



Taylor Seminary

## **BI 512 Motifs in Biblical Theology**

Winter Semester 2014

*To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jerry E. Shepherd, Ph.D.  
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**SCHEDULE:** Thursdays, 8:30 AM—12:15 PM

**CREDITS:** 3 [90 hours of work outside class time]

### **DESCRIPTION:**

A study, through the use of motific and thematic analysis, of God's progressive self-revelation in the Scriptures.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course the student should:

1. Be able to trace God's progressive self-revelation in the Scriptures.
2. Perceive the unity of Scripture in the midst of its diversity.
3. Gain an appreciation for, and skill in, the biblical-theological, redemptive-historical approach to the understanding of Scripture.
4. Acquire a more biblically informed and shaped approach to preaching and teaching.
5. Acquire an ability to critique hermeneutical theories and theological systems from the perspective of the whole canon of Scripture.
6. Know the God who is always like himself, and yet at the same time, cannot be boxed in and is full of surprises.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1961, 1979. Repr., Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2002. (I have a number of copies available for purchase.)

Longman, Tremper III, and Daniel G. Reid. *God Is a Warrior*. Studies in Old Testament Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995. Repr., Eugene, Ore., Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Poythress, Vern S. *Symphonic Theology: The Validity of Multiple Perspectives in Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. Repr., Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2001. You may also access this book online at <http://www.frame-poythress.org/ebooks/symphonic-theology-by-vern-poythress/>.

Strom, Mark. *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1990. Repr., Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2001.

The student must also have a copy of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. This is available on Taylor website, as well as on the Moodle course website.

### **OTHER RECOMMENDED REFERENCE WORKS:**

Alexander, T. Desmond, Brian S. Rosner, D. A. Carson, and Graeme Goldsworthy, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

Beale, G. K., and D. A. Carson, eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III, eds.. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Class attendance and contribution based on thoughtful consideration of the assigned readings.
2. The reading of assigned books and articles. No percentage is attached to this requirement, but failure to do the assigned reading could lower your grade. (40 hours)
3. Completion of selected assignments from the Strom text. (10%; 8 hours)
4. A critical reaction paper to the Poythress text, 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced. (10%; 5 hours)
5. A review of the Longman and Reid text, 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced. (10%; 5 hours)
6. A biblical-theological evaluation of two sermons in light of the readings in the Clowney and Strom texts, 7-8 pages, typed, double-spaced. (15%; 5 hours)
7. Class presentation of your work on a particular biblical motif or theme. The length of the presentations will be determined by the number of students in the class. The presentations will be critiqued in class by your professor and classmates. (20%; 10 hours)
8. Evaluations of the other class members' presentations. Due one week after each presentation. (5%; 2 hours)

9. Final paper on the same motif or theme as that of your class presentation, incorporating the suggestions of your previously mentioned critics. The paper should be approximately 15 pages, typed, double-spaced, and done according to the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. (30%; 25 hours)

#### **EVALUATION:**

Exercises in Strom	10%
Poythress reaction	10%
Longman & Reid review	10%
Sermon evaluations	15%
Presentation	20%
Evaluations	5%
Final Paper	30%

#### **PENALTIES:**

All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. Unless there is a valid excuse, late assignments will be charged a penalty of 5% per regular school day.

#### **FINAL REMARKS:**

1. The work on all the assignments must be your own. For the sermon evaluations, critical reaction paper, and book review, in particular, this means that: (1) you must not simply quote whole sentences or paragraphs from the sermons or book, but carefully and concisely summarize the material; (2) you must react to, or interact with, the author's content and/or argument in not just your own words, but also your own thinking; and (3) if you choose to utilize words or ideas from other pertinent material that you have read, you must carefully document such assistance.
2. The final paper is not a research paper as such, but rather an opportunity to demonstrate your skill in understanding and tracing a motif or theme in the light of the entire canon of Scripture. It is possible to write the paper without consulting commentaries or other helps. You may find, however, that you will need to consult them. If so, be careful to document any assistance you receive from such sources.
3. There will be a course-related website at <http://online.tayloru.ca/> I will give you instructions in class for accessing this site. A number of the course materials will be posted there.
4. It is my desire to be as helpful to you as possible. Please feel free to call me at any time (within reason) or email me with questions or problems that you may be having. If I am not available just leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. I will pray for you and request that you do the same for me. Let us be sure to encourage one another as together we grow in the knowledge of our great God and prepare for service in his Church.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Jan	23	First class
Jan	30	Read all of Clowney's <i>Preaching and Biblical Theology</i>
Feb	7	Strom, pp. 1-30, exercise 1 on p. 30
Feb	14	Strom, pp. 31-38, exercise 1 on p. 38
Feb	21	Strom, pp. 39-48, exercise 2 on p. 48
Feb	28	Strom, pp. 49-58, exercise 2 on p. 57 (the rest of the Strom text may be read at any point during the semester)
Mar	7	Critical reaction paper on Poythress's <i>Symphonic Theology</i>
Mar	14	Book review of Longman and Reid's <i>God Is a Warrior</i>
Mar	21	Presentations
Mar	28	Presentations
Apr	3	Reading Week – No Class
Apr	10	Discussion on Bartholomew and Goheen's <i>Drama of Scripture</i>
Apr	17	Critical sermon evaluations
Apr	24	Papers Due

## COURSE OUTLINE:

- 1 What is Biblical Theology?
  - 1.1 Contrast with Systematic Theology
  - 1.2 Relationship with Hermeneutics and Exegesis
  
- 2 A History of Biblical Theology
  - 2.1 Less conservative approaches to Biblical Theology
  - 2.2 More conservative approaches to Biblical Theology
    - 2.2.1 Dispensationalism
    - 2.2.2 Covenant Theology

3 Examination of Various Biblical-Theological Motifs

- 3.1 Divine Warrior
- 3.2 Creation and Consummation
- 3.3 Sea/Monster/Waters
- 3.4 Temple/Glory
- 3.5 Gentile Contribution to the Temple
- 3.6 Dining
- 3.7 Younger/Elder Brother
- 3.8 Temptation
- 3.9 Exodus
- 3.10 Moses // Jesus, Israel // Jesus
- 3.11 Remnant
- 3.12 Fig Tree
- 3.13 Elijah/Elisha // Jesus/John the Baptist
- 3.14 Servant of the Lord
- 3.15 Jesus // Peter, Peter // Paul, Jesus // Paul

More as time allows

4 Class Presentations

5 Conclusion and Evaluation