

Biblical Theology Gospel Growth

Class 1: What is Biblical Theology?

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 24:44-47**.

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).*

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 Rarticulates BT

II. What are the Tools of Biblical Theology?

We're going to rummage through two different tool boxes pull a few out one at a time, look at them, and figure out what they do.

Tool Box # 1: Exegetical Tools

Exegesis is the disciplined attempt to lead out of a text the author's original intent, rather than one's own preference or experience or opinion. Jerome, an early church father put it this way: *“The office of a commentator is to set forth not what he himself would prefer, but what his author says.”*

A. Tool # 1: The Grammatical-Historical Method

B. Tool # 2: Literary Form

Test case: Psalm 143:12

*“And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies.
And you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am
your servant.”*

Tool Box # 2: Storyline Tools

A. Plot

B. Theme

Kingdom (how God orders and rules over his people),

Exodus (how God saves his people),

Exile (how God punishes his people)

D. Promise-Fulfillment

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
(Genesis 12:1-3 ESV)

E. Typology

The essence of typology is the recognition that within Scripture itself certain events, people, or institutions in biblical history bear a particular relationship to later events, people and institutions. The relationship is such that the earlier foreshadows the later, and later fills out or completes the earlier. (Graeme Goldsworthy)

A type is usually a person (like Moses, or David) or an object (like the ark or sacrificial lamb) that anticipates or prefigures Jesus.

F. Continuity and Discontinuity

III. Why is Biblical Theology Important?

The short answer is: Biblical Theology Guards and Guides Churches. It Guards churches against false stories and wrong paths. It guides the church toward better preaching, better practices, better paths