

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH/MHT 501 The Mission of God in Biblical and Contemporary Contexts

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course to the *River* segment of the AGTS curriculum segment of the AGTS curriculum consists of an in depth study of the mission of God, as it is revealed in both Old and New Testaments. The course will not only examine the text of Scripture, but also consider the mission of God in terms of history, culture, and philosophy of the people to whom the mission was delivered, the interpretation of Scripture within the Bible, the progressive development of biblical theology as new cultures and peoples were engaged by Israel and the Church, the modes of mission and ministry which are evidenced in the Bible, and the application of biblical missiology to the contemporary world context.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

- explain the concept of biblical theology.
- discover the processes through which the Scriptures were formed and the ways they were interpreted within the biblical record.
- trace the history of the *mission dei* through both Old and New Testaments.
- evaluate the assertion that *mission dei* is the unifying theme of the Bible.
- articulate a biblical understanding of human diversity and God's desire to save men and women from every diverse human grouping.
- consider how the process of intercultural and inter-religious encounter between the people of God and other peoples shaped the progressive revelation of God in Scripture and apply the principle to contemporary ministry.
- discern the unique role of mission within the themes and structures of the New Testament.
- identify the missiological principles within the Scriptures and how they may be applied in contemporary ministry.
- understand and experience the role of the Holy Spirit and Spirit-empowered believers in the fulfillment of mission dei.
- commit his or her life to the cause of God's mission.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, et. al., editors. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

Kaiser, Walter C. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 11. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001.

York, John V. *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*. Springfield: Logion, 2000.

BASIC OUTLINE AND COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1/12/06 What is Biblical Theology?
Reading: Alexander and Rosner, "Biblical Theology," "History of Biblical Theology," and "Relationship of Old Testament and New Testament" in *NDBT*; Köstenberger/O'Brien pp 19-23.
- 1/19/06 Mission in Creation.
Reading: Kaiser pp. 7-38; Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 25-53; York 19-27.
- 1/26/06 Biblical Theology of Diversity.
Reading: Kaiser pp. 39-50.
- 2/2/06 Israel's National Purpose.
Reading: Kaiser pp. 51-63; York pp. 27-33. Note: It would be helpful to review previous reading from York for this class session.
- 2/9/06 Covenant and Promise.
Reading: Helpful to review Kaiser chapter 3.
- 2/16/06 *Missio Dei* in the Historical Books of the Old Testament.
Reading: York pp. 33-40.
- 2/23/06 Davidic Covenant.
Reading: York pp. 41-53.
- [3/2/06 **Spring Break**
- 3/9/06 Prophets and Mission.
Reading: Kaiser pp. 65-74; York pp. 53-64.

- 3/16/06 Old Testament Summary and the Intertestamental Period.
Reading: Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 55-71.
- 3/23/06 *Missio Dei* in the Gospels.
Reading: Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 73-127, 203-226; York pp. 65-78.
- 3/30/06 *Mission Dei* in the Gospels, continued.
- 4/6/06 Book of Acts: The Holy Spirit in Mission and Paul's Missionary Methods.
Reading: Kaiser pp. 75-82; Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 127-201; York pp. 79-94.
- 4/13/06 Acts and Paul, continued.
- 4/20/06 Revelation, Summary of New Testament.
Reading: Köstenberger/O'Brien pp. 227-270; York pp. 95-100.

METHODOLOGY

Course objectives will be met through:

1. Classroom lecture
2. In-class questions, answers, discussions, and brief quizzes
3. Completion of required assignments of reading and writing

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Consistent attendance.** Anticipated absences should be made known to the professors beforehand. Consult the AGTS catalog for seminary policy on the relation between excessive absenteeism and grade reduction.
2. **Completion of reading assignments** on the indicated dates (see course plan, below).
3. **Classroom participation** (discussion, questions, answers) where appropriate.
4. **Completion of "semi-spontaneous" quizzes.** These quizzes will be announced at the beginning of a given class period. At the end of said period the students will be given a question pertaining to that period's lecture and five to ten minutes to complete the quiz. Questions will be drawn from both lecture content and that day's required readings. Quizzes may be somewhat comprehensive (i.e., pertaining to previous days' lectures and/or readings).
5. **Research paper.** In 12-15 pages, summarize the content of this course by writing a paper entitled: My Biblical Theology of *Missio Dei*. In this paper, you should:
 - Apply the principles of biblical theology taught in the class;

- Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of *missio dei* as found in the biblical witness, including appropriate biblical references. Be sure to demonstrate a clear contextual understanding of all texts that are discussed.
- Include rich footnoting of scholarly sources from the literature of Old and New Testament studies and missiology.
- After presenting your understanding of the biblical principles of mission, apply them to your current sense of God's unique calling on your life and what the Holy Spirit is leading you to do.

6. Final Exam

***Late work will be docked one-half letter grade per date unless previous permission has been granted by the professor.**

GRADING PROCEDURE

Class participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Research paper	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Students are advised to consult the excellent bibliography at the conclusion of Köstenberger and O'Brien for their research needs.