

OTHB9405 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

Dr. Archie W. England

Fall 2015

Friday, 8:30-11:30; 1:00-3:00

Mission Statement:

The Mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose:

Discovering the Bible's message is a critical task of the exegete. In the current theological milieu, the historicity (and, thus, the value) of Israel's faith, witness, and record is increasingly questioned. Consequently, investigating "the what" and "the how" of Israel's history and religion can provide a valuable basis for understanding and interpreting the Old Testament. To attempt such study, this seminar will expose the student to various methodologies (of approach to the study of the Old Testament) and, particularly, to the roles of systematic and biblical theology.

Core Values:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in by preparing the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This year, the focus is upon Mission Focus.

Key Competency:

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

Description of the Seminar

The course is designed to explore the various issues in the field of Old Testament theology. Emphasis is given to historical development and methodology in Old Testament theology as well as treatment of various theological emphases in the Old Testament.

Objectives of the Seminar

The student will:

1. Become familiar with the literature in the field of Old Testament theology.
2. Study the historical development of Old Testament theology, essentially from the reformation to the present—with the greatest emphasis upon current issues.

3. Identify and explore the various models and methods applied to the study of Old Testament theology.
4. Address the outstanding issue of what a theology of the Old Testament should be.

Methodology of the Seminar

1. Lecture
2. Critical reading from primary source materials and anthologies
3. Bibliography research, along with annotation
4. Critical thinking and assessment of a major contributor to the field of OT theology
5. Critical analysis and synthesis of how systematic and biblical methodologies have approached the theological message of the Old Testament.

Requirements of the Seminar

The student will prepare four presentations for this seminar (80-100 pages, single-spaced, total allowable), consisting of the four components:

1. Prepare an annotated bibliography for the field of biblical/old testament theology. This will accompany two syllabi submitted by each student (one from a collegiate offering; the other, for either church and non-church ministries or a master's course). One syllabus will present an overview of the field via a synchronic approach; the other, a diachronic approach. (Prepare for synchronic and diachronic; 20 pages, single spaced [total allowed]). Syllabus must include the setting [course number, level of development]; requirements, percentages, and a sixteen-week breakdown of assignments).

Choose a college or seminar setting (hypothetical; but I encourage you to contact the division chair or professor of such a program and interview them about their syllabi and expectations [for both profs and students]) and develop a course that could fit into that curriculum. Assume sixteen weeks for the time frame. Be sure to plan out the exams, as well as other assignments and reading. Be as innovative as you desire; but, be mindful that this syllabus, when reviewed by prospective employers, could directly impact your chance for a job.

2. Develop the (aspects of the) content for the synchronic syllabus. Choosing to teach OTT synchronically demands that you take a position; so, do so. Prepare a 20 page, ss, well-researched paper on the selected topic(s) that you will use to teach the synchronic syllabus.

Choose the elements (or aspects) of the synchronic approach and then explore the scholars' research on that topic(s). Though the final product must look be presented formally, use this opportunity to develop your own thoughts about the field. A general level course should be more holistic; an upper level course, more detailed or more specialized. Be sure to do a thorough job of interacting with the scholarship available in these areas.

3. Do likewise for the diachronic syllabus.

4. Prepare, submit, and show proof of submission to a scholarly journal of a research paper on any topic in the field of biblical, Old Testament theology. You may research an individual, an idea, a theory, or propose a new method, etc. This paper **MUST** be constructed according to the directions of the journal to which you intend to submit it. Hence, the length of this project (though desired to be 15-20 pages, single-spaced) will be determined by the directions of that journal (please specify). Make sure that every member of the seminar receives a copy.

Required Texts

- (1) For the first day of seminar, each of you will be tasked to lead sections of the chosen text. All of these texts must be read and understood thoroughly (smiley face) by everyone. Only those designated must prepare a PowerPoint (or other venue) to lead discussion.

Hassel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Fourth ed. Revised and expanded. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Hayes, John H., and Frederick Prussner. *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

Klink, Edward W., III, and Darian R. Lockett, *Understanding Biblical Theology: A Comparison of Theory and Practice*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

- (2) These following texts must be read (and reported as such by a stipulated date, i.e., end of 2015) because of their formative impact. The idea of this seminar is for you to explore two primary approaches to OTT and to glean from the host of further materials noted in the Selected Bibliography below.

Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

Eichrodt, Walther. *Theology of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Translated by J. A. Parker. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961.

Von Rad, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Translated by D. M. G. Stalker. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.

_____. *Wisdom in Israel*. Translated by James D. Martin. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press, 1970.

Evaluation of the Seminar

Each student is expected to adhere to the policies regarding absences, grading, etc., outlined in the current seminary catalog. Also, each student is expected to use biblical and theological languages whenever possible, especially in research for lecture and paper presentations.

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

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|---|-----|
| Class participation & Reading | 12% |
| Annotated Bibliography for the two syllabi..... | 22% |

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- Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. SCM, 1999.
- Bartholomew, Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Bartholomew, Craig G., and others. *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Beale, Gregory K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Birch, Brueggemann, et. al. *A Theological Introduction to the OT*. Nashville: Abingdon Press: 1999.
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
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- Eichrodt, W. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961-67.
- Feldmeier, Reinhard, and Hermann Spieckermann. *God of the Living: A Biblical Theology*. Waco, TX: Baylor University, 2011.
- Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology. Volume One. Israel's Gospel*. InterVarsity Press, 2003; *Volume Two. Israel's Faith*. InterVarsity Press, 2006; *Volume Three. Israel's Life*. InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Hasel, Gerhard *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Fourth ed. Eerdmans, 1995.

- House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. IVP, 1998.
- Kaiser, W. C., Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1978.
- _____. *The Promise-Plan of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.
- Knierim, Rolf. *The Task of OT Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publ., 1995.
- Lehman, C. K. *Biblical Theology*. 2 vols. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald, 1971-72.
- Martens, Elmer A. *God's Design*, 3rd ed. N. Richland Hills, Tex.: BIBAL Press, 1998.
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- McComiskey, Thomas. *The Covenant of Promise*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.
- Mead, James. *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Moberly, R. W. L. *OT Theology: Reading the Hebrew Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.
- Niehaus, Jeffrey. *Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2008.
- _____. *God at Sinai*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Ollenburger, Ben C., Elmer A. Marten, and Gerhard F. Hasel, eds. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study*. Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Payne, J. Barton. *The Theology of the Older Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962.
- Perdue, Leo G., Robert Morgan, and Benjamin D. Sommer. *Biblical Theology: Introducing the Conversation*. Library of Biblical Theology. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.
- Preuss, H. D. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. OTL. Westminster/John Knox, 1996.
- Routledge, Robin. *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach*. IVP Academic, 2008.
- Rowley, H. H. *The Faith of Israel*. London: SCM Press, 1956.
- Sailhamer, John H. *Introduction to Old Testament Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Zondervan, 1995. Evangelical.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *The King in His Beauty: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Broadman & Holman, 1993.

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Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Zimmerli, Walther. *Old Testament Theology in Outline*. John Knox, 1978.

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

Special Studies

Alexander, T. Desmond, and Simon J. Gathercole, eds. *Heaven on Earth: The Temple in Biblical Theology*. Paternoster, 2004.

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

Bartholomew, Craig, Mary Healy, Karl Moller, and Robin Parry, eds. *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*. Scripture and Hermeneutics Series 5. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Beale, G.K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2008.

Blomberg, Craig. *Neither Poverty Nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.

Bock, D. & Glaser, M., eds. *The Gospel According to Isaiah: Encountering the Suffering Servant in Jewish and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publ., 2012.

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Brown, Michael. *Israel's Divine Healer*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

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