

**Biblical Theology:**  
**The Journey of the Soul in Biblical Stories.**

Dr. Yosef Leibowitz

**Course Description**

The Bible is a book of theology. It presents its theology in a particular non-linear style. In order to decipher this style we need to pay close attention to the text. This class will examine the texts that deal with the nature of the human soul. It will include the creation of the human in the image of God in Genesis Chapter One, the Garden of Eden and the creation of man and woman, the Cain and Able story, parts of Kohellet and Job. We will concentrate on the use of specific words and double meanings. The purpose is not only to understand these texts but to give students the tools to read the Bible in the proper way.

**Course Requirements:**

- Weekly reading of the upcoming text
- Class participation
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam

**Final Grade:**

Final Exam	60%
Midterm Exam	20%
Class participation	20%

**Course Subjects:**

Weeks 1-2

Man in the Image of God

The meaning of the Image of God

The creation of the world through the eyes of Genesis Chapter One

The unique aspects of the human soul

Weeks 3-4

The Shabbat

The creation of the world and the creation of the Shabbat

The concept of the week

Linear and cyclical time

The Shabbat as a metaphysical creation

### Weeks 5-6

The Garden of Eden

The nature of the Garden

The two trees

The true Tree of Life

### Weeks 7-8

Man and Woman

It is not good to be alone

The nature of the creation

And they shall be as one flesh

### Weeks 9-10

Cain and Able

The Nature of love

The nature of sin

Cain and Able - two metaphors

Am I my brother's keeper

### Weeks 11-12

Kohellet

Cyclical and linear time

Hevel and meaning

### Weeks 13-14

Job

What is piety?

The test and its purpose

Job as Midrash

### Optional readings

Leibowitz, N. (1981). *Studies in Bereshit (Genesis) in the context of ancient and modern Jewish Bible commentary*. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, Department for Torah Education and Culture.

Raphael Hirsch, S. (1973). *The Pentateuch*. Gateshead: Judaica Press.

Sarna, N. (1996). *Understanding Genesis*. New York: Schocken Books.