Reformed Theological Seminary

Introduction to Biblical Theology

ON6200 (2 Credit Hours)

Fall 2020

Room DC1

Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Dr. Benjamin Gladd

Office: Biblical Studies Dept.

Phone: 601-923-1694

Email: [bgladd@rts.edu](mailto:bgladd@rts.edu)

TA: Adam Kowalczyk (adam.c.kowalczyk@gmail.com)

I. 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).

II. Texts

* English Bible with cross references (NIV, ESV, etc.).
* Alexander, T. Desmond *From Eden to the New Jerusalem* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009).
* Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, (IVP, 2000).
* Gladd, Benjamin L. *From Adam and Israel to the Church: A Biblical Theology of the People of God* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2019).

III. Course Requirements

* **Exam**- One exam will be given at the end of the semester. Questions will largely cover the lectures.
* **Attendance**- Each student is expected to attend all lectures. *Students who have more than one unexcused absences 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.
* **Weekly Assignments**- Nearly every week, students will be required to submit a weekly assignment. **Unless otherwise specified, weekly assignments must be submitted as a hardcopy and at the beginning of class. Do not submit assignments on Canvas.** Late assignments, even turned in at the end of class, will result in a loss of one letter grade per class.
* **Quizzes**- Students will take online quizzes based on the reading due for that specific day.
* **Reading**-Students will write one book review at the end of the semester on the final exam via Canvas. Students must submit a two-page, single spaced, review of Gladd, *From Adam and Israel*. See [here](https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/crinonfiction/) for book review instructions. I will also ask you how much you read/skimmed of Gladd and Alexander on the final exam.
* **In-Class Electronics Use**- Students are prohibited from using computers, phones, and tablets during class.
* **Grading**:
  + 1. Weekly Assignments 30%
    2. Exam 25%
    3. Reading 20%
    4. Book Review 10%
    5. Quizzes 15%
* **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.

VI. Assigned Reading/Lecture Topic

August 25- **Lecture Overview:** Introduction to the Course/What is Biblical Theology?

**Reading:** “Introduction: BIBLICAL THEOLOGY” by B. S. Rosner, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 3-11.

September 1- **Lecture Overview:** Grand Storyline of the Bible

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 1: The God Who Made Everything](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO2ZodTbNdU&index=1&list=PLPwoFK1MBpm5QKYtVOa6EOdcMyRVvZ1gB)” (https://goo.gl/ZfIVCu)

**Weekly Assignment #1:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, what does Carson mean when he says that “God simply is”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, how has “knowledge” about God changed in light of Descartes? 3) In 4-6 sentences, what does it mean to be in the “image of God”?

**Reading:** Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 9-73

**Quiz 1** Quiz over Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 9-73

September 8- **Lecture Overview:** Grand Storyline of the Bible

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 2: The God Who Does Not Wipe Out Rebels](https://goo.gl/VYrI9N)” (https://goo.gl/VYrI9N)

**Weekly Assignment #2:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, what is the “prohibition” God gave to Adam and Eve? 2) In 4-6 sentences, explain the “four things” that Carson unpacks from Genesis 3. 3) In 4-6 sentences, what are the practical applications of this passage?

**Reading**: Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 74-97

**Quiz 2:**Quiz over Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 74-97

September 15- **Lecture Overview:** Grand Storyline of the Bible

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 3: The God Who Writes His Own Agreements](https://goo.gl/yTctbf)” (https://goo.gl/yTctbf)

**Weekly Assignment # 3:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, what does Carson mean by the “Mutual-back-scratching-model”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, does the God of the Bible use this back-scratching model? 3) In 4-6 sentences, what is a biblical “covenant”?

**Reading**: Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 98-120

**Quiz 3:**Quiz over Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 98-120

September 22- **Lecture Overview:** Grand Storyline of the Bible

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 4: The God Who Legislates](https://goo.gl/Az0gBY)” (https://goo.gl/Az0gBY)

**Weekly Assignment #4:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, why are the Ten Commandments the “heart” of the covenant at Sinai? 2) In 4-6 sentences, why are the Ten Commandments a gracious gift from God? 3) In 4-6 sentences, what is the significance of the Day of Atonement? 4) In 4-6 sentences, how do we apply the Ten Commandments to our lives?

**Reading**: Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 121-137

**Quiz 4:**Quiz over Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 121-137

September 29- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology and the Gospels

**Video:** “[ReFrame Episode 5-Jesus the King](https://goo.gl/tkEM9H)” (https://goo.gl/tkEM9H)

**Weekly Assignment #5:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, how do the Judeans “reenact their own personal exodus”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, why is the Spirit “critical” to Israel’s story? 3) In 4-6 sentences, how does Mark present Jesus as Yahweh incarnate? 4) In 4-6 sentences, how does this lesson apply to your faith in Christ?

**Reading**: Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 138-192

**Quiz 5:** Quiz over Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, 138-192

October 6- Reading Week

October 13- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology and the Gospels

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 7: The God Who Becomes a Human Being](https://goo.gl/sOOabK)” (https://goo.gl/sOOabK)

**Weekly Assignment #6:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, why does John label Jesus as the “Word”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, why does John say that Jesus “tabernacled”? 3) In 4-6 sentences, how does John’s gospel display God’s “glory”?

October 20- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology and the Gospels

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 8: The God Who Grants New Birth](https://goo.gl/QwJxwe)” (https://goo.gl/QwJxwe)

**Weekly Assignment #7:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, how does Carson distinguish between “birth” and “commitment”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, describe the person Nicodemus (his background, etc.). 3) In 4-6 sentences, what does Jesus mean by “new birth”? 4) In 4-6 sentences, how does understanding our salvation as a “new birth” affect how we counsel and evangelize?

October 27- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology of Mystery

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 9: The God Who Loves](https://goo.gl/w6c2qT)” (https://goo.gl/w6c2qT)

**Weekly Assignment #8:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, how does the Bible speak of God’s love as “providential” or “amoral”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, how is God’s love “elective”? 3) In 4-6 sentences, how is God’s love “conditional”? 4) In 4-6 sentences, how does understanding the contours of God’s love affect how we counsel and evangelize?

**Reading:** “MYSTERY” by H. H. D. Williams, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 674-75.

**Quiz 6:** Quiz over “MYSTERY,” *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 674-75.

November 3- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology of Marriage

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

**Weekly Assignment #9:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, how are the four gospels different from other forms of literature in the first century? 2) In 4-6 sentences, why is the soldiers’ exclamation “hail king of the Jews” ironic? 3) In 4-6 sentences, how does Jesus “destroy the temple” in his death? 4) In 4-6 sentences, what does Jesus mean when he says “I am” in the Gospel of John?

**Reading:** “Marriage” by R. Ortlund, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 654-657

**Quiz 7:** Quiz over R. Ortlund, “Marriage,” in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 654-657

November 10- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology of Son of Man

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 11: The God Who Declares the Guilty Just](https://goo.gl/jdGoRZ)” (https://goo.gl/jdGoRZ)

**Weekly Assignment #10:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, what is the “heart of all evil”? 2) In 4-6 sentences, what does Paul mean that “the righteousness of God has been made known apart from the law” in Rom 3:21? 3) In 4-6 sentences, what is “justification”?). 4) In 4-6 sentences, how does our justification reassure the eternal security of our salvation?

**Reading:** “Son of Man” by D. L. Bock, *Dictionary of Jesus & the Gospels* (2nd edition), 894-900. (PDF on Canvas)

**Quiz 8:** Quiz over “Son of Man” by D. L. Bock, 894-900.

November 17- No Class (ETS)

November 24- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology of Resurrection

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 12: The God Who Gathers and Transforms His People](https://goo.gl/VW0Yfh)” (https://goo.gl/VW0Yfh)

**Weekly Assignment #11:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, why do believers need to be “changed” in light of Eph 2? 2) In 4-6 sentences, what is the “down payment” of the new creation and what is his role in the church? 3) In 4-6 sentences, what does it mean to “take up your cross”? 4) In 4-6 sentences, how should we apply “taking up our cross” to our daily lives?

**Reading:** “DEATH AND RESURRECTION” by P. S. Johnston, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 443-47.

**Quiz 10:** Quiz over “DEATH AND RESURRECTION,” *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 443-47.

December 1- **Lecture Overview:** Biblical Theology of Heaven

**Video:** D.A. Carson, “[The God Who is There Part 14: The God Who Triumphs](https://goo.gl/4rRH3u)” (https://goo.gl/4rRH3u)

**Weekly Assignment #12:** Video Essay Questions: 1) In 4-6 sentences, what is “new” that John sees in Rev 21? 2) In 4-6 sentences, why is the new heaven and earth equated with the New Jerusalem? 3) In 4-6 sentences, why is a “sea” lacking in the new creation? 4) In 4-6 sentences how should we live in light of the new heavens and earth?

**Reading:** “HEAVEN” by P. S. Johnston, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 540-42.

**Quiz 11:** Quiz over “HEAVEN,” *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, 540-42.



**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Introduction to Biblical Theology (OT500)

Professor: Ben Gladd

Campus: Jackson

Date: Fall 2019

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.* | | **Rubric**   * Strong * Moderate * Minimal * None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Articulation**  **(oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | This course provides a biblical-  theological framework for biblical  studies |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong | A goal of this course is to provide a  theological summary of the  Christian Bible |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | None |  |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Minimal | Understanding the Bible should  produce sanctification |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Minimal | This course works to produce a  biblical worldview in the student |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | None |  |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Better knowledge of Bible should  increase a person’s ability to  shepherd congregation |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | None |  |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | Minimal | Having a right view of Jesus and his ministry is central to pastoring. |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | None |  |