

Class 1 Outline: Introduction to Biblical Theology

I. INTRODUCTION

- The importance of stories

II. WHAT IS BIBLICAL THEOLOGY?

- Definition: The discipline of understanding how the diverse parts of the Bible—66 books in total—fit together into one grand *story* centered on Christ.
- Compare with systematic theology
 - Systematic theology is a topical approach to understanding the Bible.
 - E.g., Westminster Catechism, Heidelberg Catechism
- Biblical theology, in contrast, is learning to trace the grand story centered on Christ.
 - Subset disciplines: seeing important themes in each biblical book, how a biblical book contributes to the overall canon, or tracing the development of a theme throughout Scripture.
 - Exercise: Theme of the temple
- See Luke 24:26; 44-47; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; John 5:39

III. NECESSARY ASSUMPTIONS

- There is One Author
- Progressive Revelation
 - Hebrews 1:1-3; Job 9:32-33
- Diversity of Biblical Texts
 - Diversity in purpose, circumstances, terminology, and genre.
- Unity of a Single Story

IV. TOOLS FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

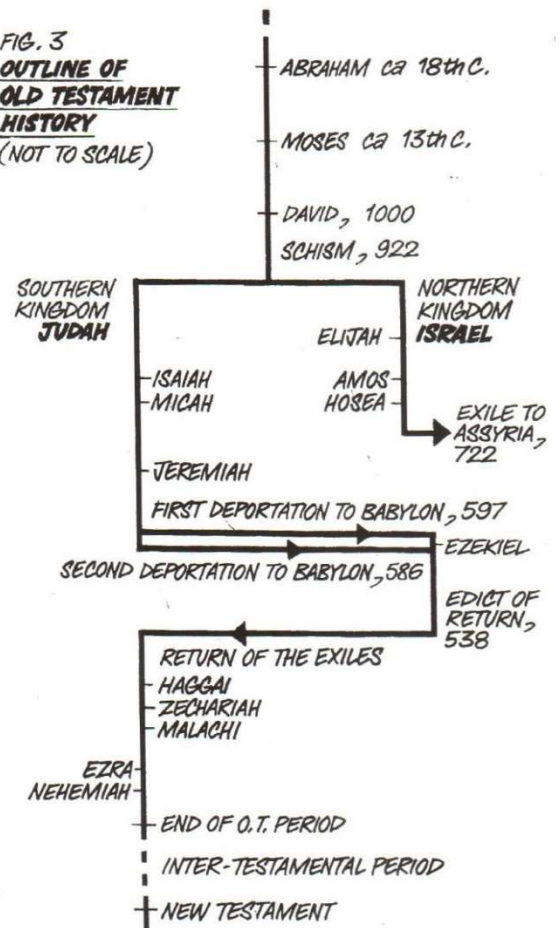
- Exposition/Exegesis
 - grammatical-historical method
- Storyline (see back of handout)
- Promises and Fulfillment
- Typology
 - Hebrews 10:1
 - Two criteria: historical correspondence and escalation.
 - Discussion on typology vs. allegory
- Continuity and Discontinuity
 - Compare Covenant Theology and Dispensationalism

Q&A

Narrative Movements: 16 Major Episodes

1. Creation by Word: Genesis 1 and 2
2. The Fall: Genesis 3
3. First Revelation of Redemption: Genesis 4–11
4. Abraham Our Father: Genesis 12–50
5. Exodus: Our Pattern of Redemption - Exodus 1–15
6. New Life: Gift and Task - Exodus 16–40; Leviticus
7. The Temptation in the Wilderness: Numbers; Deuteronomy
8. Into the Good Land: Joshua; Judges; Ruth
9. God's Rule in God's Land: 1 & 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1–10; 1 Chronicles; 2 Chronicles 1–9
10. The Fading Shadow: 1 Kings 11–22; 2 Kings [the kingdom declines]
11. There Is a New Creation: Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Daniel; Esther
12. The Second Exodus: Ezra; Nehemiah; Haggai
13. The New Creation for Us: Matthew; Mark; Luke; John [Jesus's life, death, and resurrection]
14. The New Creation in Us Initiated: Acts
15. The New Creation in Us Now: New Testament Epistles [spiritual threats]
16. The New Creation Consummated: The New Testament

FIG. 3
OUTLINE OF
OLD TESTAMENT
HISTORY
(NOT TO SCALE)



Major Events of Old Testament (approx. dates)

1. The Patriarchs – 2100-1700 BC
1. Egyptian Sojourn – 1800-1450 BC
2. The Exodus – 1446 BC (1290)
3. Wilderness Wanderings – 1446-1406 BC
4. Period of the Judges – 1406-1050 BC
5. The United Kingdom – 1050-930 BC
6. The Divided Kingdom – 930-722 BC
7. Fall of Northern Kingdom – 722 BC
8. Kingdom of Judah – 722-587 BC
9. Fall of Jerusalem – 587 BC
10. The Exile – 587-538 BC
11. Return to Israel – 538-535 BC
12. Temple Rebuilt – 517 BC
13. Restoration Efforts (Ezra & Nehemiah) – 458-425 BC

Taken from Graeme Goldsworthy, According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible