Biblical theology engages the Old and New Testaments as a unified whole to understand their theological content as the unfolding revelation of God and his purposes in history as revealed in the Scriptures. Despite the diversity of the corpus across multiple authors, literary genres, historical contexts, and three different languages, the discipline proceeds from the view that the 66 books of the canon form a coherent whole, at the center of which stands the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh (John 5:39). The task of biblical theology is to articulate biblical revelation from the beginning of God’s creation in Genesis to the consummation of all human history in Revelation.

In this course, we will follow the unfolding history of redemption through the integrating theme of the covenant people of God. From Eden to the New Jerusalem, we will explore the theme of God’s voluntary binding of himself to humanity in covenant relationship and his redemption of a people made holy, which ultimately will encompass all nations of the earth and consummate history—“The dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God” (Revelation 21:3).

Course Objectives

1. Articulate the theological unity of the Old and New Testaments in the unfolding revelation of salvation history following the theological theme of God’s holy people from creation to consummation.
2. Situate in the corpus the primary theological themes in the history of redemption (creation, image of God, judgment, substitutionary sacrifice, election, salvation, kingship, mission, future hope).
3. Apply biblical theological themes to the students’ own lives and articulate one’s own testimony in the language of Scripture.
4. Grow in confidence to preach and teach within a biblical-theological framework.
Course Texts

ISBN 978-0-8308-2571-4

Course Requirements

Class participation is essential for the seminar format of this course. We will work closely out of the biblical text to build a grand view of all Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, covering sweeping theological themes through large portions of the text in English and focusing in on key passages in the original Hebrew and Greek. Students should come to class ready to discuss the biblical passages they have prepared and their reflections on the course readings. The preparation for each of our three weekends together is as follows:

Session 1 – February 6-7

English Bible Reading:
Translate:
   Genesis 1:26-28
   Genesis 17:1-8
   Exodus 19:5-6
   Exodus 33:14-16
   Exodus 34:5-7
   Leviticus 26:11-12
Read:
Session 2 – March 6-7

English Bible Reading:
   Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah, Ezekiel 1-10, Zechariah.

Translate:
   2 Samuel 7:8-16
   Isaiah 49:5-6
   Jeremiah 31:31-34
   Hosea 2:18-19; 22-25 [MT]
   John 1:10-18

Read:
   Relevant chapters in Thomas R. Schreiner, The King in His Beauty. Read Richard Middleton, A New Heaven and a New Earth to be completed for discussion by the next class session. Continue reading Christopher Wright, The Mission of God.

Session 3 – April 10-11

English Bible Reading:

Translate:
   2 Corinthians 3:17-18
   Romans 8:12-17
   Ephesians 2:11-22
   Galatians 3:13-14
   Hebrews 1:14

Read:
   Relevant chapters in Thomas R. Schreiner, The King in His Beauty and continue reading Christopher Wright, The Mission of God.

* Student Presentations
Course Assessment

1. Reading Report (10%)
   A report on the percentage of readings completed, inclusive of the Bible and course textbooks. Report your readings on the last page of your exegesis paper.
   Due: May 11, 2015, or May 4, 2015 for graduating students.

2. Translation Journal (20%)
   Produce a translation journal of the above listed Bible passages. Your translations must be handwritten. Include notes on important words and concepts as well as your own questions and reflections on the passage. I am looking for your own thoughtful interaction with these passages which is essentially your preparation for each class. These may be in note form.
   Due: last day of class, April 11, 2015.

3. Personal Reflection Paper and Presentation (20%)
   Students are asked to locate their own story within the grand narrative of Scripture with reference to the biblical theological theme we have developed together in class, namely, becoming God’s holy people. Include your ethnic origin, circumstances of your conversion, adoption into the family of God, and your own call to ministry. Discuss your testimony in theological categories such as mission, covenant, image of God, inheritance, future hope, etc. Papers should be 5 pages 1.5 spaced. You will give a 5 minute presentation on your paper on April 11, 2015, articulating your being written into the narrative of the people of God as “epistles of Christ” (2 Corinthians 3:3).
   Due: last day of class, April 11, 2015.

4. Exegesis Paper (50%)
   1 Peter 1:13-25 or 1 Peter 2:4-12

   The exegesis paper will require students to trace the development of the biblical theological theme of a holy people belonging to God in the New Testament. 1 Peter represents the mature reflection of a leading disciple of Christ on the nature of a newly constituted holy people as the outworking of the God of Israel’s redemptive historical purposes in the world.
The paper should begin with an introduction to the person of Peter and the historical context of the epistle, followed by an original translation and exegesis of the passage. Students are expected to interact with scholarly commentaries and articles. Students are to locate this passage in the canon of biblical theology, marking the fulfillment of theological themes anticipated in the Old Testament. Focus on the theological role of passages quoted from the Hebrew canon to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. How do the Old Testament Scriptures shape Peter’s understanding of a holy people of God in Christ? How do themes of promise, election, sanctification, covenant and inheritance all come together and find fulfillment in the person of Christ? How is the theological identity of the people of God expressed? How does Peter interpret the existing tradition and apply it to his present context? The concluding paragraph should reflect on what this biblical theological theme contributes to our own understanding of the church’s mission. Class readings should be integrated in the interpretation and properly cited using SBL citation style SBL student manual (click on Student Supplement to the SBL Handbook of Style). 15 pages 1.5 spaced.

Due: One month after our last class, on May 11, 2015, or no later than May 4, 2015 for graduating students.

* Please note that extensions will not be granted.