**Reformed Theological Seminary**

**Introduction to Biblical Theology**

**ON6200 (2 Credit Hours)**

**Fall, 2021 (August 30-November 19)**

**Class Sessions on Fridays, 1PM to 4PM**

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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) the 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 to in accomplishing many of the goals of a seminary education:

(1) Biblical and Biblical – Theological Knowledge;

(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 913pp.

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] *only completed half the reading*, 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, making 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.

**Extra Credit**

One point of extra credit will be added to the students’ final grade, if they read H. K. LaRondelle, *The Israel of God in Prophecy* (Berrien Springs: Andrews University Press, 1983), pp. 1 - 210.

Another one point of extra credit will be added to the students’ final grade, if they read A. A. Hoekema, The Bible and the Future (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979), pp. 1-316.

1. 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. Note well**: **the final exam will be cumulative and cover all the lectures of the course.**

**The student has three hours to write the exam. The final exam may be taken at any time during the week of Nov. 15-19 and must be completed and submitted by 4PM on Nov. 19. The student is to submit a hard copy of the exam to Dr. McDowell’s administrative assistant. Students must sign a pledge that they have not cheated on the exam.**

1. 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 during 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 the loss of 2 more points, and so on. If you are sick or have a family emergency, you must email the professor asap.

**Special Note: Class will not meet on Friday, Oct. 8, since that is part of “Reading Week” (Oct. 4-8).**

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 that 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.

**\*\*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 Them 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).

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).

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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 913pp.): [1] completed the reading; [2] only completed half the reading, and only half credit will be given for such reading; [3] no reading done, for which no credit will be given. 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)