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Midterm Exam: Biblical Theology

TH 620 Fall 2021

Instructions: Write a brief essay (one or two paragraphs) for each of the following questions, drawing upon the readings from **Goldsworthy, chapters 1-20, Part I** of the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (pp. 3-114),

1. What is Biblical Theology (BT)? Biblical Theology is the study of the bible and its context. To appropriately put BT into practice one must use exegesis. Exegesis is the art of studying the context of the text to get a full understanding of what the author was writing. BT is also examining everything that is incorporated in the written word of God. BT is a discipline within itself totally separate from other theological disciplines. BT focal concern is the overall theme of the entire bible. BT involves looking at the text through the lens of literary, historical, and theological dimensions. When text is examined in this way the proper account is obtained. BT is also a desire for Christians to understand God's dealing with humanity. BT workers also include full interpretations of what is being shared in the text, who, what, when, where and why are the questions applied during BT. Biblical theology as a construction site: practice includes five other specification: 1. The tools of the trade are analysis and synthesis 2. The building materials consist of both biblical concepts and biblical words. 3. The bridge to be constructed is a single span across the whole bible. 4. The building plans follow the blueprint of the Bible's storyline. 5. The foundation and pinnacle of the structure is Jesus Christ. (p.5) In summary BT is theological interpretation of scripture in and for the church. It proceeds with historical and literary sensitivity and seeks to analyses and synthesize the Bible's teaching about God and his relations to the world on its own terms, maintaining sight of the Bible's narrative and Christocentric focus.
2. What is the difference between BT and Systematic Theology? Systematic and Biblical Theology share a common of base of authority in canonical Scripture. Both systematic theology and biblical theology are provisional and in principle correctible. Both are texted based and synchronized. ST seeks to rearticulate what the bible says in self-conscious engagement with the culture; through it cannot escape culture influences. Whereas BT tends to seek out the rationality and communicative genius of each literary genre; systematic theology tends to integrate the diverse rationalities in its pursuit of a large-scale and worldview. In contrast ST tends to be culminating disciple; biblical theology, though it is a worthy end itself, tends to be a bridge discipline. (p.102-103)
3. What does it mean to say that the Bible is Scripture? The meaning of the Bible is Scripture expressed by Christian means the bible is the written word of God. The holy Scriptures was used by the Jews to denote an established body of writings of divine origin, possessing authority for the people of God. In the Old Testament (OT) Christians view Scripture as the utterances of God even if the speaker wasn't God himself. The interpretation of the Scripture

may have many differences in the views by the Jews and Christians, but it is mutually agreed upon as it relates to the divine origin and the nature of the text. The nature of communication as shared in the text BT gives a clear description of what is meant by Bible is scripture. The conviction that scripture is the written word of God is based on the concept that God inspired man to write. In addition to this conviction it is perceived that God has communicated and is still communicating with human beings. A method of proper channels of communication is shared in 8 steps. (p.36)

God Speaks reflects the persona of God and His divine characteristics. The view then is who He is and why He is and finally what He does. 1. God is a person. 2. God is transcendent in spirit meaning His presence isn't dependent of anything or upon anyone He is omnipresent. 3. God is Omniscient He knows all of creation He knows the past, the present and the future. 4. God is King know one can resist him. 5. God is lord He rules history. 6. God is holy. 7. God is Faithful. 8. God is Father. 9. God is glorious. 10. God continues to speak. 11. God is credible in all of His ways and there are no erroneous errors found in Him; therefore Scripture is flawless and no inerrancies can be found. Everything that God's Scripture has stated will occur and will not return without its commission met.

4. What is the importance of the concept of canon for BT?

The important of the concept of the canon in Biblical theology is necessary in order to provide validity and accurate accounts of OT and NT history. The bible is a book that requires a canon because of the accounts of history that it tells from Creation, the fall of man, redemption salvation and the rapture. Bible. Some of the former names such scared names or the Holy Books and the Law and the Prophets. The canon is one of the authoritative scared texts because they were inspired by God to. Bible Theology explains that the canon provides both boundaries and a basis. The canon is to gain the true revelation of God and what His intentions were for His creation. The canons are presented in the form of a historical narration and progression in literary form.

The first form of Canon dates back to the OT all the way throughout the bible into the NT. Canons where know to be written on scrolls of papyrus or leather and dice. In the OT times written on tablets such as the Ten Commandments written by the finger of God. The OT Canons pre-existence paved a way and a form for the NT Canons to emerge. Another characteristic of the canons is how they shaped. Different authors that were inspired by God presented their accounts in the form of what was relevant to them at that time. Some wrote in chronological formation while others at times provided a literary formation of the canon. Three forms of canons are the following: 1. The Samaritan Canon- the time that the Samaritans parted from the Jews. 2. The Syrian Canon – the standard Syriac translation of Scriptures. 3. The Roman Catholic canon – The council of Trent at its fourth session known as the Apocrypha's. Finally, the form of text in the canons OT is Hebrew and NT is the Greek. (p.29)

5. Why is BT important for the preaching of the church?

Biblical Theology is vital when one must prepare a message for preaching. Proper research and application must be utilized when in preparation of a sermon. Three focal points to consider when crafting a message in the intention of what the Bible ultimate mission and goal is: 1. God has spoken. 2. It is written. 3. Preach the word. (p.104) Since God's word the Bible was inspired by Himself and given to man it is fair to say that when God is present, he is present to speak. Secondly it is written; all throughout the Bible we have accounts of what God had given inspired scribes for His people. When God speaks he does so that his message is impactful not just for the present but for eternity. God's words were also written down for us on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come (1 Cor. 10:11) (p.105) Finally, preach the word. Those that are called to preach historically were given specific messages for specific hearers at a specific time. The vastness of God's word is that it is still applicable even during today's times and season. Sermons must be properly prepared so that the hearer leaves with a clear understanding of God's plan for their life and their faith strengthened and not dismantled. Preaching and biblical theology need each other (p.105) "Theology without proclamation is empty, proclamation without theology is blind." (Theology and Proclamation, p.20)

6. How can the story in Genesis 1-3 be understood as Ancient Near Eastern cosmology and as theological polemic against polytheism? The biblical authors are clever and fearless in putting forth their fundamental theological claim: the world all of us humans experience is the product of the creative power of the God of Israel and no other god. Polytheism is the worship of or belief in multiple deities, which are usually assembled into a pantheon of gods and goddesses, along with their own religious sects and rituals. Polytheism is a type of theism. Within theism, it contrasts with monotheism, the belief in a singular God, in most cases transcendent. What is the importance of creation ex nihilo for a theology of creation? Creatio ex nihilo is a foundational doctrine in the Abrahamic faiths. It states that God created the world freely out of nothing - from no pre-existent matter, space or time. The first articulation of the notion of creation ex nihilo is found in the 2nd century writing *To Autocylus* (2.10) authored by Theophilus of Antioch. By the beginning of the 3rd century the tension was resolved, and creation ex nihilo had become a fundamental tenet of Christian theology. The importance of creation ex nihilo helps to explain the deity of God.
7. Humans are created in the "image" and "likeness" of God (Gen 1:27). What is the theological significance of that claim? There are three scripture references that identify that God made man in His Image. Genesis 1:26, 27 and 9:6. The image of man shows that it belongs to the dignity of man to next to God in the order of things (Ps.8:5). Humanity is a representation of the whole creation so that God with creation on the basis on how he deals with humans. As it relates to sin and when man falls because of sin the creation is made to fall with him. God was able to restore man back into His image through the redemptive finished work of His son Jesus Christ. (P.96)
8. What is the meaning of covenants in the Bible? What are characteristics of covenant (for example, the covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Israel)? God's covenant commitment is

given first to Abraham and then to Isaac and Jacob. Beneficiaries of the covenant are descendants of Abraham. God promised to Israel's God and they in turn will be his people. Despite Israel's consistent disobedience God remained and still today remains faithful. God's covenant remains even we fall short of his commandments and laws. God from the beginning of time desired a relationship with his creation. The time line of events that led up to the covenants was: Creation >>Fall of Man>>> Flood/Noah>> Abraham /Descendants. God is a promise keeper and he will never take back his promises that he shared during the covenants. The OT Covenant prepared the way New Covenant Promise through Jesus Christ. The promise was given to Abraham but Fulfilled in Christ. Ultimately the principle expression of the relationship between God and his people is the covenant.

9. Consider the Ten Words (Commandments). How is the Decalogue "good news" for Israel? Given the social and cultural contexts of ancient Israel, how do the commandments organize the life of the people of God? The focal point of Moses' stop at Mount Sinai was the impartation of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-14). The decalogue was given to prescribe proper conduct toward God and Man. The decalogue the core principles of the Israelite way of life. The Decalogue opens with "And God spoke all these words saying" (Exodus 20:1) The Decalogue although not addressed directly at any group the content is addressed to anyone and everyone who is open to hearing it.
10. What is the importance of the book of Judges (with its cycles) for the anticipation of future messianic expectations? The time that Judges was written the nation went through political and religious turmoil as they inhabitants tried to possess those parts of the land that wasn't fully conquered. The tribes in the land fought among themselves. The pattern of behavior in the book of Judges displayed the people's rebellion through idolatry and disbelief. God brought judgment through foreign oppression. God then raised up a deliverer, and the people repented and turned back to God. However this would only last for a while before the people eventually fell back into sin, the cycle started all over again. Chapters 1-2 Incomplete disobedience, Chapters 3-16 disobedience, bondage, misery, liberation and Rest compromises. Chapters 17-21 Disgrace Curses from failure.
11. How does the sacrificial system established in Leviticus function as the foundation for understanding the concept of atonement in the New Testament? In the OT the sacrifices of animals were presented as sacred symbols of God's Mercy. The Day of Atonement in the OT was carried out by high priest. The symbolic sacrifices were used to accomplish the following: 1. They were to deter and turn away Israel from sinning to repentance. 2. They provided a symbolic payment for the hard cost of wrongdoing. 3. They provided a symbolic purification for the community and the temple from the contagious vandalism. Nevertheless after all that was shared God still maintained his presence with his people. OT and NT connections portray that in the NT Jesus' death is described as a sacrifice that accomplished atonement.