

Building Biblical Theology

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

WHAT IS BIBLICAL THEOLOGY?



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Journal Questions

1. How can understanding Biblical theology help us write a sermon or teach a Bible study?
2. What type of analysis (historical, literary, or thematic) do you do most often?
3. How can your study of Scripture improve if you develop abilities in other types of analysis?
4. This lesson argues that Scripture does not just report God's acts in history but gives theological significance to those acts. To what extent can we give theological significance to events that happen in everyday lives?
5. What challenges to the reliability of biblical history do you face in your own ministry? How can you respond to those challenges?
6. How can understanding the difference between act and word revelation help us interpret the Bible better?
7. How should the ultimate goal of "bringing God immeasurable glory" by "establishing God's kingdom on earth" affect the way we live our lives and do ministry?
8. How can we learn from the low points and high points of biblical history?
9. How can understanding the organic growth of revelation help us in applying the Bible to our own ministries?
10. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
TWO

SYNCHRONIC SYNTHESIS
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



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1. How can synchronic synthesis help us understand the nature of the time of redemptive history for a biblical passage?
2. What role should logic play in the interpretation of Scripture as you seek to apply the Bible today?
3. This lesson distinguishes the style of Old Testament theology from the standards of western philosophical traditions. How will these differences impact the way you interpret Scripture?
4. How can distinguishing between “that world” and “their world” help us in doing a synchronic synthesis of a time in redemptive history?
5. How can the understanding that the biblical writers were only as precise as required by their didactic purposes help us overcome challenges to the truthfulness of Scripture?
6. To what extent should we seek to be objective as we interpret biblical history?
7. What is the importance of studying earlier and later revelation as we seek to do biblical theology?
8. How can general revelation help us in the task of biblical theology?
9. How do the three main elements of all covenants impact the way we ought to obey Scripture today?
10. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
THREE

DIACHRONIC
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT



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1. What makes understanding how the Bible's theology developed over time so important for us as we seek to apply the Old Testament to our own lives or teach it to others?
2. What are some ways that we might misinterpret and/or misapply the Bible if we fail to understand how biblical theology developed over time?
3. How can Jesus' description of the diachronic development of marriage be an example for us as we seek to do biblical theology today?
4. In what ways should we apply the Scriptures concerning aspects of Old Testament worship (sacrifice, temple, Passover meal) in church services today under the new covenant?
5. In what ways might Christians today be tempted to live as if we were in an earlier age of redemptive history, before the coming of Christ?
6. In what ways might Christians today be tempted to forget the wisdom that God had taught in earlier ages?
7. What is the importance of understanding the Scriptures' use of typology for the study of the Bible?
8. In what ways can typology point us forward to the realities that we will experience when Christ returns, and how can this give us hope in the present time?
9. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?
10. What areas of study do you believe you need to pursue further after this lesson?

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LESSON
FOUR

CONTOURS OF NEW
TESTAMENT BIBLICAL
THEOLOGY



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1. How does your understanding of the kingdom of God shape the way you do your ministry? In what ways might your ministry change by applying the concept of God's kingdom to all aspects of life?
2. This lesson suggests that different New Testament authors provided different perspectives on Christ and the entire New Testament era. How do we explain these differences to those who claim that the authors of the New Testament contradicted each other?
3. How can understanding the eschatology of the New Testament improve the way you preach or lead Bible studies?
4. How does the fact that we are living in the continuation of an inaugurated kingdom cause us to expect victories for God's kingdom in the present time? What would those victories look like?
5. How does the fact that we have not yet reached the consummation of the kingdom of God help us deal with the suffering that we still experience in our lives?
6. In what ways should we live like we are in the last days?
7. How does the fact that Jesus is the fulfillment of every Old Testament hope affect the way we should study and preach from the Old Testament?
8. Take a moment to read Romans 8:18-25 and note all the references to the inauguration, continuation and consummation of the kingdom of God. What teaching points could you make from this passage in all three stages of the kingdom?
9. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?
10. After finishing this series, what areas of biblical theology would you like to study further?