

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BTHM/MHTM 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 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 *Missio Dei* through both Old and New Testaments.
- Evaluate the assertion that *Missio 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 *Missio Dei*.
- Commit his or her life to the cause of God's mission.

COURSE OUTLINE

10/22: Housekeeping; Biblical theology as a discipline; Pentateuch

10/23: Pentateuch (cont'd); Judges/Ruth; Monarchy & Davidic Covenant

10/24: Wisdom Literature; OT wrap; Intertestamental Period

10/25: Gospels; Acts

10/26: Paul; General epistles; Revelation

REQUIRED READING

Glasser, Arthur F., et al. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

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.

METHODOLOGY

Course objectives will be met through:

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Consistent attendance.** Anticipated absences should be made known to the professor beforehand. Consult the AGTS catalog for seminary policy on the relation between excessive absenteeism and grade reduction.
2. **Completion of reading assignments.**
3. **Classroom participation** (discussion, questions, answers) where appropriate.
4. **Critical Interactive Reviews.** A 4-6 page critical interactive review will be required for each of the three required texts (Glasser, Kaiser, Köstenberger & O'Brien). Approximately one-third of each paper should be overview of content, while the remaining two-thirds should be critical interaction with the text, evaluating and sustaining said evaluation. *Due by week's end.*
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.

***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%
Interactive reviews	30%
Research paper	60%
Total	100%

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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