantic Studies of Genesis 1-11*, Coll. Biblical Interpretation Series 6, Leiden, Brill, 1994
- Vawter, Bruce, *On Genesis: A New Reading*, New York, Doubleday, 1977
- Von Rad Gerhard, *Genesis*, Coll. Old Testament Library, Philadelphia, Westminster, 1972
- Wenham, Gordon, *Genesis 1-15*, Coll. Word Bible Commentaries 1, Waco (Texas), Word, 1987
- Westermann, Claus, *Genesis 1-11*, Minneapolis, Augsburg, 1984. The same writer summarized his insights in a shorter book: *Genesis: An Introduction*, Minneapolis, Fortress, 1992

See special studies on Genesis 1-11:

- Clifford R.J., *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East and in the Bible*, CBQMS 26, Washington, 1994
- Harland, P.J., *The Value of Human Life: A Study of the Story of the Flood (Genesis 6-9)*, V.T.Supp 64, Leiden, 1996
- Middleton, J.R., *The Liberating Image: The Imago Dei in Genesis 1*, Grand Rapids, Brazos Press, 2005
- Niditch S., *Chaos to Cosmos: Studies in Biblical Patterns of Creation*, Chico (Cal.), Scholars Press, 1985
- Vogels W., *Nos Origines, Genese 1-11*, Montreal, Bellarmin (Fides), 2000.
- LaCocque, André, *The Trial of Innocence: Adam, Eve, and the Yahwist*, Eugene (Or), Cascade Books, 2006

Other references to books and articles will be given in class.

Recommended Reading:

There is so much reading on these chapters. I prefer that students consult the books in VST's HR MacMillan Library, and then if you want to buy a book that has been particularly useful you may do so.

Course Requirements

1. All participants are expected to attend class daily and engage the learning process for classroom lectures and seminars. Attendance is mandatory for credit students.
2. All students (credit and audit) are expected to do pre-reading of primary texts for the course, and do limited reading of handouts between classes (approximately one hour per day) when assigned by the instructor.
3. In order to receive credit for the course, all students taking the course for any type of credit must read three of the assigned texts.
4. For those taking the course for degree credit, (Diploma, M.Div., M.A.T.S., M.A.R.E., Th.M.), see "**Summer School Degree Credit Evaluation Information**" handout for paper requirements.
5. For those taking the course for Chalmers Institute Summer School Continuing Education credit, see handout, "**Summer School Continuing Education Credit Information**," for requirements.
 - o For all credit students there will be an extra one-hour meeting with the course grading tutor, additional to class time, for each course, to review credit requirements and decide on an appropriate research topic.

Dr. Walter Vogels is a professor of Biblical Studies in the Faculty of Theology at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. He is a popular lecturer in international universities and institutes.

**All books will be available from the UBC Bookstore after May 14th.
604-822-2665; Toll-Free Canada 1-800-661-3889**