

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BTH 530 Old Testament Theology**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the key theological concepts and important themes of the books of the Old Testament in context, with attention to the relation to the New Testament.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain briefly the field of Old Testament theology.
2. Discuss key Old Testament teachings through the major divisions of the O.T.
3. Describe the continuity and unity of Old Testament theology.
4. Identify the underlying theological principles in any Old Testament passage and apply them to the Church today with proper understanding of their relation to New Testament theology, including being able to explain how to go about this.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required:**

Cotton, Roger D., ed. *BTH 530 OT Theology Handouts, 2004*, Springfield, MO: by AGTS.

House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1998.

Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.

**BASIC OUTLINE**

1. Introduction
2. Foundational theology of Genesis
3. The theme of the Promise and the central message of the Scriptures.
4. The field of Old Testament theology and doing it.
5. Major theological concepts as taught in the Pentateuch: especially covenant, presence,

- law, and holiness.
6. The relationship of the Sinai Covenant to the Christian.
  7. Joshua--Kings, theology of the land, leadership, and holy war.
  8. Poetic and Wisdom literature, holistic theology of the struggles and hope of the righteous and the concept of biblical wisdom.
  9. Prophecy and the rest of the Old Testament.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Lecture, discussion, reading, writing, and research assignments.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class attendance is expected; maximum allowable absences is four (3) class periods. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. Be prepared for each class to discuss any reading assignments.
2. Turn in on **Friday, June 4**, a 3-4 page typed essay on what it means to do Old Testament Theology (further instructions will be given) based on the following readings:
  - A. Read House on the history and method of Old Testament theology, Preface, Chapter 1, and Appendix pp. 548-559.
  - B. Read Martens' essay #9, "The Flowering and Floundering of Old Testament Theology," by Elmer Martens in NIDOTTE pp. 172-84.
  - C. Kaiser, Preface through p. 69.
  - D. Essay #3, "Old Testament History: A Theological Perspective, A. The Nature of the OT: Theology, Not History," by Eugene Merrill in NIDOTTE, vol. 1:68-75.
3. Read the rest of Kaiser, and House: chapters 2-4, 6, 11, 14, 15, 17, 25, 26, and for the other chapters read the introduction, outline headings, and conclusion of each, by the end of the course. Read the professor's handouts for the course as called for and finish by the end of the course.
4. Choose one of the following:
  - A. Make an appointment to present to the professor in his office a 20 minute summary of an outline, turned in the day before, on a theological theme/topic running through the Old Testament that is touched on in each of the four groupings of O.T. books- Pentateuch, History, Poetry and Wisdom, and Prophets. (But note that the outline does NOT need to follow these groupings but may be topical.)
  - B. Present in class for up to 20 minutes on a day to be scheduled, after mid-term, the highlights of a 2-3 page outline of a theological theme running through the Old Testament (see A. above), turned in the morning of the day before for the professor to get copied for the class.

- C. Turn in a 9-12 page paper on **Wednesday, June 23**, on a theological theme running through the Old Testament (see A.).

For all Three Choices:

Your topic must be turned in for approval by Friday, May 7. All three choices require a list of sources consulted and articles in books should follow 11.26 in Turabian 6th ed.

This is to be based mainly on concordance work, including key word studies, with consultation of NIDOTTE, *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, monographs, the best commentaries on the key passages, key journal articles, and O. T. theologies including: Davidson, Eichrodt, Payne, Von Rad, Martens, and Dyrness (see Bibliography and library reserve books). Do your own analysis first before reading the scholars' opinions. It should take into account progressive revelation. Put your name, the course, and the date at the top of the first page of the outline.

5. Sign an accountability sheet turned in with the summary below that you have read a book of the Old Testament, of your choice, in one sitting, in order to grasp its major theological message and main themes. Also, you are to read the sections of the following books that relate to the book of the OT you chose:

Child's Introduction to the Old Testament, Dumbrell's The Faith of Israel, House's OT Theology, Hummel's The Word Becoming Flesh, the theology sections of the introductions of the three best exegetical commentaries on the book and the article on it in volume 4 of NIDOTTE.

TURN IN, on **Thursday, June 24**, a page or two of summary of the theological message and major themes of the book with a view toward preaching the book. Include a one sentence or phrase summary of the message of the whole book, and a very brief, basic outline of the major divisions of the flow of thought of the book. See my example for Numbers but expound the message a little more.

6. Write an essay final exam on, **Friday, June 25**.
7. Late work will be penalized **1 point per day late** using a 12 point scale (12 = A, 1 = F).

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading assignments and class participation	7%
Paper on doing OT Theology	15%

Final Exam	28%
Outline of a theme in the OT	40%
Reading and summarizing the themes of an OT book	10%

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., March, 2004.