

Biblical Theology Class Schedule

What is Biblical Theology?

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| 1. Defining the Topic | Week 1 |
| 2. Guardian & Guide for the Church | Week 2 |
| 3. Defining the Tools | Week 3 |

The Stories to be Told: Biblical Theology Displayed

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| 4. Kingdom Through Covenant | Week 3 |
| 5. Eden to New Jerusalem | Week 4 |
| 6. People of God | Week 5 |
| 7. Sacrifice | Week 6 |
| 8. Mission | Week 7 |
| 9. Idolatry | Week 8 |

Putting the Text to Work

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| 10. Exodus; 1 Samuel; Psalm | Week 10 |
| 11. Proverbs; Isaiah; Nehemiah | Week 11 |
| 12. Luke; John; Colossians | Week 12 |
| 13. The Quiz | Week 13 |

Further Questions?

Feel free to email me at matthew@gracechurchsalida.com.

Core Seminars–Biblical Theology Week 3: Defining the Tools

Introduction

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY is

a discipline that helps people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus.

I. Tool Box # 1: Exegetical Tools

Exegesis is the disciplined attempt to draw out of a text the author's original intent, rather than one's own preference, experience, or opinion.

Jerome, an early church father put it this way: *"The office of a commentator is to set forth not what he himself would prefer, **but what his author says.**"*

A. Tool # 1: The Grammatical-Historical Method

You start with a grammatical and structural analysis of the text:

1. How does the larger text break up into units?
2. What's the subject, the verb and the object, and how do they relate? Basic sentence diagramming!
3. How are the sentences connected?
4. What's the general flow of argument?

And behind the text are a number of questions about the historical context:

1. Does the historical context (author, date, audience, and provenance), if known, throw light on your understanding of words or argument?
2. Is there a cultural context that you need to be aware of? E.g., what are Pharisees; what rights did women have in the Roman world?
3. Are there issues of geography, politics or history that throw light on the meaning? E.g., where is Tarshish in relation to Nineveh? Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, Encyclopedias and Atlases are extremely helpful here.

B. Tool # 2: Literary Form

II. Tool Box #2: Storyline Tools

A. Plot

Graeme Goldsworthy: *It is the nature of biblical revelation that it tells a story rather than sets out timeless principles in abstract. [The Bible] does contain many timeless principles, but not in abstract. They are given in an historical context of progressive revelation.*

B. Theme

Covenant: how God relates to his people.

Kingdom: how God orders and rules over his people.

Exodus: how God saves his people.

Exile: how God punishes his people.

D. Promise-Fulfillment

Genesis 12:1-3, CSB

1 Yahweh said to Abram:
Go from your land,
your relatives,

and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.
2 I will make you into a great nation,
I will bless you,
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you,
I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,
and **all the peoples on earth**
will be blessed through you.

Romans 5:14: "Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam's transgression. He is a **type** of the Coming One."

E. Typology

Graeme Goldsworthy: *The essence of typology is the recognition that within Scripture itself certain events, people, or institutions in biblical history bear a particular relationship to later events, people and institutions. The relationship is such that the earlier foreshadows the later, and later fills out or completes the earlier.*

A type is usually a person (like Adam, Moses, or David) or an object (like the ark and mercy seat, cf. Rom3:25; or sacrificial lamb, cf. Jn1:29) that anticipates or prefigures Jesus.

F. Continuity and Discontinuity