

OT/NT 795 Biblical Theology Seminar
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Jacksonville
Spring 2019

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February 15-16
March 15-16
April 12-13

Biblical theology engages the Old and New Testaments as a unified whole to understand the unfolding revelation of the person of God and his redemptive purposes in history. Despite the diversity of the corpus across multiple authors, literary genres, historical contexts, and three different languages, the discipline proceeds from the view that the 66 books of the canon form a coherent whole, at the center of which stands Jesus Christ, of whom all of Scripture testifies (John 5:39). The task of biblical theology is to articulate biblical revelation from the beginning of the creation in Genesis to the consummation of all human history in Revelation.

In this course, we will follow redemptive history through the integrating theme of *Yahweh's Priestly Kingdom*. From Eden to the New Jerusalem, we will explore the priestly calling of humanity created in God's image, the desecration of that image and subjection of creation to decay, the Lord's voluntary binding of himself to his people in covenant, and the offering of his beloved Son as the ultimate atoning sacrifice to redeem a people made holy and a kingdom of priests (Revelation 5:10).

Course Objectives

1. Articulate the theological unity of the Old and New Testaments in the unfolding revelation of salvation history by following an integrating theological theme from creation to consummation.
2. Formulate one's own biblical theological framework in the language of Scripture through the writing of a research paper which integrates and synthesizes historical and exegetical research.
3. Grow in confidence in preaching and teaching within a biblical-theological framework.

Course Textbooks

Daniel I. Block, *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship* (Baker Academic, 2016). ISBN 978-0801098567

A biblical theology of worship developed thematically through topics emerging from the text and applied to the practice of Christian worship today.

Michael W. Goheen, *Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story* (Baker Academic, 2011). ISBN 978-0801031410

A biblical theology of the missional purposes of God in the world through his redeemed, worshipping community in the Old and New Testaments.

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Eerdmans, 2000). [Selections] ISBN 978-0802847300

A book on how to preach the whole counsel of Scripture out of a biblical-theological framework that emphasizes the unity of the testaments around the person of Christ.

Course Requirements

We will trace the theological theme of *Yahweh's Priestly Kingdom* from Genesis to Revelation, according to the major redemptive movements of canonical history. Class participation is essential for the seminar format of this course. Students should come to class prepared to thoughtfully interact over the assigned passages by noting important concepts, their own questions and observations, and be ready to share their reflections on the course readings. The preparation for each of our three weekends together is as follows:

Session 1 – February 15-16

Readings: In Goldsworthy: *What is Biblical Theology? Was Jesus a Biblical Theologian? What Kind of Unity Does the Bible Have?* Chapters 1–2 in Goheen. Chapters 1–3, 10–12 in Block.

Bible Reading: *Creation of a Redeemed, Missional, Priestly Kingdom*

Genesis 1-12, 22; Exodus; Leviticus 16, 21–26; Deuteronomy 12–20.

Translations:

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15	creation and call of humanity [בְּרֵאשִׁית / עֲבָדָה]
Genesis 2:18, 21-24	creation of wife and marriage [בְּרֵאשִׁית / עֲבָדָה]
Exodus 19:4-6	Israel's priestly calling [קְרוּאָה]
Numbers 6:22-27	priestly blessing [בְּרֵכָה]

Session 2 – March 15-16

Readings: Chapter 3 in Goheen. Chapters 4–5, 7–9 in Block.

Bible Reading: *Davidic Rule over Yahweh's Priestly Kingdom*

1 Chronicles 10–17, 21–22, 28–29; 2 Chronicles 1–11, 20, 29–36; Psalms 8, 22, 110, 132–136; Isaiah 53–54 & 60–62; Ezekiel 8–11 & 47–48; Nehemiah.

Translations:

2 Samuel 7:8-16	Davidic covenant [בְּיַת / הַסֵּדֶר]
Psalms 40:7-11 [MT]	missional covenant living [אֵין / הַכֵּן]
Isaiah 60:1-3	Israel's glorification [כְּבוֹד]
Nehemiah 9:1-3	priestly intercession [בְּרַעַל / אֲרַע]

Session 3 – April 12-13

Readings: Chapters 4–9 in Goheen. Chapters 6 & 13 in Block.

Bible Reading: *Consummation of the Priestly Kingdom*

Gospel of John, Hebrews, Revelation.

Translations:

John 1:14-18	Christ, the incarnate presence [σκηνώ / θεάομαι]
Romans 12:1-2	worship as living sacrifices [λατρεία]
Philippians 2:5-11	Christ's humiliation and exaltation [κενώ]
1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10	worship as a priestly kingdom [ἱεράτευμα / περιποιέω]

Student Presentations

Course Assessment

1. Reading Report (10%)

Report on the percentage of readings completed, inclusive of books, assigned Bible passages, and posted articles. You have the option of *listening* to all or part of the assigned Bible reading. Avoid paraphrases such as *The Message* and *The Living Bible*. Your reading report will include pages read on the topic of your biblical theology paper. See attached.

Due: [May 13, 2019](#).*

2. Translations (20%)

Translate the select passages above. Include notes on important words and concepts as well as your own questions and reflections. These may be in note form but should reflect thoughtful interaction with the passages in preparation for our focused class discussion.

Due: [Fridays on February 15, March 15, and April 12, 2019.](#)

3. Presentation (20%)

On the final weekend, students will give a 15 minute mini-lecture on the topic of their research paper. This is meant to be a formal and *complete* presentation of your research in a seminar setting. Please include a clear, single-sentence thesis statement, outline of your key passages, and conclusions touching on the implications of your chosen biblical theological theme such as identity, community, ethics, worship, and mission of the church. You are encouraged to use PowerPoint slides, handouts, etc., as desired.

Due: [April 12-13, 2019.](#)

4. Biblical Theology Paper (50%)

The paper will require students to trace a biblical theological theme of their choice as it develops throughout the Old and New Testaments. As is fitting for a capstone class, your paper is to be developed with exegetical depth using key scriptural passages in both Hebrew and Greek. The theme must be developed with equal weight and care throughout the major portions of Scripture— Pentateuch, Historical Books, Prophets, Psalms/Wisdom, Gospels, Epistles, and Revelation. The concluding paragraph should reflect on what this biblical theological theme contributes to our understanding of the church's mission in such areas as identity, community, ethics, and worship.

Students are expected to critically interact with secondary literature, scholarly articles, and academic monographs on the specific topic. Papers should demonstrate clear thought, organization, and writing style. They should be 25 pages, 1.5 spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt. font. All sources are to be properly cited using SBL style: [SBL student manual](#).

Due: [May 13, 2019.*](#)

*** Students who are graduating must submit all their work by Friday, May 3, 2019.**

Please select one of the following paper topics for your paper:

- Kingdom of God
- Covenant and the People of God
- Mission of God

True and False Worship
Death and Resurrection
Divine Presence and Absence
Promise and Fulfillment
Creation and Re-Creation

Grading Scale

A - meeting with conspicuous excellence the demands of the course: accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination.

B - exceeding the minimum of satisfactory attainment and meeting certain aspects of the course with excellence.

C - attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner.

D - passing mark, yet indicating unsatisfactory control over the material.

F - course failure.

Class Administration

Attendance. Attendance and active class participation are required for all class sessions. According to seminary policy, a letter grade penalty will be assessed for an absence of more than 3 hours. Additional work may be assigned to compensate for loss of class time.

Extensions. Additional time, without penalty, will be granted only to those students who are able to document a serious illness or emergency. Additional time, with penalty, is available on a limited basis and normally subject to a third of a letter grade per weekday late. Students should consult the extension petition located in the Registration Office and on the website, for a detailed outline of the extension policy.

Internet Usage. Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet during class sessions. Checking email, surfing the web, etc., prohibit full participation and are distracting to other students. You are welcome to use the internet during class breaks.

Cell Phones. Please refrain from cell phone use (including texting) during class sessions. You are encouraged to use your cell phone during class breaks.

**OT/NT 795 Biblical Theology Seminar
Reading Report**

English Bible Readings:

Genesis 1-12, 22
Exodus
Leviticus 16, 21–26
Deuteronomy 12–20
1 Chronicles 10–17, 21–22, 28–29
2 Chronicles 1–11, 20, 29–36
Psalms 8, 22, 110, 132–136
Isaiah 53–54 & 60–62
Ezekiel 8–11 & 47–48
Nehemiah
Gospel of John
Hebrews
Revelation

Course Readings:

Daniel I. Block, *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*.
Michael W. Goheen, *Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*.
Graeme Goldsworthy, “What is Biblical Theology?”, “Was Jesus a Biblical Theologian?”,
and “What kind of Unity Does the Bible Have?”.
200 pages in research for your biblical theology paper.

I, _____, have read _____% of the above assigned readings.

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