

ID5000 Scripture and Interpretation

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

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SYLLABUS

Catalog Course Description:

A survey of biblical theology [BT], including methodological issues of debate during the last two centuries. Emphasis on the Bible's story-line examining how the books and corpora of the Bible contribute to the unfolding history of redemption. Attention also given to themes of temple, sacrifice, priest, rest, kingship, exile, idolatry, promise, messiah, wisdom, and other biblical themes. Finally, the relationship of biblical theology with other disciplines, especially exegesis and systematic theology [ST], is considered. Required for all MA in CM, MA in CP, and MDiv students. MDiv students should register during their first year. *Three hours.*

Learning Outcomes:

1. At the completion of this course the student will know key biblical texts and their bearing on the biblical motifs and themes under discussion.
2. At the completion of this course the student will be familiar with some of the names, insights and arguments of important biblical theologians.
3. At the completion of this course the student will be able to define key biblical theological terms and make key biblical theological distinctions.
4. At the completion of this course the student will be able to trace for themselves a biblical theme from Genesis to Revelation using a sound methodology and hermeneutic.
5. At the completion of this course the student will have deepened in their ability to comprehend and apply biblical theological ideas, distinctions and arguments to life in the church and the world.

Course Format:

Sessions will be conducted in lecture and workshop format.

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to attend classes and fulfill reading and writing assignments.

Course Requirements:

A. Required Reading:

T. D. Alexander and Brian S. Rosner, ed., *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000. Part One and those themes found in Part Three that are also lectured on (e.g. kingdom).

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2002.

B. Papers:

Short Paper (5 pages) Write a book review of Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*.

Long Paper (10 pages) Choose one of the following biblical-theological themes:

- Exodus
- Judgment
- Mission

and trace it out crisply and succinctly in a paper of 10 pages, double-spaced, and show how the theme fits into God's big project..

Course Grades:

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Short Paper (30%) Due: September 20

Long Paper (70%) Due: Due September 20

Grading Scale. A (95-100%); A- (90-94%); B+ (88-89%); B (82-87%); B- (80-81%); C+ (78-79%); C (72-76%); C- (70-71%); D+ (68-69%); D (62-67%); D- (60-61%); F (0-59%).

NB. Lateness Policy: without an extension a paper a day late goes down a level (e.g. A becomes A-), if two days late down a grade (e.g. A becomes B), if three to seven days late goes down to C maximum (A becomes C), over seven days late it is a **FAIL**.

Course Outline:

1. **Prolegomena**
2. **Approaches to BT: Past & Present**
3. **Interpreting the Scriptures:**
 - A. **Unfolding the Big Story**
 - B. **Unfolding the Theme of Kingdom**
 - C. **Unfolding the Themes of Promise and Covenant**
 - D. **Unfolding the Themes of Exile & Rest**
 - E. **Unfolding the Themes of Messiah & Incarnation**
 - F. **Unfolding the Theme of Sacrifice**
 - G. **Unfolding the Theme of God's People**
 - H. **Unfolding the Theme of God's Way**
 - I. **Unfolding the Theme of Worship**
4. **BT & ST: How Do They Relate?**
5. **Some Applications**
 - A. **Bible study**
 - B. **Preaching**

C. Teaching

D. Worldview Building

6. Summation

NB. Course outline may change.

PAPER WRITING GUIDELINES:

- Make sure that you answer the question and/or address the topic. Do not change the topic or question. Reproduce the exact topic and/or question on your title page. **For example, ‘Exodus: Trace out crisply and succinctly this biblical-theological theme.’** Do not go over or under the page limit by more than 10%.

NB. The *NDBT* articles in Part Two on The Book of Exodus and Part Three on ‘Exodus’ will be resources and their bibliographies too.

- Make sure that you have an introduction, a body of argument and a conclusion as well as a bibliography.
- Make sure that you use footnotes or endnotes.
- Make sure that you use the T.E.D.S. style. Make sure that your paper is typed, double-spaced and 12 font.
- Make sure that you have at least six books or articles on your bibliography, unless the exercise is a book review. Good bibliographies will be rewarded.

- Apart from the set-texts consult any recent monographs of relevance to the topic and/or question. Do a library search.
- Also consult recent volumes of journals such as *Scottish Journal of Theology*, *Evangelical Quarterly*, *Themelios*, *Trinity Journal* and *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* for any articles of relevance to the topic and/or question

Bibliography:

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Goheen, Michael W. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2004.

(www.biblicaltheology.ca)

Cole, Graham A. 'Exodus 34 & the Doctrine of God: The Importance of Biblical Theology to Evangelical Systematic Theology' *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* (Vol. 12, No. 5, Fall 2008).

_____ 'God.' Kevin J. Vanhoozer (Ed.) *The Dictionary of the Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 2005.

Dumbrell, William J. *The Search For Order: Biblical Eschatology In Focus*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2001.

Gibson, Richard (Ed.), *Interpreting God's Plan: Biblical theology And The Pastor*. UK: Paternoster, 1998.

Hafemann, Scott J. (Ed.). *Biblical Theology: Retrospect & Prospect*. Leicester/Downers Grove: IVP/Apollos: 2002.

Hafemann, Scot J. and House, Paul R. (Eds.). *Central Themes in Biblical Theology: Mapping unity in diversity*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic: 2007.

Hamilton, James, 'The Glory Of God In Salvation Through Judgment The Centre Of Biblical Theology?' *Tyndale Bulletin* 57.1 (2006).

Horton, Michael. *God Of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology*. Grand Rapids. Baker: 2006.

Lints, Richard. *The Fabric of Theology: A Prolegomenon to Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1993. (Part III).

Niehaus, Jeffrey J. *Ancient Near Eastern Themes In Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 2008.

Scobie, Charles H. H. *The Ways Of Our God: An Approach to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans 2003.

The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Summer 2006). This whole edition is focused on BT with contributors such as D. A. Carson, Robert Yarbrough, Graeme Goldsworthy etc.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. (Ed.). *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*.
London/Grand Rapids, Michigan: SPCK/Baker Academic, 2005. (DFTIOTB)

Note: Use the syllabus to read ahead by e.g. reading up on a theme before we get to it such as 'promise' or 'exile' in NDBT. The same can be done with the DFTIOTB. Since this a graduate school I expect you to show self-initiative.

