

Reading the Bible as One Big Story

Course Syllabus

Vital Life, Spring 2021

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Course Description

This class provides a survey of various themes as they are developed through Scripture. The focus of themes is *the theological purpose* of the earlier writers and *the interpretive principles* of later writers. *The purpose* in understanding these interpretive principles is to help us better understand how to read the Bible as salvation history and understand what God is communicating to us through the biblical writers.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the interpretive principles later biblical writers use to understand earlier biblical texts
2. To learn to read the Bible salvation-historically, seeing how various themes are developed throughout Scripture as salvation history progresses, and learning to identify other themes not covered in this course
3. To learn to apply biblical theology in personal study of Scripture in order to more accurately understand the Bible, hear from God, and better apply His Word to life

Assigned Resources

Book:

- *What is Biblical Theology?: A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns* by James M. Hamilton Jr.

Articles:

- *Exile and Exodus* by Thomas Richard Wood (NIV Study Bible)
- *Priest* by Dana M. Harris (NIV Study Bible)
- *Law* by T.D. Alexander (NIV Study Bible)
- *Sacrifice* by Jay A. Sklar (NIV Study Bible)
- *A Pauline Theology of True Israel* by Caleb Bissett

Course Schedule

Week 1:

Introduction: What is Biblical Theology?

The beginning of all themes and patterns – an overview of Genesis

- Homework: Read
 - o *What is Biblical Theology?* Chs. 1-2
 - o *Biblical Theology Notebook*, pp. 1-6 (Intro and Genesis)
- Watch: The Gospel Project “How to Read Biblical Narrative” videos and “Temple” videos
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/how-to-read-biblical-narrative>
 - o Watch the 4 videos: *Plot, Character, Setting, and Design Patterns*
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/temple>
- Recommended (but not required)
 - o Listen to: “What is Biblical Theology? And Why Do We Need It?” (8 Minutes)
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-biblical-theology-and-do-we-need-it>
 - o Watch:
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/heaven-and-earth>
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/genesis-1-11>

Week 2:

The Theme of Creation in Redemptive History

The Theme of The Temple and God's Presence in Redemptive History

The Theme of Sin and the Fall in Redemptive History

- Homework: Read
 - o *What is Biblical Theology?* Chs. 3-5
 - o *Biblical Theology Notebook*, pp. 7-12, 37-40 (The Themes of Creation & Sin and Fall)
 - o *Exile and Exodus* by Thomas Richard Wood
- Watch: The Bible Project
 - o "Exile" theme video
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exile>
 - o "The Way of the Exile" topic video
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/the-way-of-the-exile/>
- Recommended (but not required)
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 1: The Pattern of the Kingdom (Gen 1-2)" (11 Min)
<https://youtu.be/fFtwtcXEF1w>
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 2: The Perished Kingdom (Gen 3)" (11 Minutes)
<https://youtu.be/9xkZwrgPbNA>
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 3: The Promised Kingdom (Gen 12)" (10 Minutes)
<https://youtu.be/xvBVDfBp8Ac>

Week 3:

The Theme of Salvation Through Judgment in Redemptive History

The Themes of Exile and Exodus in Redemptive History

The Themes of Sacrifice, Law, and Priest in Redemptive History

- Homework: Read
 - o *What is Biblical Theology?* Chs. 6-7
 - o *Sacrifice* by J.A. Sklar
 - o *Law* by T.D. Alexander
 - o *Priest* by Dana M. Harris
- Listen to
 - o "A Little Introduction to Covenants" by D.A. Carson
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/a-little-introduction-to-covenants>
- Recommended (but not required)
 - o Read: *Biblical Theology Notebook*, pp. 49-52 (Salvation through Judgment)
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 4: The Partial Kingdom – People and Blessing (Gen 12-Leviticus)" (12 Minutes)
<https://youtu.be/N7lQcs0TtBM>
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 5: The Partial Kingdom – Land and King (Numbers – 2 Chronicles)" (13 Minutes)
https://youtu.be/v2Z_vnnE0Rw

Week 4:

The Theme of Covenant in Redemptive History

The Theme of Sonship in Redemptive History

- Homework: Read
 - o *What is Biblical Theology?* Chs. 8-10
 - o *A Pauline Theology of True Israel*
- Listen to
 - o "What Do We Mean When We Confess Jesus to be the Son of God?" by D.A. Carson

- https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference_media/mean-confess-jesus-son-god/
- Watch The Bible Project
 - o "Messiah" theme video
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/messiah>
- Recommended (but not required)
 - o Read: *Biblical Theology Notebook*, pp. 27-35 (The Theme of Covenant)
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 6: The Prophesied Kingdom – People and Blessing" (1 Kings - Malachi)" (13 Minutes)
https://youtu.be/1C574uH_qBQ
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 7: The Present Kingdom (The Gospels)" (14 Minutes)
<https://youtu.be/XMlw8WWefCI>

Week 5:

The Theme of Messiah in Redemptive History

The Theme of the People of God in Redemptive History (Part 1)

- Homework: Read
 - o *What is Biblical Theology?* Chs. 11-13
 - o *Biblical Theology Notebook*, pp. 61-75 (The Theme of the People of God)
- Watch The Bible Project
 - o "Son of Man" theme video
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/son-of-man>
- Recommended (but not required)
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 8: The Proclaimed Kingdom (Acts - Jude)" (13 Minutes)
https://youtu.be/7l_xuFLjKlE
 - o Listen to: "God's Big Picture Unit 9: The Perfected Kingdom (Revelation)" (13 Minutes)
<https://youtu.be/7ExQ10mzafA>

Week 6:

The Theme of the People of God in Redemptive History (Part 2)

The Place of Biblical Theology in Worldview Formation

- Read: *Biblical Theology Notebook*, pp. 13-25 (The Theme of Kingdom)
- Complete: Vital Life Course Survey