

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows the diachronic methodology of Biblical Theology to establish a foundation from throughout Scripture for a theology of missions. This theology centers on God's mission (*missio Dei*) to bless all nations. Attention is given to the importance of both church and individual response to *missio Dei*. Theological and historical factors are considered with emphasis upon the power of the Holy Spirit being outpoured upon the worldwide church as God's means for accomplishing His mission.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. State the mission of God as revealed diachronically throughout both Old and New Testaments, demonstrating the relationship of each successive grouping of biblical books to the mission of God.
2. Relate the New Testament missions textual themes to their Old Testament antecedents.
3. Explain major historical and present challenges to *missio Dei*.
4. Construct a meaningful statement of church participation in *missio Dei*.
5. State the relationship between one's own calling to ministry and the mission of God.
6. Present a biblical rationale for linking the progress of the worldwide expansion of the church with the end of the age.
7. Choose to approach missions with the objective of participation in fulfilling the mission of God.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Kaiser, Walter C., *The Christian and the "Old" Testament*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1998.

Van Engen, Charles E., *God's Missionary People*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Third edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1999.

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

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Newbiggen, Lesslie. *The Open Secret*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Course Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Historical development of the concept of *Biblical Theology*
 - B. The *diachronic approach* with its analogy of *antecedent Scripture*
- II. *Missio Dei* and the *Kingdom of God* as themes of *Biblical Theology*
 - A. In the Pentateuch: God's Announces His Mission
 - B. In the Historical Books: God's Mission as *Kingdom*
 - C. In the Poetical Books (Wisdom Literature): The *Fear of the Lord* as the mark of the Kingdom
 - D. In the Prophets: *Covenant Lawsuit* and *missio Dei*
 - E. In the Gospels: The mission of Christ and the *transferred apostolate*
 - F. In Acts: The mission of the church
 - G. In the epistles: God's missionary people; completing the mission
 - H. In Revelation: Triumph of the Kingdom
- III. Choosing a life of commitment to *missio Dei*
 - A. Discipling the nations: Reaching the unreached, church planting, training, mobilizing the church to accomplish the mission of God
 - B. Responding to human need
 - C. Counting the cost: Living intentionally within a community of faith

METHODOLOGY

The methodology will be primarily an interactive lecture format (instructor and guest lecturers). Students will be actively involved in both class discussion and smaller breakout groups. The research component of the class requirements will be emphasized with a view toward the application of research to student involvement in the mission of God.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance is expected at all class sessions.
2. A four (4) page quality interaction report is to be written to each of the following
 - Missio Dei* and the *Kingdom of God* as key thoughts in the Old Testament. Due February 22
 - Missio Dei* and the *Kingdom of God* as key thoughts in the New Testament. Due March 22

3. A research paper of 14-18 pages is due on Friday, April 5 and will be accepted without penalty until 5:00 p.m. Papers will be penalized 5% for every business day late beginning Monday, April 8. The papers are to be written on the topic *Missio Dei* and the *Kingdom of God* as the foundations to *Reaching, Planting, Training, and Touching*. This paper is to be divided into three parts as follows:
 - Part 1: The biblical foundation for the mission of God.
In this section, the student is to build upon the earlier course assignments in order to formulate a biblical statement of God's mission. The length of Part 1 is to be 6-8 pages.
 - Part 2: Mission assessment
In this section, the student is to assess "the four pillars" with a view toward determining the significance of each within the overall plan of the mission of God. The length of Part 2 is to be 4-5 pages.
 - Part 3: Group and personal response.
In this section, the student is to begin by stating an appropriate group response to the mission of God. This group may be a local or national church or a specific ministry with which the student identifies or hopes to identify. The paper will conclude with a brief personal statement of response to the *mission of God*. The length of Part 3 is to be 4-5 pages.
4. Standard Turabian form is expected for all papers.
5. A final examination will be conducted according to the time set by the Dean.

GRADING

Attendance and class participation	10%
Two class assignments	30%
Term Paper	30%
Final Examination	30%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boer, Harry R., *Pentecost and Missions*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1961.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991.
- Bright, John. *The Kingdom of God*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1953.
- Briscoe, Jill. *Jonah and the Worm*. Memphis: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983.
- Culver, Robert Duncan. *A Greater Commission: A Theology for World Missions*. Chicago: Moody, 1984.
- Dempster, Murray A., Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Petersen (eds.). *Called and*

Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective. Peabody, MA: 1991.

_____. *The Globalization of Pentecostalism.* Irvine: Regnum, 1999.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: A Guide for Home and Foreign Missions.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986.

_____. *Today's Choices for Tomorrow's Mission.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Hodges, Melvin. *The Indigenous Church.* Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1976.

_____. *A Theology of the Church and Its Mission: A Pentecostal Perspective.* Springfield: GPH, 1977.

Johnstone, Patrick, ed. *Operation World.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001 rev. ed.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.

Kane, J. Herbert. *A Concise History of the Christian World Mission.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1982.

Ladd, George Eldon. *The Gospel of the Kingdom.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.

Lane, Denis. *Tuning God's New Instruments: A Handbook for Missions from the Two-Thirds World.* Singapore: World Evangelical Fellowship, 1990.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions,* rev. ed. London: Penguin Books, 1990.

Peters, George. *A Biblical Theology of Missions.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.

Richardson, Don. *Eternity in Their Hearts.* Venture, CA: Regal Books, 1981.

Shenk, David W. *God's Call to Mission.* Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1994.

Steyne, Philip M., *In Step With the God of the Nations.* Houston: Touch Publications, 1992.

Van Engen, Charles E. *Good News of the Kingdom.* Mary Knoll: Orbis Books, 1993.

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

A definitive text on Old Testament theology highly supportive of the diachronic methodology of Biblical theology used in this course.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by John V. York, December 2001