



**BTS Mission:**

**Providing sound Biblical and practical theological training to equip leaders for Christ's Church.**

2200 Briarwood Way

Birmingham, Alabama

205-776-5650

**DE 2020**

**OT1526 Old Testament History and Theology**

**Class Hours: 2**

**Professors: DE**

**Work Phone: 205-776-5386**

**Cell Phone: 205-243-7912**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a study of the canon, of textual criticism, of Israelite history and an evaluation of critical scholarship. The Christ-centered interpretation of the Old Testament will take into consideration the organic and progressive structure of biblical theology.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify how Old Testament passages reflect kingdom and covenant theology.
2. Evaluate, assess, and articulate issues of criticism in Old Testament scholarship.
3. Recognize and explain the concept and nature of biblical theology.
4. Articulate and demonstrate an understanding of Israelite history.
5. Describe and synthesize the various covenantal approaches to Old Testament history.

## **COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

### **Required Texts:**

Vos, Geerhardus *Biblical Theology*. Banner of Truth. ISBN: 0-85151-458-8

Wright, Christopher J.H. *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament* InterVarsity Press  
ISBN 0830816933

Read the manuscript, fillout the study guide and watch the videos: Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament. <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/KOT>

## **Collateral Text:**

Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing ISBN 0802531079

Read, audit or view: Introduction to the Pentateuch. <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp/vid/184>

Read, audit or view: Building Biblical Theology. <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/BBT>

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

Read the syllabus thoroughly: Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance

Students are expected to have the reading of the two required textbooks and the Thirdmill video requirements completed prior to the first day of class. This will allow the students to be full participants in the course lectures and discussions.

1. Class attendance and participation.
2. Completion of reading the required textbooks and completing the Thirdmill assignments prior to watch VC sessions
3. Choose three of the following topics and write two to three-page papers (double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font or the equivalent and due within 90 days of the last day of class).

Paper 1: Summarize your understanding of how Genesis 1:26-31 fits within the kingdom and covenant theology of the Old Testament.

*[fulfills objective 1]*

Paper 2: Explain to a high school student why you believe the themes of kingdom and covenants in Scripture reveal one author behind one big story, who inspired the text.

*[fulfills objective 2]*

Paper 3: Outline for an adult Sunday School class a one-hour study the concept of biblical theology and its importance for understanding Christian identity and the church's mission.

*[fulfills objective 4]*

Paper 4: Set forth an overview of the history of Israel in language that a group of sixth grade boys would understand. *[fulfills objective 3]*

Paper 5: Contrast the covenantal approach to the Old Testament to the dispensational concept.

*[fulfills objective 5]*

4. The final exam will consist of 5 questions to be answered in ½ page each (double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman). These questions will be taken directly from the Lesson Guides (found on Thirdmill.org) that are related to the following video series:

Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/KOT>

## 5. Book Critique of Vos, Geerhardus *Biblical Theology*.

1. Book Critique is to be 5 pages (double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman or the equivalent). Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book's strengths and weaknesses. As you read, ask yourself and answer these questions, read critically:
  - ☞ Begin your critique with the bibliographic information (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique.
  - ☞ Write a brief summary of the main theme and any major secondary themes of the author.
  - ☞ Include your analysis of four arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scriptures.
  - ☞ Explain why you agree or disagree with the author's conclusions, using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.
  - ☞ Conclude with a paragraph that states what you have gained personally, spiritually, and professionally from reading this book.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Day VC Session**

The Concept and Application of Old Testament Kingdom and Covenant Meta-Theology

What is Old Testament meta-theology?

What is Kingdom theology?

What is Covenant theology?

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Day VC Sessions**

The Concept and Application of Thematic, Historical and Literary Exegesis

What is Old Testament exegetical theology?

What is a thematic approach to Old Testament interpretation?

What is a historical approach to Old Testament interpretation?

What is a literary approach to Old Testament interpretation?

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Day VC Sessions**

The Concept and Application of Diachronic Trajectory Adjustments in Old Testament Application

What is diachronic application of the Old Testament?

What is epochal trajectory adjustment?

What is a cultural trajectory adjustment?

What is personal trajectory adjustment?

## **GRADING**

1. Completion of reading (20%)
2. Class participation (10%)
2. Three short papers (30%)
3. Book critique (10%)
4. Final exam (30%)

## **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

BTS has adopted Turabian as the standard form and style for writing formal papers. However, professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. Students should reference Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 9th Edition*. A Turabian Supplement is available through the seminary. Students should also refer to the BTS Student Handbook on academic integrity/plagiarism. Below is a Paper Grading Rubric for formal papers:

### **GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT RUBRIC**

<b>A to A-</b>	<b>B to B-</b>	<b>C to C-</b>	<b>D to D-</b>
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Many errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, over used, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor and/or seminary office prior to the absence. In the absence of professor approval, a student will be permitted two absences per semester in a course. Tardiness may be recorded and three unexcused tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence. Unexcused absences and tardies exceeding the allowance may result in the student being dropped from the course with an “F” grade.

## **CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

Refer to Student Handbook:

<https://bts.education/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Student-Handbook-2016-Current.pdf>

### **STUDENT SIGNATURE**

Your signature below indicates that you have read this syllabus, understand it, and willing accept the requirements and responsibilities for successfully completing this course.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Old Testament Bibliography

## Introductions

- Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999. 512 pages. A survey designed for use in undergraduate Bible courses in conservative schools. Written on a popular level. Includes many color graphics, side bars, charts, and also discusses modern applications. Interacts irenic ally with liberal views.
- Gleason L. Archer, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1964. 2nd ed. 1974. 3rd ed. 1994. 608 pages. ISBN: 0802482007. A standard conservative survey, often polemical.
- Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. Scholarly, but only moderately conservative.
- Otto Eissfeldt, *The Old Testament, An Introduction*. New York: Harper and Row, 1965. Translated from the third German edition by Peter R. Ackroyd. The standard scholarly introduction from a secular/liberal perspective. Largely ignores conservative views.
- Roland K. Harrison, *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. 1,325 pages. The most satisfactory scholarly introduction written from a conservative perspective in recent years. Includes extensive, technical critique of liberal views.
- Karl Friedrich Keil, *Manual of Historico-Critical Introduction to the Canonical Scriptures of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Translated from the second German edition by George C. M. Douglas. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1870. Reprinted ca. 1990. Out-of-date in several ways, but still valuable. Much more technical than introductions published in the 20th century.
- Edward J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949. 2nd edition 1964. A brief conservative survey.
- William R. Scott, *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters and Other Markings*. Berkeley, California: Bibal Press, 1987. ISBN: 0941037045. 2nd ed., 1990. ISBN: 0941037142. A handy guide to using the apparatus of BHS. Includes H. P. Rüger's An English Key to the Latin Words and Symbols of BHS (American Bible Society, 1990).

## Hebrew-English Interlinear editions

Jay P. Green, ed., *The Interlinear Hebrew-Greek-English Bible*. 4 volumes. Wilmington, Delaware: Associated Publishers and Authors, 1976. Reprinted in one volume, 1979.

## Textual Criticism

- Ellis R. Brotzman, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. 208 pages. ISBN: 0801010659. Brief and conservative.
- Peter Kyle McCarter, *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship. Old Testament Guides. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986. 94 pages. ISBN: 0800604717. Brief. Includes helpful glossary. Tends to emphasize the importance of the LXX.

### **Concordances**

George V. Wigram, ed., *The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament: Being an Attempt at a Verbal Connection between the Original and the English Translation; with Indexes, a List of the Proper Names, and their Occurrences, etc.* London: Samuel Bagster and Sons, 1843. With many subsequent editions and reprints.

### **Lexicons**

Francis Brown, Samuel R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds., *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Known by the abbreviation BDB, it is still the standard lexicon in English. (ISBN: 1565632060).

### **Theological Dictionaries**

G. Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry, eds., *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-2001. This is an English translation of the *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum alten Testament*. To date 11 volumes (up to *panim*) have appeared in English.

R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980. Similar in format to Botterweck, but much shorter, simpler, and more conservative.

Ernst Jenni and Claus Westermann, *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1997. 3 vols. 1638 pages. ISBN: 1565631331. Includes a handy index to additional forms used within individual entries.

Willem A. VanGemeren, ed., *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. Volumes 1-3 contain lexical articles, volume 4 has topical articles, and volume 5 provides indexes.

### **Lexical Aids, Reading Helps, etc.**

Terry A. Armstrong, Douglas L. Busby, and Cyril F. Carr, *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980. Reprinted in a single volume by Regency Reference Library in 1989 (ISBN: 0310369800) All Hebrew words used 50 times or less arranged by chapter and verse.

### **Dead Sea Scrolls**

James C. VanderKam, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. 210 pages. VanderKam, professor of Hebrew Scriptures at Notre Dame University, reviews the history of the Scrolls and their use in scholarship of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The treatment takes for granted an acceptance of the historical-critical method.