

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 530 Old Testament Theology

Roger D. Cotton
rcotton@agts.edu

Spring 2006

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the message, important themes, and key theological concepts 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, 2006*, 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 two 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 **Tuesday, Jan. 24**, a 3-5 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 **Tuesday, April 11**, on a theological theme running through the Old Testament (see A.).

For all Three Choices:

Your topic must be turned in for approval by Tuesday, Jan. 31. 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 the following **to qualify for an A grade**: NIDOTTE, *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, monographs, the best 3 commentaries on each of 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 **Tuesday, April 18**, 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, **Tuesday, April 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

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. "Why God is Not Mother." *Christianity Today*, 16 August 1993, 16-23.

Alexander, T. Desmond, and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Baker, D. L. *Two Testaments, One Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1976.

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

Beckwith, Roger T. and Martin J. Selman, eds. *Sacrifice in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

Beecher, Willis J. *The Prophets and the Promise*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1905.

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

Broyles, Craig C., ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide to Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Brown, Michael L. *Israel's Divine Healer*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.

_____. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

_____. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

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

Cotton, Roger D. "'Wonderful'-God's Name." In *Signs and Wonders in Ministry Today*, ed. Benny C. Aker and Gary B. McGee, 21-23. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1996.

_____. "Commentary on Leviticus." In *The Complete Biblical Library: Old Testament, Vol. 3, Study Bible, Leviticus and Numbers*, ed. Thoralf Gilbrant and Gregory A. Lint. Springfield, MO: World Library Press, 1995.

_____. "The Pentecostal Significance of Numbers 11," *The Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, 10 (October 2001):3-10.

_____. "A Biblical Theology of Leviticus Focusing on Leviticus 19." In *"Hear the Word of Yahweh" Essays in Honor of Horace D. Hummel*. St. Louis: Concordia, 2002.

_____. "Chapter 7: God Reveals Himself to His People." In *They Spoke From God: A Survey of The Old Testament*, ed. William C. Williams, 265-312. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2003.

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

Dumbrell, William J. *The Faith of Israel: Its Expression in the Books of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

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.

Fuller, Daniel P. *Gospel and Law: Contrast or Continuum*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1980.

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

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Grogan, G.W. "The Experience of Salvation in the Old Testament and the New Testament." *Vox Evangelica* 5 (1967): 4-26.

Hals, Ronald M. *Grace and Faith in the Old Testament*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1980.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Hasel, Gerhard D. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Hayes, John H., and Frederick C. Prussner. *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

Hildebrandt, W.H. *An Old Testament Theology of the Spirit of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

Horton, Stanley M. *What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1976.

House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Hubbard, Robert L., Jr., Robert K. Johnston, and Robert P. Meye, eds. *Studies in Old Testament Theology*. Dallas: Word, 1992.

Hummel, Horace D. *The Word Becoming Flesh*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1979.

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

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. "Leviticus 18:5 and Paul: Do This and You Shall Live (Eternally?)" *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 14 (1971):19-28.

_____. *Classical Evangelical Essays in Old Testament Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972.

_____. *The Old Testament in Contemporary Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1973.

_____. *Toward Old Testament Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983.

_____. *The Uses of the Old Testament in the New*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.

_____. *Toward Rediscovering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

_____. *The Messiah in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

_____. *The Christian and the "Old" Testament*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1998.

_____. *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament: A Guide for the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Kline, Meredith G. *Images of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.

Kohlenberger, John R., III, and James W. Swanson. *The Hebrew English Concordance To The Old Testament With The New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Longman, Tremper, III. *Making Sense of the Old Testament : Three Crucial Questions*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

_____, and Daniel Reid. *God is a Warrior*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Martens, Elmer A. *God's Design*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

McConville, J. G. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

Ollenburger, Ben C., Elmer A. Martens, and Gerhard F. Hasel, eds. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology: A Reader in Twentieth-Century Old Testament Theology, 1930-1990*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1992.

Payne, J. Barton. *The Theology of the Older Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1962.

Poythress, Vern Sheridan. *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses*. Brentwood, TN: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1991.

Ross, Allen P. *Holiness to the LORD: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longmen III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.

Snaith, Norman Henry. *The Distinctive Ideas of the Old Testament*. New York: Schocken Books, 1964.

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

Von Groningen, Gerard. *Messianic Revelation in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.

Van Gemeren, Willem A. *The Progress of Redemption*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

_____. ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Von Rad, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1963.

Watts, James Washington. *Old Testament Teaching*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967.

Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women, & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1979.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Walking in the Ways of the Lord: The Ethical Authority of the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

_____. *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.

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

Young, Edward Joseph. *The Study of the Old Testament Theology Today*. Westwood, NJ: F. H. Revell Co., 1950.

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

Zuck, Roy B., ed. *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., October 2005.