

Reformed Theological Seminary
Introduction to Biblical Theology
OT500 (2 Credit Hours)

Friday, Aug.31 – Saturday, Sept. 1
10:30AM-5PM

Friday, Dec. 7-Saturday, Dec. 8
10:30AM-5PM

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Introduction: Purpose of the Course

The primary goals of the course are for the student to become acquainted with the following: (1) some of the important literature in the field; (2) relationship of exegetical method to a method of doing biblical theology; (3) the theological relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament; (4) the integral relationship of biblical theology to the ideas of the kingdom, inaugurated eschatology and the new creation.

Course Description

This course constitutes an introduction to the discipline of biblical theology in an evangelical context. It is divided into two sections: (1) the history, definition, task, method, goal, and center of biblical theology; (2) selected themes in biblical theology (biblical theology in action).

This course is crucial in accomplishing many of the goals of a seminary education:

- (1) Biblical and Biblical – Theological Knowledge based on the Bible;
- (2) Academic skills and scholarly reflection;
- (3) Christian life and service in the academy or church (or para-church ministries) for God’s glory.

Various texts throughout the Old and New Testament form the basis for this semester's work.

Requirements for Credit

1. Reading. The student will be responsible for reading 872 pages in G. K. Beale, A New Testament Biblical Theology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011). The following chapters in this book should not be read: Chap. 4 (pp. 117-128); Chap. 11 (pp. 317-356); Chap. 12 (pp. 357-380); Chap. 16 (pp. 527-555); Chap. 21 (pp. 704-749); Chaps. 23-24 (pp. 775-834); Chaps. 26-27 (pp. 871-957).

In addition, the student is expected to read 41 pages in G. K. Beale, “The Eschatological Conception of New Testament Theology,” in

‘The Reader Must Understand’: Eschatology in the Bible and Theology, ed. K. E. Brower and M. W. Elliott (Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1997), 11-52.

Total amount of reading is 813pp.

Students will certify on a distributed reading sheet (included at the end of the syllabus) whether or not the assigned reading has been completed (three categories of completion will be given: [1] completed the reading; [2] scanned the reading, which means only half was read in one way or another, and only half credit will be given for such reading; [3] no reading done).

Knowledge of major ideas (not “picky” details) from the required reading is what is crucial. Such readings will help the student better to understand the lectures and, thus, better to complete the essay questions on the final exam. Therefore, it is advisable for students to take notes in their books as they read (underlining, summarizing comments in the margins, etc.) in order that they may have a way of reviewing the salient aspects of their reading in preparation for the exam. For the final exam, students will be accountable for all of the

required reading in the course, especially where the reading overlaps with the lectures.

2. Watching and listening to online videos by D. A. Carson:

(a) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 1: The God Who Made Everything” (<https://goo.gl/ZfIVCu>)

(b) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 2: The God Who Does Not Wipe Out Rebels” (<https://goo.gl/VYrI9N>)

(c) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 3: The God Who Writes His Own Agreements” (<https://goo.gl/yTctbf>)

(d) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 4: The God Who Legislates” (<https://goo.gl/Az0gBY>)

(e) D.A. Carson, “ReFrame Episode 5-Jesus the King” (<https://goo.gl/tkEM9H>)

(f) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 7: The God Who Becomes a Human Being” (<https://goo.gl/sOOabK>)

(g) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 8: The God Who Grants New Birth” (<https://goo.gl/QwJxwe>)

(h) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 9: The God Who Loves” (<https://goo.gl/w6c2qT>)

(i) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 10: The God Who Dies—and Lives Again” (<https://goo.gl/8g46NO>)

(j) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 11: The God Who Declares the Guilty Just”
(<https://goo.gl/jdGoRZ>)

(k) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 12: The God Who Gathers and Transforms His People”
(<https://goo.gl/VW0Yfh>)

(l) D.A. Carson, “The God Who is There Part 14: The God Who Triumphs” (<https://goo.gl/4rRH3u>)

3. The final exam, which will be cumulative for the entire semester and will cover all of the lecture material. **The final exam question will be distributed after the lectures are finished toward the end of the semester. At the time of the final exam, students may have a 400 word “cheat sheet” of notes and a Bible without any notes printed or handwritten, both of which may be used to complete the final exam question. The student has three hours to write the exam. The final exam may be taken at any time online during exam week and must be completed and submitted by midnight on Dec. 13. Students must sign a pledge that they have not cheated on the exam.**

4. The lectures of the instructor. The bulk of the class meetings will be given over to lectures by the professor on the material scheduled for the class session. It is expected, of course, that discussion and mutual interchange will take place in the course of the lecturing. Each student is expected to attend all lectures. *Students who have more than one unexcused absence will be penalized 2 points off the total grade.* **Presbytery meetings and all conferences (ETS/SBL, T4G, Twin Lakes, etc.) are unexcused.** Students should consult their calendar at the beginning of the semester and discuss any conflicts with the professor. Any additional unexcused absences will result in 2 more points, and so on. If you are sick or have a family emergency, you must email the professor asap.

It is required that students familiarize themselves with the English version of the scripture texts cited under each lecture topic in the proposed schedule. The scripture texts with an asterisk are ones the professor likely will be focusing upon.

Grading Percentages

Reading

10%

Carson Videos	5%
Final Exam	85%

- **Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is the seminary's grading scale. You may find it listed at the *RTS Catalog*, p.44.
- **Plagiarism:** Any cheating (quiz, exam, etc.) will result in a failure of the course.
- **In-Class Electronics Use-** Students are prohibited from using computers, phones, and tablets during class.

Note well: the Final Exam will be cumulative and cover all the lectures of the course.

****In addition to the above required and recommended books, the following sources are also highly recommended to supplement the lecture and required readings for the course:**

Books highly recommended are: T. D. Alexander and B. S. Rosner, editors, New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (Leicester: InterVarsity, 2000); G. K. Beale; "Did Jesus and His Followers Preach the Right Doctrine From the Wrong Texts? An Examination of the Presuppositions of the Apostles' Exegetical Method," Themelios 14 (1989), 89-96; idem., "The Old Testament Background of Reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5-7 and Its Bearing on the Literary Problem of 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1," New Testament Studies 35 (1989), 550-581. idem., Right Doctrine From Wrong Texts? Essays on the Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994); idem., The Book of Revelation (New International Greek Testament Commentary Series; Grand Rapids, USA/Cambridge, England: Eerdmans and Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998); idem., John's Use of the Old Testament in Revelation (Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 166:Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1999); idem., The Temple and the Church's Mission (Leicester: IVP, 2004), 5-402; W. J. Dumbrell, The End of the Beginning (Homebush West NSW, Australia: Lancer, 1985), 200 pp.; R. B. Gaffin, The Centrality of the Resurrection: A Study in Paul's Soteriology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978); idem., editor, Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1980); G. Goldsworthy,

According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible (Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1991), 318 pp.; M. J. Harris, Jesus as God (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992); G. Hasel, New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978), 9-220; J. P. Heil, "The Narrative Strategy and Pragmatics of the Temple Theme in Mark," Catholic Biblical Quarterly 59 (1997): 76-100; A. A. Hoekema, The Bible and the Future (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979), 3-75, 218-242; Seyoon Kim, The Origin of Paul's Gospel (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982), 1-335; G. E. Ladd, The Presence of the Future (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974); H. K. LaRondelle, The Israel of God in Prophecy (Berrien Springs: Andrews University Press, 1983), 1-210; I. H. Marshall, New Testament Theology (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity, 2004); L. Morris, The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972), 7-280; J. J. Niehaus, God at Sinai (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995); C. M. Pate, The End of the Age Has Come (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 5-236; * T. R. Schreiner, The Law and Its Fulfillment (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993); idem., Paul: Apostle of God's Glory in Christ (Downers Grove: IVP, 2001); idem., New Testament Theology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008); Frank Thielman, Paul and the Law (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994); idem., Theology of the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005); L. G. Tipton, & J. C. Waddington, editors,

Resurrection and Eschatology, Essays in Honor of Richard B. Gaffin (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2008); Geerhardus Vos, Biblical Theology (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948), 3-402; idem., “The Eschatological Aspect of the Pauline Conception of the Spirit,” in Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation, edited by Richard Gaffin (see the above for this book), 91-125; David Wenham, Paul (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995); N. T. Wright, The Climax of the Covenant (Augsburg/Fortress, 1991), 265 pp.; idem., The New Testament and the People of God (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992); idem., Jesus and the Victory of God (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996); R. W. Yarbrough, The Salvation Historical Fallacy? (Leiden: Deo, 2004).

I also recommend all of Meredith Kline’s works.

Other recommended books worthy of note are also the following:

G. R. Beasley-Murray, Jesus and the Kingdom of God (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986).

R. B. Gaffin, The Centrality of the Resurrection, A Study in Paul's Soteriology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978).

R. B. Gaffin, editor, Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation, The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1980).

D. Guthrie, New Testament Theology (Downers Grove: IVP, 1981).

M. Hengel, The Atonement (Phil.: Fortress, 1981).

-----, The Son of God (Phil.: Fortress, 1976).

A. Lincoln, Paradise Now and Not Yet (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ., 1981).

J. Piper, The Justification of God (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983).

H. Ridderbos, The Coming of the Kingdom (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1962).

-----, Paul, An Outline of His Theology (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975).

O. P. Robertson, "Is There a Distinctive Future for Ethnic Israel?" in Perspectives on Evangelical Theology, ed. by K. Kantzer and S. Gundry (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979), pp. 209-227.

G. Vos, The Pauline Eschatology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979).

B. B. Warfield, The Person and Work of Christ (Phil.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1950).

Students will certify on the distributed reading sheet below whether or not the assigned reading has been completed (three categories of completion will be given: [1] completed the reading; [2] scanned the reading, which means only half was read in one way or another, and only half credit will be given for such reading; [3] no reading done). Put the number representing your category in the box to the left.

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Required Reading checkoff List
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Name: _____

. Please mark the required readings with a number in the left-hand box corresponding to how much of the reading is completed (total amount of required reading is 813pp.): [1] completed the reading; [2] scanned the reading, i.e., only half was read in one way or another—half credit will be given for such reading; [3] no reading done. This checklist is to be handed in at the end of the semester.

- G. K. Beale, “The Eschatological Conception of New Testament Theology,” in ‘The Reader Must Understand’: Eschatology in the Bible and Theology, ed. K. E. Brower and M. W. Elliott (Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1997), 11-52.
- G. K. Beale, *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011). The following chapters in this book should not be read: Chap. 4 (pp. 117-128); Chap. 11 (pp. 317-356); Chap. 12 (pp 357-380); Chap. 21 (pp. 704-749); Chaps. 23-24 (pp. 775-834); Chaps. 26-27 (pp. 871-957).
- I have watched all twelve of the videos by D. A. Carson on Biblical Theology (if you have not watched twelve, put the number of videos that you have watched in the box)

Outline of Lecture Topics

The following represents in consecutive order the topics of the lecturing:

First Half of the Course: August 31-Sept. 1 (10:30-5:00PM)

1. Overview of the Course and Biblical Theology and Preaching

Issues Essential to Biblical Theology: E.G., What Is Biblical Theology? What Is the Grand Storyline of the Bible? What Is Typology? How does the OT Relate to the NT? What Presuppositions Are Important for Studying the OT in the NT?

2. Biblical Theology and Preaching

Issues Essential to Biblical Theology: E.G., What Is Biblical Theology? What Is the Grand Storyline of the Bible? What Is Typology? How does the OT Relate to the NT? What Presuppositions Are Important for Studying the OT in the NT?

3. Biblical Theology and Preaching

Issues Essential to Biblical Theology: E.G., What Is Biblical Theology? What Is the Grand Storyline of the Bible? What Is Typology? How does the OT Relate to the NT? What Presuppositions Are Important for Studying the OT in the NT?

4. Inaugurated eschatology as the substratum from which O.T. and N.T. theology arises: a survey of eschatological language in the N.T.

Focus texts: *Gen. 49:1; *Num. 24:14; *Isa. 2:2; *65:17; *66:22; Dan. 2:28-29, 45; 8:19; *Acts 2:17; *Heb 1:2; 9:26; *1 Jn. 2:18; Jude 18; James 5:3, 8-9; *1 Pet. 1:20.

5. Inaugurated eschatology as the substratum from which O.T. and N.T. theology arises: a survey of eschatological language in the N.T. (continued).

Focus texts: *1 Cor. 10:11; *Gal. 4:4; *Eph. 1:10; *1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1.

6. Inaugurated eschatology as the substratum from which N.T. theology arises: a survey of eschatological language in the N.T. (continued).

Focus texts: *1 Cor. 10:11; *Gal. 4:4; *Eph. 1:10; *1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1.

7. The “already and not yet” latter-day tribulation: the eschatological character of suffering and trial (continued).

Focus texts: *Col. 1:24; *Eph. 5:18; *6:1-19; *2 Thess. 2:3-10.

8. The expanding “already and not yet” eschatological temple: the Old Testament roots and redemptive-historical symbolism

Focus texts: *Gen. 1:26-28; 2:1-3:24 (translate *Gen. 2:15); Gen. 28:10-22; 1 Chron. 21; Jer. 3:15-18; Ezek. 37:24-28; *Isa. 2:1-4; Dan. 2:31-45.

9. The expanding "already and not yet" eschatological temple: the Old Testament roots and redemptive-historical symbolism (continued)

Focus texts: Jeremiah 3:15-18; Ezekiel 37:24-28; *Isaiah 2:1-4; Daniel 2:31-45.

10. The expanding "already and not yet" eschatological temple: the Old Testament roots and redemptive-historical symbolism (continued)

Focus texts: *Num. 24:5-9; Ezek. 31:3-16; Ezek. 17:22-23; Ezek. 19:10-14; Isa. 54:1-12.

11. The expanding "already and not yet" eschatological temple: the Old Testament roots in relation to the New Testament (continued)

Focus texts: Matthew 21:12-46; 27:39-56; *Mark 14:58; 15:33-39; *John 2:13-22; *7:37-39; 1 Cor. 3:4-17; *2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; *Eph. 2:10-21; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 3:13-15; *2 Thess. 2:1-12

12. The expanding "already and not yet" eschatological temple: the Old Testament roots in relation to the New Testament (continued)

Focus texts: Acts 2:1-21; *4:10-12; 7:42-60; *15:14-21; Heb. 8:1-5; 9:1-12, 23-25; 10:19-21;

12:25-29; *Rev. 1:13; *3:12; *11:1-4; 21:1-22:5
(translate *Rev. 21:1-3, 22 and *Rev. 22:1-2).

Second Half of the Course: Dec. 7-8 (10:30-5:00PM)

13. The inaugurated kingdom in Jesus' teaching in the light of the Old Testament themes of new creation, the Exodus, and the restoration promises

Focus texts: Matt. 3:1-17; *4:1-11

14. The inaugurated kingdom in Jesus' teaching in the light of the Old Testament themes of new creation, the Exodus, and the restoration promises
(continued).

Focus texts: Matt. 10:1-15; Lk. 10:1-20;
*Matt. 11:1-10; Daniel 2:28-45; Matt. 13:1-52
(esp. *13:10-15); Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 2; Isa.
53; *Mk. 8:38; *14:61-62; Matt. 16:13-17; *Jn.
1:49-51; *3:14-18; *5:25-27; *Rev. 1:13-14 and
*2:18.

15. Christ's Damascus Road resurrection appearance as a Pauline eschatological framework of thought (cf. Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16; 26:9-20).

Focus text: *Acts 26:12-18.

17. Christ's Damascus Road resurrection appearance as a Pauline eschatological framework of thought (continued)

18. Evidence in Pauline literature of the Damascus Road resurrection Christophany as an eschatological framework of thought.

Focus texts: *2 Cor. 4:3-6; *Rom. 10:2-5; *Eph. 3:1-13.

19. The eschatological character of Paul's christology and anthropology (Christ as Son of God, Image of God, Last Adam, Glorified One; believers become adopted sons in God's image, New Men, glorified ones through Christ's resurrection) / The image of God in Genesis and Paul (cf. also John and Hebrews).

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Focus text: *2 Cor. 4:3-6.

20. The eschatological character of Paul's anthropology in relation to his view of reconciliation and new creation.

Focus texts: *2 Cor. 5:14-6:2.

21. The eschatological character of reconciliation and Paul's view of the Law as new creation themes.

Focus texts: *Eph. 2:10-18.

22. The eschatological character of reconciliation and sanctification as new creation themes; the relationship between the imperative and the indicative in Paul.

Focus texts: *Col. 1:15-22; Rom. 5:1-15; Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 6:11-17; *Rev. 1:5 and *3:14.

23. The eschatological character of the Church: the end-time regathering of the true Israel.

Focus texts: *Rom. 9:25-26 (quoting Hos. 2:23 & 1:10); Titus 2:14 (alluding to Exod. 19:5-6); *Gal. 3:26-29; 4:26-31; *6:15-16; *Rom. 2:25-29; *9:6.

24. The eschatological character of the Spirit in Acts/ The Spirit as the link between eschatology and apocalyptic in Paul.

Focus texts: Daniel 2:28-45; Eph. 1-3 (esp. *3:1-5); Acts 2:14-21

25. A Biblical Theology of Mystery

Focus texts: Daniel 2:28-45; Eph. 1-3 (esp. *3:1-10).

****Some of the topics listed in this proposed schedule may be expanded or abbreviated according to the needs and development of the course throughout the semester.