

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 529 Foundations of Biblical Theology

Benny C. Aker
2001

Fall

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. discern between the nature of biblical and systematic theology;
2. know the issues in biblical theology and possible Pentecostal responses;
3. work in other biblical theology courses with greater efficiency;
4. apply insights gained from biblical theology to the interpretation of the Scriptures;
5. appreciate more fully the rich and variegated tapestry of biblical revelation;
6. reflect an awareness of the basic content of biblical theology.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

:

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

Carson, D.A., et. al., editors. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Recommended:

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

*Ollenburger, B. C., E. A. Martens, and G. F. Hasel. The Flowering of Old Testament Theology. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1992.

*Woodbridge, J. D., and T. McComiskey. Doing Theology in Today's World. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

*** on reserve in library**

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction (*The General Nature of Theology* - This section seeks a better understanding of theology in general as it is done in various systems and cultures of the world and to distinguish between systematic theology and biblical theology, noting how one relates to the other. The following approaches are provided for students to explore the variety that exists:

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|---|---|
| 1. Reformed: Baptist/Presbyterian/Lutheran; | 6. Black African (Evangelical) |
| 2. Roman Catholic | 7. Asian (Chinese, Korean, or Japanese) (Evangelical) |
| 3. Greek Orthodox | 8. Pentecostal (AG, Church of God, Four Square) |
| 4. Methodist | |
| 5. Liberation theology (Black or Hispanic) | |

Students should also begin to think about how they may construct theologies for their vocations in light of contemporary needs, challenges and church expectations.

Student's should also begin reading the textbooks

1) *Preaching the Whole Bible as Scripture*. We will discuss it beginning with point I below.

2) Also, *NDBT* pp. 104 -12 should be read to go along with the above book)

3) Read the following article on reserve in the library: Stanley J. Grenz, "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.

We will discuss all of the above reading over this period of time, concluding with the class discussion introducing "Biblical Theology" below.

Topics:

What is theology? (Read *NDBT* [textbook] pp.89-104)

What does it do?

How is it done? (Read *NDBT* [textbok], pp.52-72)

Biblical Theology (Read *NDBT* [textbook] pp.3-27; pp. 27-51)

Issues (Read *NDBT*, pp. 64-89)

(This section surveys the various issues relating to a theological understanding of Scripture, notes the reasons for the various issues, and attempts to respond to them in light of biblical revelation. The following Old Testament theologians are provided so the student may see how and why these issues emerge.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Samuel L. Terrien | 5. Theodorus C. Vriezen |
| 2. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. | 6. Gerhard vonRad |
| 3. Elmer A. Martens | 7. Walther Eichrodt |
| 4. John L. McKenzie | 8. Brevard Childs |

The following New Testament theologians are provided so the student may see how and why these issues emerge.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Leon Morris | 5. George E. Ladd |
| 2. Leonhard Goppelt | 6. Werner Georg Kümmel |
| 3. Hans Conzelmann | 7. Alan Richardson |
| 4. Donald Guthrie | 8. Charles C. Ryrie) |

Topics:

Old Testament Issues -

- A. The issue of a center
- B. The issue of unity and diversity
- C. The issue of method

New Testament Issues -

- A. The issue of a center
- B. The issue of unity and diversity
- C. The issue of method
- D. The issue of a starting point
- E. The issue of a developmental theology

Biblical Theology Issues -

- A. The issue of continuity and discontinuity
- B. The place of the Old Testament in biblical theology
- C. Prescription versus description
- D. Integration versus Harmonization

Comprehensive Exam

Doing Biblical Theology (We will apply here an appropriate method and deal with the issues listed above. The rest of *NDBT* should be used to prepare for the classes and for the paper. For instance, under the topic of “salvation,” the term itself as well as other connected terms, i.e., “forgiveness,” in each OT or NT book should be consulted.)

Topics

:

- A. Salvation
 - In the Old Testament
 - Torah
 - Historical Books
 - Writings
 - Prophets
 - In the New Testament
 - Gospels
 - Epistles

- B. Temple
 - In the Old Testament
 - Torah
 - Historical Books
 - Prophets
 - In the New Testament
 - Gospels
 - Paul
 - Writer to the Hebrews

Research Paper Due November 15, 2001, by 5:00PM in professor's or faculty Secretary's office.

Comprehensive Unit Two Examination

METHODOLOGY

1. Reading of textbooks and other related material. Class preparation.
2. Lectures.
3. Class discussion/participation in class.
4. Examinations.

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- Bright, John. *The Authority of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1967; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.
- Brown, Robert McAfee. *Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third-World Eyes*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984.
- 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. *Biblical Interpretation and the Church: The Problem of Contextualization*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984.
- _____. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Carson, D. A., and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- *Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
- Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1977.
- Collins, R. F. *Models of Theological Reflection*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1984.
- Conn, H. M. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- 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, D.S. at el. *A Complete Foundation for Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1994.
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1974.
- Dulles, A. *The Craft of Theology*. New York: Crossroad, 1992.

- Dumbrell, William A. *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.
- Elbert, Paul, ed. *Essays on Apostolic Themes*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1985.
- Ervin, Howard M. *Conversion - Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.
- Fleming, C. E. *Contextualization of Theology*. Pasadena: William Carey, 1980.
- Fuller, Daniel P. *Gospel and Law: Contrast or Continuum*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1980.
- *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.
- *Gasque, W. Ward, and William Sanford LeSor. *Scripture, Tradition and Interpretation*. ICBI Foundation, series 6, 1983.
- *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.
- Hals, Ronald M. *Grace and Faith in the Old Testament*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1980.
- Hanson, Paul D. The *Diversity of Scripture: A Theological Interpretation*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

- Harrison, R. K., B. K. Waltke, D. Guthrie, and G. D. Fee. *Biblical Criticism: Historical, Literary, and Textual*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- *Hasel, Gerhard F. *New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
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- *Hayes, John H., and Frederick C. Prussener. *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
- Hauerwas, S., and L. G. Jones. *Why Narrative? Readings in Narrative Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- *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.
- Kline, Meredith G. *Images of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.
- Ladd, G. E. *The New Testament and Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1967.
- *_____. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Malina, B. J. *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.
- Marshall, I. Howard, ed. *New Testament Interpretation: Essay on Principles and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.
- McGee, Gary B., ed. *Initial Evidence*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Nelson, Richard D. *Raising Up a Faithful Priest: Community and Priesthood in Biblical Theology*. 1st ed. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1993.
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Soulen, Richard N. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*. 2nd ed. Revised and Augmented. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

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Swartley, Willard M. *Israel's Scripture Traditions and the Synoptic Gospels: Story Shaping, Story*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

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Vanderlip, D. George. *Christianity According to John*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975.

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

Wenham, John W. *Christ and the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1972.

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*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.

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

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Benny C. Aker, Ph.D., July, 2001.