



English

Section 1: Course Information

Format:

15 weeks (1 of 4 semesters)

Course Title:

Unseen Realm 101

Instructor:

Dr. Michael Heiser

Section 2: Course Description:

Course Overview:

This course is oriented by the content of Dr. Heiser's book, *The Unseen Realm*, through Chapter 22. The range of the course therefore extends from preliminary considerations of how we should be approaching the task of interpreting the Bible in light of its original ancient context, to the opening chapters of Genesis, the three supernatural-human rebellions of Genesis 1-11, and the story of Israel up to the point of the conquest of Canaan. The focus of lecture content is on the meta-narrative of salvation history with an eye toward the intersection of the supernatural worldview of the biblical writers and the story of God's desire to live among his people. Concepts such as imaging God, sacred space, supernatural rebellions, cosmic geography, and believing loyalty receive special attention.

Course Materials:

Logos 8 software package is included in your tuition and technology fees. All required textbooks for this class are found in our customized Logos 8 library. Your primary texts will be Dr. Heiser's books:

- *Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*
- *Supernatural: What the Bible Teaches about the Unseen World and Why It Matters*

You will also read excerpts from Dr. Heiser's books:

- *Angels: What the Bible Really Says About God's Heavenly Host*
- *Demons: What the Bible Really Says About the Powers of Darkness*

Course Topics:

- Interpreting ancient texts in their context
- Why God would bother creating humanity and a world for humans
- What the Bible means by the "image of God".
- How do we image God? Understanding imaging as partnership.
- How God's creation decisions help us process evil.
- Three Supernatural Rebellions
- Genesis 6:1-4 sons of God and Nephilim
- Cosmic Geography
- Deuteronomy 32 and Psalm 82
- Good news preached to Abraham
- Exodus as Spiritual Warfare
- Salvation and Believing loyalty
- Imaging and Bearing the Name
- Azazel and Leviticus 16

Intended Learning Outcomes:

As a result of reading, study and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the concept of the divine council, God's loyal heavenly host, and apply that biblical concept of God's heavenly family-concept to Scripture's vision of the earthly people of God.
2. Articulate the nature of the image of God as representing (imaging) God on earth and how that perspective informs the sanctity of human life, human relationships, discipleship, our earthly purpose, and theodicy.
3. Discern a biblical theology of supernatural evil from the perspective of the ancient writers and how that worldview informed messianic expectations.
4. Discuss the concepts of cosmic geography and sacred space with respect to both supernatural evil and the earthly presence of God among his people.
5. Express the relationship of faith and works by means of the concept of believing loyalty.
6. Discern how the doctrine of salvation is consistent across both Old and New Testaments

Section 3: Course Policies:

Official Withdrawal:

The course drop date is one week after the start date of the course, which is August 17, 2020. You must notify the school at info@schooloftheology.com by email of your intention to drop the course. There are no refunds after the official drop date.

Course Closing:

The class has a beginning point and an end point. The semester is 15 weeks long, and then we have a two week extension at the end of the semester. After this the class closes and students will no longer have access to the lectures.

Brightspace:

All course content, assessments and discussion will be housed within Brightspace as our online learning portal. Navigating this tool is the responsibility of every student. We will provide tutorials that must be completed prior to engaging the curriculum.

Announcements:

Please regularly check the home page of your course for announcements. Our primary means of communicating with you will be through these announcements.

Optional Readings:

Students should not presume that the professor agrees with all points of any reading, video, or podcast episode that he has not authored or created. Optional readings are offered only to provide access to scholarly discussion of the unit material.

Technical Difficulties:

Awakening School of Theology is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. If you experience any problems accessing the Brightspace portal please contact jphelps@schooloftheology.com.

Brightspace Problems:

Please, please, please DO NOT contact Dr. Heiser if you are having difficulties submitting an assignment. If you have ANY Brightspace problems, your first course of action is to go to the Navigation Bar in your course and select "Help". Then select "24/7 Student Chat Support". Click Orange tab "Chat with Support". This will connect you with a Brightspace support specialist. To chat LIVE! with a Support Representative, [click here](#).

Class Logistics & Administrative Questions:

There are two ways to get your questions answered, and one way that you should never use. The first two ways to get your questions answered are:

1. email jphelps@schooloftheology.com
2. or info@schooloftheology.com

- a. You will usually get a response within the hour.
 - b. We will always respond within 24 hours.
3. You should never contact Dr. Heiser regarding functional, logistical or administrative questions. However, he is available to answer content based theological questions.

Course Slides:

We understand that the slides are highly valued for content. However, the content is intellectual property which must be protected from making its way on to the internet.

Internet Recommendations & Video Playback:

For best playback of the video lectures, we highly recommend the fastest internet service available to you. Our videos are shot in 1080 HD and are best viewed at high mbs. Sometimes internet providers advertise high speed but aren't actually delivering high speed. If you are experiencing buffering issues, you may need to check the actual speed you are receiving. Also, you may try going to the play bar on the video which is located just below the Awakening logo and session title and select the "gear" icon and lower the resolution quality on the video. We are not able to use YouTube because of the need to keep the video lectures private. Buffering issues are not related to Brightspace. The videos are hosted by Vimeo and are played through their servers

Dr. Heiser Content Questions:

There are some basic questions that Dr. Heiser regularly fields. We have created a FAQ page of commonly asked questions. Consult the FAQ page before emailing Dr. Heiser a content question. One of the perks of this class is that you get access to Dr. Heiser to answer your questions. He is extremely busy so it can sometimes take a week or more to receive a response. You can ask your questions by emailing: mheiser@schooloftheology.com

Section 4: Grading & Quizzes

Grading: There are no grades in this certificate class. We don't want students focused on grades. We want students focused on learning and mastering concepts. Certification is measured by completion, not grades. Completions is defined as attempting each quiz by the end of semester.

Quizzes:

For certification you are required to take the two types of quizzes. Each week of the 15 week course, there is a General Bible Knowledge quiz, and there is an Unseen Realm 1 content quiz. However, these quizzes are purely for feedback. For you to know the important concepts to master in the Unseen Realm and the general Biblical knowledge that you should have as a growing, maturing Christian. You may take the quizzes as many times as you would like to help reinforce the important concepts of the course.

Section 5: Course Schedule

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of the reading and quizzes in this course. The readings and quizzes are listed by week and include the deadline for completion.

Week 1: 8/10/20 – 8/16/20

Aim: To learn to interpret ancient texts in their context.

- What is meant by “context”?
- Why we should bother with ancient context?
- Why reading the Bible in its ancient contexts is consistent with a high view of Scriptures as inspired.

Readings:

- *Unseen Realm* Chapters 1 & 2
- Scott: The Contemporary Christian & Intertestamental Judaism
- Walton: Comparative Method: Translating Culture

Digging Deeper: (Optional reading)

- Rodriguez: Ancient Near Eastern Parallels to the Bible and Question of Revelation Inspiration PDF
- Scott: On the Value of Intertestamental Jewish Literature for New Testament Theology PDF

Quizzes:

- Quiz 1: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 1: General Bible Knowledge

Week 2: 8/17/20 – 8/23/20

Aim: Learn where the story begins and why God would bother creating humanity and world for humans.

- Why would God bother creating anything?
- Explore how Biblical writers thought about reality, both the world they experienced and the spiritual realm.
- Discuss what questions Genesis 1-2 answered for the original readers.
- Assess what creation texts teach us about God.

View:

- Bible Project Video: Introduction to Spiritual Beings
- Bible Project Video: Angels and Cherubim
- Bible Project Video: Metaphor

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- None

Quizzes:

- Quiz 2: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 2: General Bible Knowledge

Week 3: 8/24/20 – 8/30/20

Aim: Learn what the Bible means by the “image of God”.

- Define what is meant (and not meant) by the “image of God”?
- Discuss how understanding the image of God well makes a difference in theology, life and ethics
- Discuss how the “image of God” language foreshadows Scriptural concepts to come

Readings:

- Genesis 1
- Heiser FSB Logic of Idolatry PDF
- Heiser FSB The Image of God PDF
- Bible Project Video: Image of God

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- None

Quizzes:

- Quiz 3: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 3: General Bible Knowledge

Week 4: 8/31/20 – 9/6/20

Aim: Learn how we image God? Understanding imaging as partnership.

- Evaluate the plurality of language of Genesis 1:26
- Discuss why Genesis 1:27 switches back to singular language
- Discuss the flaws in a Trinitarian explanation for the plural language of Genesis 1:26
- Discover that God indeed does partner with his creatures – human and supernatural

Reading:

- Genesis 1:26-28
- Genesis 3:5, 22
- Genesis 11:1-9
- 1 Kings 22:1-28
- Daniel 4
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 7
- *Supernatural* Chapter 3

View:

- Bible Project Video: Elohim
- Bible Project Video: The Divine Council

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- *Angels* Chapter 2
- Williams: Who Will Go For Us (Isa. 6:8) Divine Plurals in Genesis 1:26 and the Image of God PDF

Quizzes:

- Quiz 4: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 4: General Bible Knowledge

No class Sept. 7 Labor Day**Week 5: 9/14/20 – 9/20/20**

Aim: Learn how nothing is perfect except God, and how God's creation decisions help us process evil.

- Understand the nature and function of Eden, and its relation to the rest of creation
- Discuss how the concept of the Tree of Life fits into Israelite conception of creation
- Discuss how God's creation decisions help us understand why evil was possible

Reading:

- Genesis 1-2
- *Unseen Realm* Chapters 6, 8, 9
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 7 (49-51)
- Review *Supernatural* Chapters 3 & 4

Listen:

- Bible Project Podcast: The Mountain-Garden and Human Ideal
- Bible Project Podcast: The Tree of Knowing Good and Bad
- Bible Project Podcast: Exile from the Cosmic Mountain

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Lioy: Garden of Eden as Primordial Temple and Sacred Space for Mankind PDF

Quizzes:

- Quiz 5: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 5: General Bible Knowledge

Week 6: 9/21/20 – 9/27/20

Aim: Learn about the supernatural rebellion in the cosmic Mountain-Garden of God.

- Evaluate the nature of the serpent in Genesis 3
- Discuss the academic and textual difficulties with talking about Satan in relation to Genesis 3, Ezekiel 28, and Isaiah 14
- Evaluate why some scholars resist seeing the rebel of Genesis 3 in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14
- Discuss the Biblical term *satan* in Job 1-2, Zechariah 3, and 1 Chronicles 21:1
- Discuss how the first rebellion/judgment in Eden fits with the New Testament

Reading:

- Genesis 3; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Job 1
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 10 & 11
- Review *Unseen Realm* Chapter 8 section “The Backdrop”
- *Demons* Chapter 3

View:

- Bible Project Video: The Satan and Demons

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Naked Bible Podcast: Episode 143 Ezekiel 28

Quizzes:

- Quiz 6: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 6: General Bible Knowledge

Week 7: 9/28/20 – 10/4/20**Aim:** Learn about the second supernatural rebellion (Part 1): Fallen Sons of God

- Discuss the identity and nature of the sons of God and the Nephilim from Genesis 6:1-4
- Discuss the original ancient context of Genesis 6:1-4
- Discuss how the original context of Genesis 6:1-4 impacts our interpretation and dovetails with the New Testament

Reading:

- Genesis 6:1-5
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 12

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Annus: on the Origin of Watchers Comparative Study of Antediluvian Wisdom in Mesopotamian Jewish Traditions PDF
- VanGemeran: Sons of God in Genesis 6:1-4 Example of Evangelical Demythologization PDDF

Quizzes:

- Quiz 7: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 7: General Bible Knowledge

Week 8: 10/5/20 – 10/11/20**Aim:** Learn about the second supernatural rebellion (Part 2): Acceleration of Human Depravity

- Demonstrate how the original context of Genesis 6:1-4 addresses the presumed disconnection with verse 5.
- Discuss why Second Temple Judaism attributed the pervasiveness of sinfulness in humanity to the rebellion of Genesis 6:1-4.
- Discuss how the supernatural rebellion of Genesis 6:1-4 mattered for later Jewish expectations about the Messiah.

Reading:

- Genesis 6:1-5
- Review *Unseen Realm* Chapter 12

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Demons Chapter 5
- Demons Chapter 6

Quizzes:

- Quiz 8: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 8: General Bible Knowledge

Week 9: 10/12/20 – 10/18/20

Aim: Learn about the third rebellion (Part 1): Human failure at Babel and God’s judgment.

- Discuss the nature and importance of the Tower of Babel episode
- Determine the correct wording of Deuteronomy 32:8
- Explain the “Deuteronomy 32 worldview” and how it unfolds in Scripture

Reading:

- Genesis 11:1-9
- Deuteronomy 32
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 14

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Heiser: Are YHWH and EL distinct deities in Deuteronomy 32:8-9 and Psalm 82 PDF
- Heiser: Deuteronomy 32:8 and the sons of God PDF

Quizzes:

- Quiz 9: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 9: General Bible Knowledge

Week 10: 10/19/20 – 10/25/20

Aim: Learn about the third rebellion (Part 2): Cosmic geography and God’s redemptive plan.

- Discuss the historical and theological fallout of the Tower of Babel judgment
- Discuss how the rule of the fallen sons of God is reflected in other Old Testament passages
- Discuss the concepts of election and salvation history in light of Deuteronomy 32

Reading:

- Genesis 11-12; 15; 17; 22
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 5, 15

Listen:

- Bible Project Podcast: Spiritual Warfare

Digging Deeper: (Optional)

- None

Week 11: 10/26/20 – 11/1/20

Aim: Learn about the third rebellion (Part 3): Deuteronomy 32:8 and Psalm 82

- Discover the supernatural rebellion element tied to the Babel event
- Discuss how this rebellion is related to earlier supernatural rebellions
- Discover the meaning of *Elohim* in the Hebrew Bible according to its usage in context
- Evaluate why divine plurality in the Old Testament is *not* polytheism or henotheism
- Discern the distinction between Jesus and other supernatural sons of God

Reading:

- Deuteronomy 32 in one of the following versions: ESV, RSV, NRSV, NLT, NET)
- Genesis 11:1-9
- Psalm 82
- *Supernatural* Chapter 2
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 3 & 4

Listen:

- Bible Project Podcast: No Other God Episode 2

Watch:

- Review Bible Project Video: Divine Council (wk 4)

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Heiser: Does Divine Plurality in HB Demonstrate Evolution from Polytheism to Monotheism in Israelite Religion? JESOT – 1.1 PDF
- Naked Bible Podcast 109 John's Use of Psalm 82 in John 10 – gods or men?

Quizzes:

- Quiz 11: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 11: General Bible Knowledge

Week 12: 11/2/20 – 11/8/20

Aim: Learn about the good news preached to Abraham: Introducing God as man in the Old Testament.

- Discover that the concept of deity as more than one person is not unique to the Bible—and why that's important
- Discover that the idea of God as man is not unique to the New Testament
- Discern how to think well about God as man in the Old Testament and the Person of Jesus
- Discover how the Old Testament conception of a Godhead is the basis for Christian Trinitarianism

Reading:

- Genesis 18-19
- Exodus 3:1-3
- 1 Samuel 3
- Jeremiah 1:1-12
- *Supernatural* Chapter 6
- *Unseen Realm* Chapters 16, 17, 18, 31 (pp. 267-271 to “The Council in Session”)

Digging Deeper: (optional)

- Sommer: Bodies of God Chapter 1 PDF

Benjamin Sommer is a Jewish biblical scholar who teaches at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York. His work is important in that he acknowledges, as a Jew and a biblical scholar, that the Christian conception of God being more than one person simultaneously is rooted in ancient Near Eastern thinking --- that is, it is not a late invention. For those who may go on to read Sommer’s book, realize he often sounds like a modalist. This is because, as a Jew, he’s not an orthodox Christian! While his wordings may lack precision here and there, the importance of the book is not to be overlooked.

Quizzes:

- Quiz 12: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 12: General Bible Knowledge

Week 13: 11/9/20 – 11/15/20

Aim: Learn about the exodus as spiritual warfare: Out of Egypt I Have Called My Son.

- Discover how the exodus story echoes Eden
- Discuss the plagues as spiritual warfare
- Discover how the journey to Sinai is spiritual warfare and aligns with the Deuteronomy 32 worldview

Reading:

- Exodus 12; 24-25
- *Supernatural* Chapter 8
- *Unseen Realm* Chapter 20, 22

Watch:

- Bible Project Video: Exodus Chapter 1-18

Digging Deeper: (Optional)

- Naked Bible Podcast: Episode 268 Exodus 7:14-25 Plagues
- Naked Bible Podcast: Episode 269 Exodus 8-10
- Naked Bible Podcast: Episode 270 Exodus 11-12

Quizzes:

- Quiz 13: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 13: General Bible Knowledge

No Class: 11/16 and 11/23 Thanksgiving**Week 14: 11/30/20 – 12/6/20**

Aim: Learn about imaging God and bearing the name: Salvation as believing loyalty.

- Discuss what is meant (and not meant) by “believing loyalty” in relation to salvation
- Discover how the “believing loyalty” definition of salvation is illustrated in the Old Testament
- Discover how believing loyalty is related to imaging God.

Reading:

- Genesis 15, 17, 22
- *Unseen Realm* 21

Listen:

- Dr Heiser’s sermon: While We Were Sinners

Digging Deeper: (Optional)

- Naked Bible Podcast: Episode 302: interview with Carmen Imes: Bearing God’s Name

Week 15: 12/7/20 – 12/13/20

Aim: Learn where the (demonic) wild things are: Chaos, Holiness, Sacred Space

- Discover how the wilderness was perceived by ancient biblical writers and readers
- Discuss the identity of Azazel in Leviticus 16
- Discover how the theme of sacred space and conquest of chaos is put forth in the journey to Canaan in the desert wilderness narratives.
- Discern the underlying rationale of the Old Testament sacrificial system

Readings:

- Leviticus 16
- Hebrews 10
- *Unseen Realm* pp. 176-178 on Azazel (Sacrifice and Israel’s Cosmic Geography)
- Baker: Wilderness as Theological Construct PDF
- *Demons* Chapter 4
- Wasteland and Wilderness DBI PDF
- Review *Unseen Realm* 22

Digging Deeper: (Optional)

- Beale: Israel’s Earthly Tabernacle as Reflections of Temple—The Temple and the Church’s Mission PDF

Quizzes:

- Quiz 15: Unseen Realm
- Quiz 15: General Bible Knowledge