



# Biblical Theology

Introduction

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## Relation between Biblical Theology and Homiletics

- Essential if expository sermons are to include valid application.
- Essential if topical sermons are to have biblical substance rather than human opinion hung on proof-texts.
- Biblical theology can bring the Bible alive for you and your congregation.

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## Relation between Biblical and Systematic Theology

- Gabler wants to separate them.
- Gaffin wants to hold them together as mutually interdependent.

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## Relation between Biblical Theology and History

- Some say no relation.
- Most say some kind of relation:
  - Some base theology upon the critically reconstructed history of Israel and the early church.
  - Some say there's a dialectical relationship based upon a distinction between *historie* and *geschichte*.
  - Orthodox theologians base theology upon canonical history, with its own historical assertions as well as its theological message.
  - The Bible has a theological story-line, which works itself out in history.

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## Organizing Principle of Biblical Theology

- Should biblical theology be thematic?
- Should its unity be demonstrated by a single organizing 'center'?
- Should it be a survey of the diverse *theologies* of the various books?
- Should we talk of various *theologies*, or of various *theological emphases*?

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## Christian Use of the Old Testament

- New Testament as essential Bible (Bultmann)
- Old and New Testaments as equally Christian Scripture (Vischer)
- Old Testament as the essential Bible (van Ruler)
- Old and New Testaments as one salvation history (von Rad)

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## Christian Use (cont.)

- Erroneous approaches (Judaizers, Marcion, von Harnack, Bultmann)
- Our approach: The Old Testament is authoritative and useful Scripture for doctrine, practice, and teaching.
  - It was Jesus' approach (Matt 5:17-19)
  - It was Paul's approach (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- A Bible without the Old Testament is not a Christian Bible.

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## Christian Use (cont.)

- Basic proposals for Christian interpretation of Old Testament
  - The Old Testament is God's word (2 Tim 3:16-17; cf. John 1:1)
  - Jesus Christ is the focus of the Old Testament (Luke 24:24f., 44ff.)
  - Our lack of understanding is due to hard hearts and veiled eyes (2 Cor 3:16-18)
  - Christ writes the law on our hearts (2 Cor 3:3; Heb 10:16; cf. Jer 31:31-34)

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## Method in This Course

- Biblical Assumptions
  - Inerrancy
  - Unity
  - Authority
- Historical Assumptions
  - Theology can be history, and history can be theological.
  - Revelation is progressive in history.

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We will follow a mixed approach to the question of organizing around *themes* and around a '*center*'.

- We see Jesus as the focus of all Scripture, though not an organizing topic himself.
- We study various themes and motifs as they recur throughout redemptive history, finding in Jesus their fullest realization and clearest expression.

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## What's ahead?

- Biblical theology as distinct discipline
- History of biblical theology
- Models of biblical theology
- Relation between Testaments
- Typology and biblical theology
- Key biblical theological themes
- Modeling biblical theology in preaching

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