## Building Biblical Theology

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON ONE

# WHAT IS BIBLICAL THEOLOGY?



Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

#### **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

Complete each question in the space provided based on the content of the lesson. Each question should be in the form of a short essay (approximately 250 words).

1. Explain what is meant by "historical analysis."

2. What does the Bible teach about the acts of God in history?

3. How do the different theological reflection tendencies of factual historical analysis and theological historical analysis go hand in hand, and how are their main concerns different?

4. What cultural changes took place in the 17<sup>th</sup> century that led to the formal discipline of biblical theology?

5. In what way does critical biblical theology use the Scriptures for contemporary theology?

6. Why have modern Christians come to approach the Scriptures through biblical theology?

7.	How do evangelical biblical theologians understand the relationship between history and revelation?

Define and describe "act revelation." Defend it using the Scriptures.

8.

9.	Define and describe "word revelation." Why is "word revelation" essential?
10.	In what ways are act and word revelation associated with each other in biblical theology?

11. Why do we speak of biblical history as the process by which God will be ultimately glorified by extending his kingdom to the ends of the earth?

12. How are the different stages of history connected to each other and why does biblical theology stress the organic nature of history in Scripture?

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### **Essay Questions**

LESSON TWO

# SYNCHRONIC SYNTHESIS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



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#### **Essay Questions**

1. Discuss the term "synchronic" and illustrate its meaning and use in biblical theology.

2. Discuss the term "synthesis" and explain a popular denial of the Old Testament's logical character and why we affirm its logical coherence.

3.	How does Paul use synchronic synthesis in Romans 5:12-14?
4.	Explain the two worlds of interpretation for both poetic and narrative literature.

5.	How do the two worlds of Old Testament poetry affect the ways we can discern
	historical information?

6. When discerning historical information from Old Testament narratives, why is it important not to expect them to be like modern journalistic historical writing?

7.	Discuss synthetic theological structures and the variety of souces we use to
	discern them in the Old Testament.

8. Discuss and illustrate Basic-Level Structures, Middle-Level Sturctures, and Complex-Level Structures.

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LESSON THREE

# DIACHRONIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



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#### **Essay Questions**

1. Explain what is meant by the term "diachronic."

2. Why do we use the term "development" instead of simply speaking of diachronic changes? How does this development involve God's divine purposes and divine providence?

3.	Give at least one biblical example of authors or characters in the Bible treating the
	Scriptures diachronically.

4. Describe the universal covenants, the national covenants, and the new covenant. Explain how these various covenants divide the history of the Old Testament into major theological periods.

5. Explain how the covenant epochs of Old Testament history were unified as administrations of God's kingdom.

6. Describe how the authority of earlier covenants extended to later covenants, and explain why care must be taken when applying lessons learned from earlier covenants to later situations.

7.	Describe three aspects of the relationships between different covenant ages.
8.	What are the most common topics of traditional systematic theology and how do biblical theologians approach these topics?

9.	What is biblical typology and why is it important to the study of biblical
	theology? Give examples.

10. What are five important features of typologies in Scripture, and how do we identify typologies in the Old Testament?

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### **Essay Questions**

LESSON FOUR

# CONTOURS OF NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY



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#### **Essay Questions**

1. Explain how the twofold concept of act and word revelation has characterized biblical theology of the New Testament.

2. Describe the three different levels of structure in the New Testament and give an example for each.

3.	In what ways do New Testament biblical theologians differ from Old Testament
	biblical theologians in regard to the way they handle diachronic developments?

4. What is eschatology and how has this subject traditionally been approached by systematic theologians?

5.	How does becoming familiar with the background of Old Testament eschatology
	help us understand diachronic developments in New Testament eschatology?

6. What outlooks on the "last days" were held by most first-century Jews, and what effect did the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus have on these views?

7. Why were New Testament authors so preoccupied with Jesus' three-phase eschatology? How does this three-phase eschatology represent a decisive break between first-century Judaism and Christianity?

8. What is Christology and how do systematic theologians and biblical theologians differ in their emphases regarding this discipline?

9. Explain the doctrine of soteriology. What is the traditional view of soteriology, and how have biblical theologians understood soteriology in new ways?