

## ***Biblical Theology: The Story of Scripture***

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### ***Class 1: What Is Biblical Theology***

- “Shows the relationship of all parts of the Old Testament to the person and work of Jesus Christ and, therefore, to the Christian.”
- “Enables us to map out the unity of the Bible by looking at its message as a whole.”
- And ultimately, it helps us read the Bible rightly, so that we can engage with the world rightly.  
(quotes from *According to Plan*, pp. 21-24)



**Goal:** Better understand Scripture and be shaped by its story.

#### **Schedule:**

#### **What is Biblical Theology?**

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Defining the Topic              | Sep. 12 |
| 2. Guardian & Guide for the Church | Sep. 19 |
| 3. Defining the Tools              | Sep. 26 |

#### **The Stories to be Told: Biblical Theology Displayed**

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|-----------------------------|---------|
| 4. Kingdom Through Covenant | Sep. 3  |
| 5. Eden to New Jerusalem    | Oct. 10 |
| 6. People of God            | Oct. 17 |
| 7. Sacrifice                | Oct. 24 |
| 8. Mission                  | Oct. 31 |

Based on “Biblical Theology: Jesus at the Center of Scripture’s Story,” a core seminar from Capitol Hill Baptist Church (DC).

#### **Resources for Further Study:**

- *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts
- *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible* by Graeme Goldsworthy
- *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (IVP)*

#### **I. What Is Biblical Theology?**

**Big Idea:** Biblical theology is the discipline of learning how to read the Bible as one story by one divine author that culminates in the person and work of Christ, so that every part of Scripture is understood in relation to Christ.

It’s a way to read the Bible. A hermeneutic.

See **Luke 24:26-27, 44-47; John 5:39**

Don Carson: “*Biblical Theology...seeks to uncover and articulate the unity of all the biblical texts taken together, resorting primarily to the categories of those texts themselves*” (*NDBT*, 100, emphasis added).

Michael Lawrence: “*Biblical theology is the attempt to tell the whole story of the whole Bible as Christian Scripture*” (*Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church*).

Illustration: Samson (Judges 15:14-15)

#### **II. What About the Bible Makes Biblical Theology Necessary**

*A. God Word Was Written by Humans*

*B. God's Word Was Written by God*

*C. God's Revealed Himself Progressively*

*D. God Revealed Himself in History*

*E. God's Revelation Has an Organic Character*

*F. God Reveals Himself in Narrative*

*G. God's Reveals Himself in News*

*H. God Reveals Himself in Christ*

(adapted from *Biblical Theology*, by G. Vos, pp. 5-9)

### III. How do Biblical Theology & Systematic Theology relate to one another?

#### A. What Is Systematic Theology

*1. An Orderly and Comprehensive Summary of the Bible's Teaching by Topic*

*2. The Line Between Truth and Error, Orthodoxy and Heresy*

### 3. Scripture Applied

#### B. How Do Biblical and Systematic Theology Relate to Each Other?

Biblical theology is a mediating discipline, while systematic is a culminating discipline (DA Carson, *NDBT*, p. 102-3).

Biblical Theology	Systematic Theology
Scripture as Authority	Scripture as Authority
Organizing principle: Historical, tracing the development of revelation	Organizing principle: Topical, logical, hierarchical
Starting point: Bible on its own terms	Starting point: contemporary questions
Provides: Storyline (news story)	Provides: Doctrine, Worldview, Application (the headline)
Connection: Bridge To ST	Connection: Summarizes and Rearticulates BT

#### C. Test Case: The Gospel

### IV. Why Is Biblical Theology Important?

Biblical theology:

- “Gives us the means of dealing with problematic passages in the Bible by relating them to the one message of the Bible.”
- “Enables us to relate any Bible story to the whole message of the Bible, and therefore to ourselves.”