

### Fall Schedule

Classes begin September 8  
Classes end December 5  
Reading Week December 8-12  
Exam Week December 15-19  
Audit Fee: \$40 per course  
Hebrew Courses scheduled at student and professor discretion.

### WEBSITE RESOURCES

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NWTS.EDU](http://WWW.NWTS.EDU) FOR UPDATES, CLASS SCHEDULES, DOWNLOADABLE LECTURES AND MORE!



17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037

Monday and Wednesday classes	
11 am – 12 pm	Homiletics IIA/Church Polity
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 1:30	Homiletics III/Worship
12:30-1:30	Patristics
1:45-3:15	Psalms & Wisdom
3:30-4:30	Modern Church
4:45-5:45	Turretin Seminar

Tuesday and Thursday classes	
3:30-6:30	Pentateuch –Tuesday only
3:30-5:30	Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
5:30-7:00	General Epistles & Revelation
7:30-9:-00	Thursday Bible study – Zephaniah

Volume 15 Issue 2  
September 2014

NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

# Our Story

## Zephaniah—Prophet of the Light (Zeph. 1:12)

The Lord God takes his lamp-light and searches Judah and Jerusalem in the days of King Josiah (640-609 B.C.). He exposes an idolatrous, vain, self-indulgent, wealthy, opulent, full-of-liars, violent culture (Zeph. 1:4-5, 8, 9, 13; 3:3-4, 11, 13). And as his lamp shines into the dark districts of this evil (1:10-11), what is reflected back is idolatry, vanity, self-indulgence, wealth, opulence, serial liars and violence. The light, sourced in God the Lord, is darkened by the blackness of sin and its consequences. This lamp seeks its own divine and supernatural light in mirror reflection: God alone loved and worshipped (now, there is light indeed!); the Lord Jesus Christ, the delight of the soul and life—not vain self (now, there is light indeed!); Holy Spirit fueled hunger and thirst for the bread of heaven and the streams of living water (now, there is light indeed!); the riches of Christ Jesus as the treasure of the heart (now, there is light indeed!); the glory of the Triune God as radiant, lavish beauty adorned to all eternity (now, there is light indeed!); the Truth, who is God, the Lord Jesus Christ, neither is there any deceit in his mouth—his Truth echoing and re-echoing with word after word, verse after verse, book after book of the very Truth of heaven (now, there is light indeed!); the gentle tenderness of the Son of God who binds up the torn and broken, expresses no violence, nor does he do harm to any (now, there is light—ineffable light indeed!).

This lamp-light is condensed and focused in the Light of the World—this lamp-light is condensed and focused in him in whom there is no darkness. The lamp of divine light in the days of Zephaniah reflects the lamp of heaven's eternal glory—the lamp of heaven's eternal Son. This glory-light shines in the darkness of Jerusalem 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and reflects darkness not light—night time not day light. This lamp of the light of the Lord in the days of Zephaniah will require a new day, a new era *and* a new lamp-light. It will take a day in which the light and the lamp are one—united, incorporated, incarnated into a living, breathing, shining light as living breathing, shining as God himself—and, and that light living, breathing, shining in history—in time and space, even in the time and space of Jerusalem and Judea; that light living, breathing, shining in history in a new day when the light of Israel will be present in her midst (3:15, 17); when the love of God will be incarnated in the new Israel; when the joy of walking in the light of glory for the people of God will mark the end of the darkness—the dawn of the age of light everlasting in him who is everlasting light.

The interface between God, the Searcher, who bears the light and the prophet, Zephaniah, who is drawn

into the mind of God, the voice of God, the life of God, the light of God—the interface between God and Zephaniah is the union between light-source and light-reflector (God, the source; Zephaniah’s Word of God, the reflector). There is a better than Zephaniah in this drama. He too is God the source of the light; but he is also the Voice of God, the Life of God, the Word of God. In this One, interface of God and prophet is complete. In this One, light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overwhelm it.

For the light of the Son of God shines into the dark hearts of idolatry and vanity and sensuality and mendacity—shines into dark hearts declaring, “Let there be light!”—transforming them with the glory-light of the Triune God alone, not another; the glory-light of humility; the glory-light of chastity; the glory-light of veracity. God and the prophet—in One! God of light; prophet of the Word of light, joined as one. Light of God; light in the prophet’s Word of God incarnate.

A greater than Zephaniah is here. He is eschatological God incarnate as he is eschatological light incarnate. And as Zephaniah anticipates and foreshadows him (even participates from afar in the benefits of his person and his light)—as Zephaniah anticipates and foreshadows, we do not gaze from afar! We are the witnesses to and the blessed possessors of the Light of the Word of God in the eschatological prophet and Son of God—the Lord Jesus Christ—the everlasting glory lamp-light of heaven! Indeed, *there* is a mirror for reflection!!

—James T. Dennison, Jr.

(For a detailed verse-by-verse explanation of Zephaniah, listen to the author’s audio series on your computer or mobile device at <http://nwts.edu/audio/JTD/Zephaniah.htm>; or go to nwts.edu and click on “audio resources”.)



**New Professor:** Scobie P. Smith, Ph.D., has been appointed Professor of Biblical Languages (Greek and Hebrew) for the academic year 2014-2015. Dr. Smith is a graduate of Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, PA (M.A.) and Harvard University (Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages, i.e., Hebrew, Akkadian, Hittite, Hurrian, Ugaritic, Greek, etc.). He was a Fulbright Scholar in Wurzburg, Germany from 1993-94. After extensive computer service to Logos Biblical Software, he is now Senior Software Design Engineer for Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, WA. He attends Emmanuel Reformed Baptist Church, Seatac, WA which subscribes to the London Confession of 1677 (see James T. Dennison, Jr., *Reformed Confessions of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries in English Translation*, volume 4, pages 531-71). Dr. Smith’s flex schedule will enable him to coordinate the schedules of our students with his own in a mutually convenient manner. Please remember Scobie in your prayers as he has been battling myeloma for several years, but by the grace of the Great Physician is currently in remission.

**Board Meeting:** The Board of NWTS held its annual meeting via teleconference on June 21, 2014. Rev. Larry Semel was re-elected President as was Mr. Scott Hunter as Secretary-Treasurer. Revs. Randy Bergquist and Robert Van Kooten were re-elected to three-year terms (Class of 2017). After a review of the 2013-2014 academic year, a budget of \$142,481 was adopted for fiscal year 2014-2015. There were no salary or wage increases, nor was the tuition rate of \$150/credit hour changed. A new adjunct professor of Biblical Languages was appointed.

The Board made plans for a graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 9, 2015 for two potential graduates. Rev. Marc Renkema of Trinity OPC, Bothell, WA has been asked to preach the sermon and Rev. Benjamin Swinburnson of the Lynnwood OPC, Lynnwood, WA will charge the graduates.

An extra Board meeting has been scheduled for August 16 for purposes of further general discussion.

A church in California has asked NWTS to explore an on-going six-week summer internship program using NWTS students. The Board was informed that our students have indicated their interest in such an arrangement depending on summer work schedules.

**Dr. Bill Dennison:** Prof. Dennison is currently teaching Apologetics and Introduction to Systematic Theology via Skype to our students. This course will last for three weeks. It was necessary to use the computer format for these classes this time because of summer schedules which made campus based instruction impossible. The classes have been restricted to our students only so as to provide them with the particular attention this medium requires.

**Thursday Night Bible Study:** Our study of the book of the prophet Zephaniah will resume Thursday, September 11, at 7:30 pm at the Lynnwood OPC. We will begin with the famous *Dies irae* section of the first chapter (1:14-18). The Bible Study is open to the public. The series is recorded and available in audio format at nwts.edu (click “Audio Resources” on the opening page).

**Donations Via Credit Card:** For several years, a number of our donors have chosen to send their gifts via credit card authorization because it is convenient to their own consistent financial planning. We have debited Visa and Master Card accounts for a number of years. Now, we are also approved to receive donations via America Express.

If you would like to arrange to give to the seminary by means of any of the three credit cards noted above, as well as debit cards, please phone the seminary (425-787-5144) and leave a message for our book keeper, Anita Hoogerhyde. She will return your call within a week and take the necessary confidential information to begin debiting your card for NWTS.

**Amazon Smile:** We have been approved by Amazon Smile for a percentage of your purchase (.5% of eligible purchases) to be donated back to NWTS. Please keep this in mind when you do your online shopping. You may choose NWTS as your default charity when you sign up for Smile at amazon.com.