

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTHD 529 Foundations of Biblical Theology

Benny C. Aker PhD

June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 5, 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to biblical theology covering methodology, history, basic issues, and the foundational content of the field. Correlation between biblical and systematic theology is explored and discussed. The course includes an examination of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and the unity and diversity of the biblical revelation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Read the Bible with a better biblical theological hermeneutic and arrive at a more sound relevant and biblical interpretation;
2. Prepare a biblical theological sermon, lesson, or article;
3. Evaluate various kinds of literature that are in the market place of church leaders and congregants in respect to their biblical theological soundness;
4. Demonstrate a skill that is able to interpret biblical texts and do biblical theology through the eyes of different cultures and different historical circumstances;
5. Appreciate the different ways of doing biblical theology and evaluate them;
6. Do biblical theology by interpreting a variety of biblical genres.

TEXTBOOKS

Carson, D.A., et. al., editors. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000. (Also available on CD with other IVP titles through Logos)
Marshall, I. Howard. *Beyond the Bible: Moving From Scripture to Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday June 6

The reading assignment for this class is:

Choose five sources, systematic theology books or theological dictionaries/encyclopedias, and read their definition of theology. This will not take many pages but ask as you read how each understands theology in a general sense. Choose a variety of denominational and ethnic approaches. See in the outline below regarding the varieties. Among others, suggestions are:

- Stanley J. Grenz, *Revisioning Evangelical Theology: A Fresh Agenda for the 21st Century (IVP)*. (If you can read all 189 pages of this book you will pick up the issues in the theological shift in contemporary culture. You may want to, at least, scan its contents.
- Stanley J. Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* (Broadman Press), 1-26.

The lesson outline:

1. Nature of Inspiration: foundation of biblical theology
2. Discovering the nature of theology--defining it;
3. Various ways of conceptualizing and doing it:
 - a. First dimension: denominationally/religiously and ethnically (examples):
 - i. Reformed: Baptist/Presbyterian/Lutheran,
 - ii. Liberation theology (Black or Hispanic),
 - iii. Roman Catholic,
 - iv. Orthodox,
 - v. Black African (Evangelical),
 - vi. Methodist,
 - vii. Asian (Chinese, Korean, or Japanese) (Evangelical),
 - viii. Classical Pentecostal (AG; Church of God; Four Square);
 - b. Second dimension: anthropological (see chart):
 - i. Occidental (contractual/individualistic societies);
 - ii. Oriental (kinship/group societies);
 - c. Third dimension:
 - i. Relational orientation kinship/ group societies),
 1. doing,
 2. being,
 - ii. Reason versus rationalism,
 - iii. Experience,
 - iv. Revelation,
 - v. Ideology,
 - vi. Tradition,
 - vii. Propositions.
4. Function of theology.

Read Marshall's *Beyond the Bible* and then write a review on it (8-10 pages). **DUE**. Also be ready to discuss at length this book in class. This book will highlight most of the issues that are so important and necessary for this course.

June 13

Biblical Theology Introductory readings are:

NDBT [textbook], pp. 1-11

- "Biblical Theology"

NDBT [textbook], pp. 11 - 19

- "History of Biblical Theology"

NDBT [textbook], 20-27

- "Challenges to Biblical Theology"

NDBT [textbook], pp. 27- 34

- "The Canon of Scripture"

NDBT [textbook], pp. 34- 42

- "Scripture"

NDBT [textbook], pp.43-51

- "Biblical History"

NDBT [textbook], pp. 52-64

- Exegesis and Hermeneutics

NDBT [textbook] pp. 89-111

- “Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology”

Readings on Biblical Theology Issues are: (See above the assignment for Marshall’s *Beyond the Bible*.)

NDBT [textbook], pp. 64-72

- “New Testament Use of the Old Testament”

NDBT [textbook], 81-89

- “Relationship of Old Testament and New Testament”
Particular Application

NDBT [Textbook] pp. 104-12

- “Preaching and Biblical Theology”

Special Readings on subject (articles online) are: (accessed from http://www.findarticles.com/cf_0/moLAL/1_33/9822800/print.jhtml). These supplement the reading of the textbook and offer further explication of the issues.

- David M. Bossman, “Rethinking the Past For an Energized Biblical Theology,” *BTB* (Summer, 2000).
- David M. Bossman, “Biblical Theology For a Secular Society. (Presenting the Issue),” *BTB* (Spring, 2001).
- Anna Brawley, ”Grafted In: Why Christians are Thinking About a Jewish Biblical Theology *BTB* (Winter, 2000).
- Robert K. Gnuse, “Words That Testify of God: The Theology of the Old Testament,” *BTB* (Fall, 2001).
- Robert Gnuse, “The Critic of Biblical Theologians: A Review of James Barr’s *The Concept of Biblical Theological: An Old Testament Perspective*. (Book Review),” *BTB* (Summer, 2001).
- Roland E. Murphy, “When is Theology “Biblical”? Some Reflections,” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (Spring, 2003).
- Roland E. Murphy, “Once Again—the ‘Center’ of the Old Testament. (Old Testament Theology),” *BTB* (Fall, 2001).
- Marshall, I. Howard, “Developing a Biblical Hermeneutic for a Developing Theology.” (An article in the Class Notes/Aker/Foundations of Biblical Theology folder on Y drive).
- Read brief introductions to each of the biblical theologians below. You will find the introductory material in the front of each one’s book and/or in Gerhard Hasel’s *New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978) and *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate* (4th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991). Also, Ben C. Ollenberger, Elmer A. Martens, and Gerhard F. Hasel, *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology* (Winona Lake, IND: Eisenbrauns, 1992). All are on reserve.

The lesson outline:

1. Compare biblical and systematic theology and define biblical theology;
2. Discuss some biblical theologians and their approaches to OT or NT theology:
 - a. Old Testament:
 - Samuel L. Terrien,
 - Theodorus C. Vriezen,
 - Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.,
 - Gerhard von Rad,

- Elmer A. Martens,
 Walther Eichrodt,
 John L. McKenzie,
 Brevard Childs,
 Ralph L. Smith,
 George Wright;
 Brevard Childs
 Paul R. House
- b. New Testament:
 Leon Morris,
 George E. Ladd,
 Leonhard Goppelt,
 Werner Georg Kümmel,
 Hans Conzelmann,
 Alan Richardson,
 Donald Guthrie;
3. Inspiration and Biblical Theology
4. Define and illustrate issues:
- a. prescription,
 - b. description,
 - c. diversity,
 - d. unity,
 - e. center of organization,
 - f. development, (Marshall's *Beyond the Bible* will serve well here—to be discussed)
 - g. discontinuity,
 - h. continuity,
 - i. approach/organization.

June 20

Readings for this class are as follows:

1. Reading of specific biblical texts (cf. class outline below);
2. Reading of commentary material on the selected passages (see below);
3. Read *NDBT* (textbook) on "Psalms" pp. 203-208.
4. Read *NTB* on topics that emerge from the Psalm below and that are listed in the third part of our textbook.

The lesson plan:

1. Review and finish issues from last class.
2. Doing theology from poetry: interpret Psalm 135.
 - a. Read carefully and layout the Psalm in its poetic structure;
 - b. Consult a few good commentaries for assistance;
 - c. Write down interpretative observations, noting the issues (prescription, continuity/discontinuity, and etc.);
 - d. Examine carefully the language in this Ps of the first exodus and think about such issues as descriptive/prescriptive language; continuity/discontinuity ideas, and etc.;
 - e. Collect relevant theological topics;
 - f. Be ready to discuss and present in class.

3. Doing theology from Old Testament Law: Locate in a concordance the references to divorce and adultery and examine their references in respect to differences, etc.

June 27

Reading for this class will focus on the biblical texts as given below.

1. As you read and study, please use the textbook to discover background information
 - a. (Part 2) “Isaiah” and “Ezekiel” in *NDBT*
 - b. as well as information about topics (Part 3) that emerge from studying the biblical texts, for instance, “Exile,” in *NDBT*.
2. Reading of commentary material on the selected passages (see below).
3. **Paper on a biblical theological theme is due.**

The lesson plan is:

1. Work on Isaiah 40-43;
2. Work on Ezekiel 34, 37, and 47.
3. Locate the key themes of these chapters and apply the methodological issues.

July 17

Reading for this class will focus on the biblical texts as given below.

1. As you read and study, please use the textbook to discover background information
 - a. (Part 2) “Matthew,” “Mark,” “Luke,” “John,” and “Acts” in *NDBT*
 - b. as well as information about topics (Part 3) that emerge from studying the biblical texts, for instance, “Jesus Christ,” John the Baptist,” Salvation,” in *NDBT*.
2. Reading of commentary material on the selected passages (see below).
3. Focus on two topics: John the Baptist and Spirit baptism (in his telling about what Jesus would do from the four Gospels and Acts).

The lesson plan is:

1. Work on John the Baptist in the four Gospels, one at a time (a Synopsis is a valuable tool here). Ask as you interpret, how do the Gospels differ from one another? Why? What does John mean with “He will baptize you with Holy Spirit [and fire]?”
2. Examine the Gospels’ and Acts’ teaching on “Kingdom.” And salvation? Relate to Spirit-baptism.
3. What is the background of John in Malachi and Isaiah?
4. Discuss the issues related to this time of study, especially continuity and discontinuity.
5. **Sermon is due**

METHODOLOGY

1. Class preparation: Reading of textbooks and other related material.
2. Participation in small class groups.
3. Lectures.
4. Class discussion/participation in class.
5. Write a review and a biblical theology paper.
6. Write a sermon displaying a biblical theological hermeneutic.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance and participation will be expected and assumed as a beginning point

of class deportment and grading. Due to the nature of the class, only one absence for emergency purposes is permitted (should be cleared in advance).

NOTE: Students are expected to prepare in advance for the next class. We will discuss relevant topics from the class syllabus. Students are to ask questions and otherwise interact in class discussion. (Involvement in small study groups during the course is highly recommended.)

2. Completion of all assigned readings (textbooks and articles).

3. Writing assignments:

- 8-10 page review of Marshall' *Beyond the Bible*. Due June 13.
- 10 page biblical theology paper on a theme from Old to New Testaments. Due June 27.

NOTE: Several copies of papers are on reserve to provide models for the student.

- 10 page written biblical theological sermon. Due July 5.

Use appropriate seminary style, form, and content for all assignments. The 6th edition of

Turabian should religiously be followed.

4. Class discussion of Marshall's *Beyond the Bible*.

GRADING PROCEDURE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Review of <i>Beyond the Bible</i> | 100 points |
| 2. Biblical Theology paper | 100 points |
| 3. Biblical Theology Sermon | 100 points |

Averaged number of points and appropriate percentage:

95-100%=A

90- 94%=A-

87- 89%=B+

84- 86%=B

80- 83%=B-

77-79%=C+

74-76%=C

70-73%=C-

65-69%=D

NOTE: Late assignments may be penalized.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

(* indicates book is on reserve in library)

Barr, James. *The Bible in the Modern World*. N.p., n.d.

*_____. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

*Black, D. A., and D. S. Dockery. *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

Bright, John. *The Authority of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1967; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.

Bruce, F. F. *New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Caird, G. B. *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1980.

Carson, D. A. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

*Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

*_____. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments: Theological Reflection on the Christian Bible*. Minneapolis : Fortress Press, 1993.

*_____. *Biblical Theology: A Proposal*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1977.

Davidson, A. B. *The Theology of the Old Testament*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1916.

Dentan, Robert Claude. *Preface to Old Testament Theology*. Rev. ed. New York: Seabury Press, 1963.

*Dockery S. David, et. al. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation: A Complete Library of Tools and Resources*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.

Dyrness, William A. *Themes: Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1979.

*Eichrodt, Walther. *Theology of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, n.d.

Elbert, Paul, ed. *Essays on Apostolic Themes*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1985.

Fuller, Daniel P. *The Unity of the Bible: Unfolding God's Plan for Humanity*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Furnish, V. P. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; 1982.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.

- *Goppelt, L. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; 1982.
- *Guelich, R. A., ed. *Unity and Diversity in New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- *Guthrie, D. *New Testament Theology*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 1981.
- *Hasel, Gerhard F. *New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- *_____. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Hayes, John H., and Frederick C. Prussener. *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
- *House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- *Hubbard, Robert L., Jr., Robert K. Johnston, and Robert P. Meye, eds. *Studies in Old Testament Theology*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992.
- Jacob, Edmond. *Theology of the Old Testament*. Translated by Arthur W. Heathcote and Philip J. Allcock. New York: Harper & Row, 1958.
- Johnston, R. K., ed. *The Use of the Bible in Theology: Evangelical Options*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *The Uses of the Old Testament in the New*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.
- *_____. *Toward Rediscovering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- *_____. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- *Morris, Leon. *New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.
- *Ollenberger, Ben C., Elmer A. Martens, and Gerhard F. Hasel. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology*. Winona Lake, IND: Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- O'Toole, R. F. *The Unity of Luke's Theology*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.
- Payne, J. Barton. *The Theology of the Older Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962.
- Ridderbos, H. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- *Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993.

Soulen, Richard N. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*. 2nd ed. Revised and Augmented. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

Stronstad, R. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

Taylor, M. J., ed. *A Companion to John: Readings in Johannine Theology*. New York: Alba House, 1977.

*Von Rad, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1967.

Whiteley, D. E. F. *The Theology of St. Paul*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.

*Wright, George Ernest. *The Old Testament and Theology*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.

Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1971.

Zimmerli, Walther. *Old Testament Theology Outline*. Translated by David E. Green. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1978.

ARTICLES/CHAPTERS

Aker, Ben. "New Directions in Lucan Theology: Reflections on Luke 3:21-22 and Some Implications." In *Faces of Renewal*, ed. Paul Elbert. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1987.

Bock, Darrell L. "Evangelicals and the Use of the Old Testament in the New." (2 Parts) *Bibliotheca Sacra* 142 (July-September, October-December, 1985): 209-23, 306-19.

Bundry, David. "The Genre of Systematic Theology in Pentecostalism." *Pneuma* 15 (Spring, 1993): 89-102.

Edwards, James. "Initial Evidence of the Holy Spirit Baptism and Pentecostal Type-scenes in Acts." In *Toward Pentecostal/ Charismatic Theology: Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. SPS Meeting, Gordon-Conwell, November, 1984.

Grenz, Stanley J. "What Does Hollywood Have to Do with Wheaton? The Place of (Pop) Culture in Theological Reflection." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 43:2 (June, 2000):303-14.

Hummel, Horace D. "The Old Testament Basis of Typological Interpretation." *Biblical Research* 9 (1964): 38-50.

Johnston, Robert K. "Pentecostalism and Theological Hermeneutics: Evangelical Options." In *Pastoral Problems in the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement*, ed. Harold D. Hunter. SPS Conference in Cleveland, Tenn., November, 1983.

Raisanen, H. *Beyond New Testament Theology*. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1990.

Sheppard, Gerald T. "Pentecostals and Dispensationalism: The Anatomy of an Uneasy Relationship." In *Pastoral Problems In the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement*, ed. Harold D. Hunter. SPS Conference in Cleveland, Tenn., November 1983.

Stendahl, Krister. "Biblical Theology." In *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. George Arthur Buttrick, 1: 418-32. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Benny C. Aker, Ph.D., February 25, 2005.

E-Mail: baker@agts.edu; bigen25@cs.com

Phone: 417-268-1075; 417-833-5573