GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

BT605: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

2027

When: 5:30-7:15pm, Thursday **Start:** 4 March

Where: Live Online

Lecturer: Michael Beck, PhD.

1. BIBLICAL CASE

[27] And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself . . . [32] They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:27–32 (ESV)

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION.

This course introduces students to the discipline of Biblical Theology by exploring the progressive unfolding of God's revelation throughout the canon of Scripture. After laying a foundational understanding of the nature, methods, and goals of Biblical Theology, the course will survey key sections of the canon. Here, the emphasis is on covenantal developments, typology, and the progressive revelation of God's kingdom. The primary aim of the course is to demonstrate how every part of Scripture contributes to the unified theological witness concerning God's redemptive purposes fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

3. COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

3.1. Graduate Ideals

At GTC we believe that the ideal graduate is someone who, because of Christlikeness and kingdom focus, by hard work, a commitment to a lifetime of learning, becomes mighty in the Scriptures, and commits themselves to serving the church and evangelising the world.

3.2. Purpose

Why study Biblical Theology? Unless this story is understood in its dynamic unfolding over time and history, we will tend (at best) to treat the bible as a

collection of proof texts and moral examples. However, as helpful as such collections might be, they fall far short of what the Bible claims for itself: it is the story of God's unfolding plan of salvation.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the Unit you should be able to:

*3.2.1.**Explain** the biblical story and its unfolding.*

*3.2.2.**Identify** the nature of God's power & plan in salvation.*

*3.2.3.**Recognise** foundational Christian doctrines and explain how these arise from the canon of Scripture.*

*3.2.4.**Evaluate** how we, in the church, can understand the story of redemption and further align ourselves to God's purposes for the time in which we live.*

My learning goal is:_____

4. ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Credit students should read through this outline and ask any questions about things that you are unclear on. If any of the tasks are not suitable for your optimal learning, you are welcome to discuss any concerns with the tutor.

Activity	**% grade**
Class attendance	5%
Biblical reading completed	5%
Reading reflections	15%
Assignment	40%
Examination	35%
Total	**100%**

4.1. Classes: Attend and participate in the classes. We learn when we are present and engaged with the material. We learn better when we think through what is being presented and discuss it with others. Come to class with questions and ideas. Online students to arrange with the tutor the best way for them to participate in the class and get the most from their experience. This is usually done through Microsoft Teams. **5% of your final grade is attendance.**

<u>Note for ALL Students studying via Distance/Online/Video:</u> In this class you are required to have your device camera turned on unless you make a prior arrangement with your teacher, this is especially important for CREDIT students.

4.2. Reading: Credit students are required to read through the assigned Bible reading plan. On the exam you will be asked the percentage of the biblical readings you have completed. ***5% of your final grade is your assigned bible readings*.**

4.3. Reading Reflection Jounral Assignment:

The goal of this assignment is to help you engage with the Word of God so that Scripture shapes both your understanding and your heart. Your journal should demonstrate thoughtful interaction with the biblical text, your personal reflection and the class lecture material. Do not simply state whether you "liked" the passage. Instead, wrestle with the meaning and implications of the text. Ask questions such as:

* What does this passage reveal about the character of God?
* How does this passage advance the story of redemption?
* In what ways does this passage point forward to Christ?
* What truths in this passage challenge my thinking, priorities, or obedience?
* How should this passage affect my worship, prayer, or daily life?

Length Requirement: While you are encouraged to keep a journal throughout your reading, you are only required to present a section of 1500 words.

***15% of your final grade will come from this reading reflection*.**

4.4. Assignment: Credit students are required to complete a research paper. The most significant learning occurs when we are required to research a topic and then repackage it in our own words. Assignments are not merely a way of testing your knowledge, but also your understanding of the topic. The GTC library has valuable resources for this.

Research and write 1,500 words on ONE of the two following options:
1. Choose one of the covenants of the Old Testament and describe its purpose in the Biblical story. -OR-

2. Choose one of these biblical figures and explain how that person "foreshadows" Christ and how Christ fulfils the "type"(cf. Luke 24:27&44): Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David.

40% of your final grade will come from your assignment.

Grading Criteria:

- Demonstration of critical thinking and thoughtfully constructed answers to questions.
- **Refer Section 8 below: Guidelines for Written Work.**

4.5. Exam: An examination is an opportunity for you to review everything that you have learned and attempt to recall it in your own words. If you are concerned about reading and writing in a limited time, or English is your second language, please talk to your tutor about how we can assist you.

Examination: 35% of your final grade will come from your examination results.

The exam is to be typed and submitted via email to the lecturer.

Grading Criteria:

- **Demonstrate critical** *evaluation of assumptions under the authority of scripture.*
- **Recognize** and **explain** *the issues raised in the questions*
- **Identify** and **distinguish** a variety of questions *as it bears on the issues of the text of scripture.*
- **Critique** key texts and **explain** how they related to *the Story of Redemption.*
- **Compare/interpret** *different viewpoints* and **justify/ support** your answer.

5. Learning Resources (*required)

Author	Title	Publisher
*Edmond Clowney	*The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament.*	P&R Publishing, 2013.
D.A Carson and Graeme Goldsworthy (Editors)	*New Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Exploring the Unity Diversity of Scripture*	IVP Academic. Reprint 2004.
*Michael Brown and Zach Keele	*Sacred Bond: Covenant Theology Explored*	Reformed Fellowship, Inc.

*Zach Keele	*The Unfolding Word: The Story of the Bible from Creation to New Creation*	Lexham Press
Meredith Kline	*God, Heaven and Har Magedon*	Wipf and Stock
Jeong K. Jeon	*Biblical Theology: Covenants and the Kingdom of God in Redemptive History*	Wipf and Stock

6. RESEARCH RESOURCES

Accessing required readings.

GTC library 75 Rogers Road, Manurewa. If you are a student, then you automatically receive library membership and can borrow books from our library for 1-month. Priority is given to credit students. You are welcome to come and use the library at any time between 9am and 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Purchasing books. Books purchasing in NZ is often expensive and books can take a long time to arrive. Try your local bookstore, Christian bookstore, or online.

Reformers Bookshop in Australia offers students a discount on books. Please use the code:

Grace Books are a NZ Christian bookshop which carries a good stock of books.

Course text books are available through *Grace Books* - orders@gracebooks.co.nz

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