

## 10. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

Part 4: Meaning – “What does the passage mean?”

*How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament*

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*Goal:* Consider how your passage connects to the Bible’s overall story line or message and points to Christ.

### 1. The Presuppositions of Biblical Theology

- a. Event vs. Text
- b. Criticism vs. Canon
- c. Descriptive vs. Prescriptive
- d. Theologies vs. Theology

### 2. The Nature of Biblical Theology

- a. Definition:
  - Long: A way of analyzing and synthesizing what the Bible reveals about God and his relations with the world that makes organic salvation-historical and literary-canonical connections with the whole of Scripture on its own terms, especially with respect to how the Old and New Testaments progress, integrate, and climax in Christ.
  - Short: Analyzing and synthesizing how the whole Bible progresses, integrates, and climaxes in Christ.
- b. *The Task, Part 1*: Biblical theology analyzes and synthesizes what the Bible reveals about God and his relations with the world.
- c. *The Task, Part 2*: Biblical theology makes organic connections within the whole of Scripture.

- d. *Salvation-Historical Connections*: Biblical theology makes organic salvation-historical connections within the whole of Scripture on its own terms.

Old Testament Foundation	K		Creation, fall, and flood
	I		Patriarchs
	N		Exodus, Sinai, and wilderness
	G		Conquest and kingdoms
	D		Exile and initial restoration
New Testament Fulfillment	O		Christ's work and the church age
	M		Christ's return and kingdom consummation



- Different ways to make salvation-historical connections:
  - Thematic development
  - Covenantal continuity and discontinuity
  - Type vs. antitype
  - Promise and fulfillment
  - Use of the Old Testament in the Old and New Testaments

e. *Literary-Canonical Connections*: Biblical theology makes organic literary-canonical connections with the whole of Scripture on its own terms.

- The Bible's composition and structure

	<b>Covenant Established</b>	<b>Covenant Enforced</b>		<b>Covenant Enjoyed</b>	
<b>OT</b>	Law	Former Prophets	Latter Prophets	Former Writings	Latter Writings
<b>NT</b>	Gospels	Acts	General Epistles	Pauline Epistles + Hebrews	Revelation
	<i>Narrative</i>	<i>Narrative</i>	<i>Commentary</i>	<i>Commentary</i>	<i>Narrative</i>

- The Bible's historical details

f. *The Relationship of the Testaments*: Biblical theology wrestles with how the Old and New Testaments progress and integrate.

- Building off the OT story of salvation history, G. K. Beale (*Handbook*, 96–102) notes that the NT authors:
  - Assume *corporate solidarity*, in which the one can represent the many.
  - View the Messiah as *representing the true (remnant) Israel* of the old covenant and *the true (consummate) Israel, the church*, of the new covenant.
  - Believe *history is unified* by a wise and sovereign plan so that God designs the earlier parts to clarify and correspond and point to the latter parts.
  - Are convinced that the age of *eschatological fulfillment* has come in Christ.
  - Believe that *Christ as the center of history* is the key to interpreting the earlier portions of the Old and New Testaments.

- The NT provides both the answer key and algorithm for interpreting the OT.

g. *The Centrality of Christ*: Biblical theology wrestles with how the Old and New Testaments climax in Christ.

- In various ways, all Scripture is about Christ and anticipates him and the mission he would spark (John 5:39; 8:56; Matt 13:17; 1 Cor 2:2; Luke 24:45–47; Acts 26:22–23).
- Christ brings climax to redemptive history and fulfills both law and prophecy (Luke 16:16; Gal 3:24–25; Matt 5:17–18; Acts 3:18; Rom 1:1–3).

- Christ is the necessary lens by which we interpret and apply the OT (Rom 10:4; 16:25–26; 2 Cor 1:20; 3:14).

### **3. The Bible's Frame, Form, Focus, and Fulcrum**

- **Frame (What?):**
- **Form (How?):**
- **Focus (Why?):**
- **Fulcrum (Whom?)**