



BSOT8303 Advanced Use of Logos Technology for Biblical Exegesis and Sermon Preparation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Professional Doctoral Division
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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This seminar engages students in advanced-level exegesis, focusing on the use of current Logos Software Technology for exegesis of a selected Bible book. The course will utilize basic to advanced functions of Logos Bible Software as a tool for biblical exegesis and sermon preparation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Understand how the basic literary structure of a biblical book impacts its interpretation.

Identify the historical background of Habakkuk, Romans, Galatians, or Hebrews in order to interpret how that book functions in the storyline of the whole Bible.

Be able to interpret Hab. 2:4 in its context, along with how the NT writers incorporated into each respective text).

Discern how the New Testament utilizes quotes, allusions, and/or echoes of texts or theological themes to craft the biblical message (and seek to follow this model for contemporary preaching).

Required Digital Textbooks to Purchase in Logos

Log into (or contact Logos at 888-563-0382) to access your account. Select the dialogue button "Logos Bible Study app," then scroll down and select "Logos for Students and Faculty." Submit the required verification to Logos. It took me less than one day to get verified (lasts for six months).

You may need to supply your current information and a picture of your NOBTS student ID. For questions on pricing and student discounts, please contact Logos Bible Software's customer service directly at 800-875-6467. Be sure to mention you are a current student at NOBTS and apply for the student discount (follow website directions).

[HUGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS SEMESTERS...]

First, Logos has shifted from selling a software operating program to leasing it monthly.

That's good because you will get all new tools as they become available without having to pay upgrades for the base program; that's bad, because it will cost you monthly for as long as you use Logos.

This means that you must purchase the Pro or Max subscription for this course.

Second, Logos has reshaped their package offerings and much of the purchased content has been reshaped for specializations (standard, leadership, preaching, language, etc). This means that each student is obligated to purchase a package (a one-time purchase) ON TOP OF THE MONTHLY PROGRAM COST to participate in this course.

The minimum package--the 2025 Silver Preaching library—is required, while the 2025 Gold Researchers Library (costs approximately \$200-400, based upon what you already own) has the better selection of commentaries helpful to a pastor. Currently (11/24) Logos has the Silver Preachers Library for \$210.00. If you register your student account with Logos, you should receive a 30% discount. [See above directions for accessing this discount.](#)

Third, each student should be REQUIRED to purchase of at least the **Logos Pro** subscription plus the **2025 Preachers Silver Library**.

Those who already own a version of Logos are required to purchase either the PRO or the MAX subscription AND to upgrade to reach (at least) the Logos SILVER LIBRARY Level. Doing so will ensure that your textbooks are included (if they are not, then I have misunderstood how Logos presented this. See below for the textbooks (purchased via a package) and tools (embedded in the Logos subscription) required for this course. (BTW, just three of the textbooks represent \$91 of the \$210 cost of the entire Preacher Silver Library.) Those pre-owning Logos may be required to purchase the three texts separately or buy the 2025 Silver Library (Preacher), as I had to do.

You may (or even should) purchase a higher level than the Silver Library, and we encourage you to do so if you are financially able. The higher levels give you more resources along with a better discount. The textbook list follows and currently all the textbooks or tools are included in the packages required.

Please understand that the Logos Pro (or MAX) subscription has many advancements over earlier levels (10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, etc.) You will need Logos Pro subscription to interact seamlessly with others in the seminar. (If you cannot afford this costly purchase, remember that you may also select Logos's payment plan to divide up the cost. When you select a resource, you can choose one payment or multiple payments. See their checkout for more information.)

We will all have the same digital textbooks as we study together in this class. Please purchase and download Logos libraries or upgrades by 2/1/25. Be sure to watch assigned videos that should assist you with the basic functions prior to attending seminar together. The instructor will be in contact with registered students prior to our class seminar meeting to discuss this, and I will host Teams meetings to organize, encourage, and answer questions prior to our seminar meetings that occur in February.

Required Course Textbook List

Logos Pro (or Max), plus the 2025 Preachers Silver Library or higher

Which includes the following that you are expected to interact with:

Eaton, Michael A. *The Branch Exposition of the Bible: A Preacher's Commentary of the New Testament*. N.P.: Langham, 2024.

_____. *The Branch Exposition of the Bible: A Preacher's Commentary of the Old*

- Testament*. N.P.: Langham, 2024.
- Firth, David G. Firth. Habakkuk. Vol. VII, *ESV Expository Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.
- Johnson, Dennis E. *Hebrews*. Vol. XII, *ESV Expository Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.
- Snyman, S. D. *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*. Vol. 27, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.
- Thielman, Frank. *Galatians*. Vol. X, *ESV Expository Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.
- Yarbrough, Robert W. *Romans*. *ESV Expository Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Also, use this course to identify supplemental resources to build your Logos library in Habakkuk, Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, along with Intertextuality (Use of the OT in the NT). For additional resources see bestcommentaries.com, and denverseminary.edu for their recommended resources for OT and NT. Use these to find resources and then go to Logos.com to purchase them to add into your Logos library.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies in three phases:

First Phase--Pre-work (all due by February 10, 2025):

- (1) View all the training videos needed and have your Logos setup and ready for use. Be familiar with the new subscription elements.
- (2) Submit a background paper (1,500-2,500 words) on one of the four selected books by 2/5/25. Utilize the functions and features of the Logos software. Engage at least the following questions:
 - a. What historical situation (or occasion) necessitated the writing of this text?
 - b. What similar contemporary issues might directly benefit from this approach to problem solving?
 - c. When was this book most likely written? Do the various theories impact its message? To what degree? How should we address dissimilar contexts between them then and us now?
 - d. How is Hab 2:4 framed into the discussion of each book we are studying? Are other Habakkuk passages employed? How so?
 - e. Is Hab 2:4 employed by the three NT books like it was framed by Habakkuk?
 - f. If NT writers used the OT to shape their messages, then how might this impact contemporary preaching.
- (3) Prepare a 10-15 slide presentation from this background and make a presentation to the class at the scheduled time appointed (sign-ups will be available once the canvas shell is open).
- (4) Prepare a second presentation on specific benefits the Logos program afforded you in the research process. Include screen shots when possible and do this to assist others in assessing the value of computer-assisted research for sermon preparation.
- (5) Select a particular passage (from your selected book) and focus all further assignments on this passage.

Second phase—3 days of actual class meetings (All due by 2/10/25):

Each student will exegete their respective book, divided, of course, by the number of students working in that book. At this point, prepare to work solely on a book (and then be blessed by discovering a partner when class begins).

I will make a series of presentations on the book of Habakkuk and how Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews interact with it. During this early part of the class, I will introduce several tools from Logos to assist with advanced functions with the software.

Students will make the following presentations:

- (1) Background study
- (2) Assessment of the values of Logos for the background paper
- (3) Lead one class devotion (on your selected text)
- (4) Oral presentation with slides covering the literary structure of your selected passage (and how it fits into that book's message) along with preliminary ideas for preaching your passage.

Third phase—post work (all due no later than April 21, 2025):

- (1) The student will submit components of the exegetical process on the selected passage. This should be about 2,000-3,000 words and addresses the following topics:
 - a. Show how your passage fits into the literary flow of the book.
 - b. Show the reasons why you have exegeted the text.
 - c. Identify and reflect on the significance of a few words in your text.
 - d. Identify and discuss the major and minor theological impacts of your text.
- (2) The student will present a summative assessment of how the message of Habakkuk was (or was not) woven into the message of Romans or Galatians or Hebrews. This should be about 1,000-1,500 words.
- (3) Prepare a “doctrinal foundations” paper that addresses the major and minor biblical doctrines addressed by the passage that you have exegeted. The purpose of this assignment is to get you prepared for writing your proposal and final report, in which you must articulate what is the theological foundation at the proposal level and then address the theological relevance for your final report. This should be 1,000-1,500 words and include a selected bibliography of 10-20 significant resources. Also, utilize the software resources for writing the paper, including the bibliography functionality in Logos Pro (or Max).
- (4) Submit a 10-15 minute video that presents and defends your “theological” analysis of what your passage addresses. Prepare slides to develop your argument and be sure to interact with all the significant resources listed in step 3 above.

Course Requirements

A. Pre-Course Work

1. **Purchase the Logos software and the 2025 Silver Preachers Library or add the required commentary textbooks** through Logos. Follow the syllabus Instructions. The textbooks will be digital so they are searchable using the Logos software and must be purchased **only** through Logos so they are included in the software.

2. Students will **prepare a background study** on Habakkuk, Romans, Galatians, or Hebrews (select only one) by using the Logos Pro or Max software for specified basic functions during the pre-work time (see details and dates above).

3. Prepare a slide presentation over your selected passage (and it's placement within the book). This will be presented during the three days of class meetings.
4. Work through the uploaded training videos and set up your software prior to the three-day seminar. We will set up several Team meetings prior to the seminar to help answer questions and move the basic learning along.
5. Prepare a second slide presentation (informal) on what tools in Logos helped you the most. This strives to create an opportunity for sharing.

B. Campus Seminar Course Work

1. The in-class sessions will cover the biblical text of Habakkuk, Romans, Galatians, or Hebrews. During this phase of the course, the class will learn new advanced **software searches**. Discussion will be encouraged and sharing of skills learned using the software. After registration has closed, each student will choose passages to exegete and present to the class.

Assignment of Passages

Depending on the number of class members, we will divide up the Book of Habakkuk, along with selected portions of Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews so that you can share the exegesis. The goal is to utilize Logos resources to assist with the exegesis and to utilize the Logos bibliography function (to be learned later).

2. During the in-class sessions, students will make the following presentations:
 - a. Background study
 - b. Assessment of the values of Logos for the background paper
 - c. Lead one class devotion (on your selected text)
 - d. Oral presentation with slides covering the literary structure of your selected passage (and how it fits into that book's message) along with preliminary ideas for preaching your passage.

C. Post-Seminar Work

Each student will submit three shorter "reports" plus one 10-15 video addressing the following elements:

- (1) Exegesis of a selected passage from Habakkuk, Romans, Galatians, or Hebrews. This should be about 2,000-3,000 words and address these four tasks:
 - a. Show how your passage fits into the literary flow of the book.
 - b. Show the reasons why you have exegeted the text in your particular way.
 - c. Identify and reflect on the significance of a few words in your text.
 - d. Identify and discuss the major and minor theological impacts of your text.
- (2) Interpretation: The student will present a summative assessment of how the message of Habakkuk was (or was not) woven into the message of Romans or Galatians or Hebrews. This should be about 1,000-1,500 words.
- (3) Doctrinal Assessment: Identify and discuss the "doctrinal foundations" gleaned from the passage that you have exegeted. This should be 1,250-1,750 words and include a selected bibliography of 10-20 significant resources.
- (4) Oral Defense: Submit a 10-15 minute video (with 5-12 slides) that presents and defends your "theological" analysis of what your passage addresses.

Evaluation of Grade

For the following written assignments, please include a **Title Page, Content Page(s), and Bibliography**. Please follow the NOBTS writing guide using Turabian format. These features will give each student experience in the format that will be utilized at the proposal and final project stage. The wise student will learn Turabian 9th edition now.

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

A. Pre-work background paper 30%

The background paper should cover all preliminary study the pastor normally undergoes in preparation for a sermon or sermon series: included should be, but not limited to, date, authorship, context of the letters, theological themes, and issues that led the biblical author to frame the text in that particular fashion.

How to use the Logos Nine (9) Step Expository Sermon Workflow to write a Background Paper?

We will introduce you to Logos's Nine (9) Step Expository Sermon Workflow in this course. To compose your Background Paper, please go to your main toolbar and locate **Guides**. Click on that and you will discover the **Expository Sermon** icon. **Or, scroll down further to Passage Exegesis (where there are 11 Steps)**. Click on that and **enter your passage range** at the top. **Follow Steps 1- 3**. Look especially at Step 3 where you will explore the **Cultural and Historical contexts** using the resources for the Minor Prophets or for the Epistles in your personal library holdings. Please note, the headings may be slightly different, but the content is primarily the same. Begin writing your **background paper** using these Steps that will connect you to your commentaries where you will find the bulk of your background material. NOTE: The more resources you have in Logos, the more information you will have access to.

Strategy: The student may divide this material along the lines of the separate letters or compile them together. The goal is to create a study tool where the student may return to refresh the background material that informs exegesis and sermons. Basic software functions will also be learned during this period. The instructor will hold a Teams session with students registered for the course and we will have time to discuss this.

B. Classroom participation 35%

Once registration has closed, the instructor will divide the passage sections in the letters among the participants in the seminar. As we work through the books, we will openly discuss the issues and complexities of the content. Word studies will be generated as we discuss the content. Features from the software will be structured, but also spontaneous as we ask questions and discuss the text while learning how to use the software to find answers and information. The idea here is to share insights and learn new software functions that will help in exegesis and sermon preparation. Attendance will be crucial for maximum learning and active participation is encouraged.

C. Post-meeting exegesis and doctrinal foundation 35%

Submission Details

1. Submit an exegesis of your selected passage, double-spaced and in Turabian format, with 2,000-3,000 words, excluding front matter, appendix, or selected bibliography.
2. Submit an interpretation (summative assessment) of how Hab 2:4 is framed by the NT. 1,000-1,500 words, excluding front matter, appendix, or selected bibliography.

3. Doctrinal foundations assessment focusing on your passage, 1,250-1,750 words, excluding front matter, appendix, or selected bibliography.
4. Oral presentation (10-15 minutes)

Using Logos Nine Step Expository Sermon Workflow for paper writing

You were introduced above to the Logos Bible Software has a 9 Step Expository Sermon Workflow that is tied to their software resources. The student is encouraged to follow this process for this paper. The steps may be customized for later use as suits the student's needs. However, we encourage you to try these steps as you learn the software so that you are familiar with the material.

Additional Bibliographic Sources

The exegetical section needs to include content from the textbook commentaries, word studies, discourse information from the Logos propositional outlines (to be learned in class), and any other data the student discovers by using the software. This section may also include journals, dissertations, and additional sources as described below.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual

accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

HELP FOR WRITING PAPERS AT “THE WRITE STUFF”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

PLAGIARISM ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Be acutely aware of and do not engage in the use of AI for any composition of your work.

Course Schedule Dates

Purchase the Logos software and required Logos digital textbooks as soon as possible. The sooner the student starts research and the prescribed Logos training videos, the better. Once the course registration is set, the instructor will contact the class members and give a prescribed schedule for learning the basics of Logos. We may have a Team meeting to answer questions and encourage starting on the video lessons.

- Pre-work papers are due in the Assignments Area on the first day of class **February 10, 2025**, though you may not present everything that day. Be prepared for leading the devotion at any time.
- Classroom work will be ongoing for the three days of the seminar: **February 10-12, 2025**, according to the published ProDoc schedule of times.
- Post-work papers will be due as Canvas submissions by **April 21, 2025**.

Hints for Additional Sources for Bibliography

Journal Articles: Additional bibliography may be found in the ATLA database in our NOBTS library. Go there and query the passage(s) you are interested in, and you will find the articles to add to your paper.

Dissertations: The Dissertations are in ProQuest. Query your passage(s) to find these. While you are there, you can see what has been written in your area of study.

Online Resources: See Logos.com for their list of Best Commentaries and recent releases of commentaries; See also bestcommentaries.com which has a link to the Logos.com website for ordering commentaries; and Denverseminary.edu in their Denver Journal section for annotated OT bibliographies and NT commentaries and monograph resources to help in your academic work.