

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 530 Old Testament Theology

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Summer I 2009
Weekends in May
beginning the 8th
Fri 6-9, Sat 9-12, 1-5

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, 2009*, Springfield, MO: by AGTS.

Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. *The Promise-Plan of God: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Waltke, Bruce K. with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: A Canonical and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

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, sovereignty and responsibility, 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 5 hours. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. Be prepared for each class to discuss any reading assignments; it is recommended to read in the textbooks and handouts the material related to the topics announced for each class.
2. TURN IN at **the FIRST CLASS Friday, May 8**, a 3-5 page typed essay on what it means to do Old Testament Theology (see attached instructions) based on the following readings:
 - A. Read Waltke's Preface and Part One.
 - B. Read Kaiser's Preface and Introduction
 - C. Check table of contents of theologies on reserve.
3. Read the rest of the Kaiser textbook Part 1 on the Old Testament by the end of the course. Read the professor's handouts for the course corresponding to the topic of the day and finishing by the end of the course.

The following is the required reading in the Waltke textbook by the end of the course:

Read the Preface and Chapters **1-17**. This is generally not to be skimmed but neither is it to be labored over for all the details. This is Waltke's richest material but still it often contains too much detailed exposition. Include a glance at his footnotes to see interesting discussions and important sources.

Read p. **560** on Land in the New Testament.

Read pp. **660-661** on the Davidic Covenant.

Overview the following chapters looking for Waltke's categories/topics, key concepts, definitions, propositions, and conclusions: **19, 24, 29, 30, 32, 33**.

Also, you must read what Waltke says about the individual OT book you pick for assignment #5 in the syllabus on the theological message and themes of a book and anything related to your theme project.

Make note of important questions you have about what Waltke says and raise them in class or at least by e-mail.

4. 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 on reserve that relate to the book of the OT you chose:

Child's Introduction to the Old Testament, Waltke's An Old Testament Theology, 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 **Friday, May 15**, 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 in the handouts but expound the message a little more. It is recommended that the book relate to the theme project.

5. TURN IN summary essay over the course mainly relating the Sinai covenant, Israel, and the law to the Christian, on **Friday, May 22**.
6. Choose one of the following to present a biblical-theological, thematic/topical study:
 - 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 organized topically.)
OR
 - B. Present in class for up to 20 minutes on a day to be scheduled during the last week of the course 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.
OR
 - C. Turn in a 9-12 page paper on **Thursday, May 28**, on a theological theme running through the Old Testament (see A.).

For all Three Choices:

Your topic must be turned in for approval by Monday, May 11. All three choices require a list of all sources consulted (not just cited) and articles in books must follow 17.1.8 in

Turabian 7th 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 commentaries on each of the key passages, key journal articles, and O. T. theologies including: Davidson, Eichrodt, Payne, Von Rad, Martens, Dyrness, Kaiser, and Waltke (see Bibliography and library reserve books, also Checklist of Resources). Do your own analysis first before reading the scholars' opinions. It should take into account any progressive revelation. Put your name, the course, and the date at the top of the first page of the outline; you do not need a title page unless it is over 4 pages.

7. Late work may be penalized 1 point per day late using a 12 point scale (12 = A, 1 = F).

WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED TO ROGER COTTON

All work for me must be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins and the right margin NOT justified, and be proof-read. Your writing should demonstrate good, formal, clear, writing style (see handouts and Strunk and White or *Getting the Words Right*). The format should follow Turabian 7th edition. If you need to cite a source you may choose which one of the three citation methods in Turabian you prefer to use: foot notes, end notes, or parenthetical. For assignments with specific readings, no bibliography is needed unless you want the professor to know about additional reading you did. If you need to cite a source that was assigned, just put the last name in parentheses with the page number. The length may exceed the limit by a page or so. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date or the grade begins to drop (see above for late work). If you do not have an assignment finished when it is to be discussed in class you must leave the class during the discussion of the assignment. Put the following information at the top of the first page or on a title page: Name, assignment, course, my name, date. Do not put anything but the page numbers at the top of the other pages. No title page is needed for work under 4 pages. Do not use a cover, just staple it.

GRADING PROCEDURE

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| Reading assignments and class participation | 8% |
| Paper on doing OT Theology | 14% |
| 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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Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1971.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, March 2009.

Old Testament Theology
WRITING ASSIGNMENT
for Roger Cotton

Write 4-6 pages summarizing the principles of *what it means to do Old Testament theology* based on the Preface and Part 1 of the textbook by Waltke, along with the Preface and Introduction of Kaiser. Waltke's Preface is important for understanding his work. Then, in Part One, He writes many important things including great material on God's revelation in Scripture; however, this summary essay assignment will not get into all of that but is intended to focus on what this field is about, what the issues are, and how one goes about doing OT Theology. You are to put together your understanding of those things in order to understand what this course is about and what Waltke is doing in his book. Note that Waltke deals with most of the following points of the assignment in more than one place in these chapters. Therefore, collect his points on each question as you read through all the chapters.

1. Begin with your **definition** of Old Testament theology in your own words as a sub field of biblical theology in contrast with (but not in conflict with) systematic theology, in one sentence and then elaborate in another few sentences. You must be sure to tell how it differs from systematic theology. You should be consider Waltke's statements on what he believes it is, the goal and task of OT theology (such as on pp. 20, 50, 55, 63, et. al.), as well as the professor's view. However, you are not expected to restate theirs but say it the way you understand it and will teach others.
2. List what Waltke brought out as the **major issues or broad questions** about the study of OT theology that must be dealt with when deciding how to derive theology from the Old Testament books. These are the foundational questions about the OT, which conservative Bible believers often answer differently from liberal scholars because they differ over the first big question of the divine origin and thus authority and trustworthiness of the Scriptures. That presupposition is the major divider between conservatives and liberals and affects everything else they think about the text and do with it. This assignment assumes basic agreement with Waltke on this and is not intended to discuss it. (The student is welcome to discuss any questions about the divine nature of the OT with the professor.) This assignment is to move on to the rest of the major questions that one must deal with concerning deriving theology from the 39 books of the Old Testament for Christians. This is not about specific questions of interpreting certain OT texts. One of the big issues, for example, which you must include is first summed up in Waltke's statement on page 12 that "A theology of the OT must account for both the . . . and the" Another two issues are Waltke's first and fourth implications of one's belief in revelation/inspiration. Some others include the 3 important challenges in the field that Waltke explains in Chapter 2.
3. Next, list, in a few broad categories the **major approaches** scholars have taken to covering

the subject—the *basic kinds of ways they have organized the coverage of the OT material* and written Old Testament theology books. Look at the table of contents of the OT theologies on reserve to see how they are organized: Davidson, Eichrodt, Von Rad, Payne, Martens and House. Add a few brief comments on what you think about **Kaiser's approach** and what he does in his book with his view of promise. Briefly describe it and give your opinion on it. Also, briefly summarize **Waltke's approach**. Be sure you consider what he says in the Introduction section of Chapter 6.

4. Finally, explain briefly **how one goes about** deriving theology from an OT passage or book. What are the major principles and categories of study that Waltke explains, especially in Chapters 3 (C), 4 and 5? Just summarize them; there is way to much detail in these chapters.

The assignment must be ready at the beginning of the assigned class or the grade begins to drop (see the syllabus). Because we will be discussing it that day, if you have not finished writing you may not sit through the discussion so that you may still turn it in late for most of the credit. However, you should come into the class after we are done discussing it.