



# SPURGEON COLLEGE

**U-HT 460 Biblical Theology: Syllabus**  
Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD)  
Southern Oaks Baptist Church  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2023

## I. Class Information

This class will include students who are seeking CLD credit, advanced-standing at Spurgeon College or Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and those who are merely “auditing” the class for their own development and interest in learning biblical theology. Most of the information included in this syllabus is relevant to those taking the course for CLD credit and advanced-standing, since only those students are required to complete the assignments described below. Those who are opting to “audit” the class may choose to work through the same assignments and the instructor will happily provide them with feedback, but this is by no means required.

**The approximate course load for this class will equal approximately 135 hours** (class times will account for reasonable breaks, approximately 10 minutes per hour) in the following format:

<b>Coursework:</b>	<b>Hours/Points:</b>
Class Time	20 hours
Required Reading	30 hours
Core Assignments	30 hours
Flex Assignments	50-60 hours
<b>Total Course Load:</b>	~135 hours
<b>Total Points Available:</b>	points

### Logistics:

Class Start and End Dates: January 24 to May 16

Final Assignments Due: May 30

Class Times: Tuesdays, 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm

Class Location: Southern Oaks Baptist Church (601 E. Amherst Dr., Tyler, TX)

### Contact Information:

Instructor Name, Title, and Credentials: Dr. Brandon Holiski (BS, MA, MA, PhD)

Instructor Contact Info: (903) 747-7716 (Cell); (903) 561-8025 (Office) Additional

Contact Info: sobcpastor@gmail.com

## II. Course Description

An introduction to the discipline of biblical theology including theoretical foundations and practical application

### III. Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Evaluate approaches to biblical theology in light of Scripture's unity and diversity
2. Explain the role of theological presuppositions in biblical theology, especially the doctrines of inspiration, progressive revelation, and the supremacy of Christ
3. Employ sound literary techniques to discern theology and trace themes throughout Scripture or one of its sub-sections
4. Equip believers to discern and communicate the broader storyline and subplots of Scripture

All instruction, activities, and assessments in this class will relate to one or more of these course objectives.

### IV. Textbooks and Required Reading

Kimble, Jeremy M. and Ched Spellman. *Invitation to Biblical Theology: Exploring the Shape, Storyline, and Themes of the Bible*. Invitation to Theological Studies. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2020.

#### Additional Resources (Not Required):

*Midwestern Style Manual*. Fourth Edition. Available in hard copy or digital download from The Sword & Trowel Bookstore. (816) 414-3808. \$10.00 for a digital download or \$20.00 for a hard copy. For reference only.

The Center for Biblical Studies at MBTS. Led by Dr. Andreas J. Köstenberger, the Center for Biblical Studies exists to engage in biblical scholarship *for the church*—for pastors and serious students of Scripture committed to the authority of God's Word. Instructors and students can access a wide range of articles, podcasts, book reviews, and more. Web: <https://cbs.mbts.edu>. Twitter: @cbsmbts.

#### **Approximate Course Load from Reading: 30 Hours**

### V. Assignments

*Instructor will provide details concerning rubrics, formatting, submission, and due dates.*

#### **Core Assignments (Required):**

##### 1. Instructional Exercises (30 points each, 450 points total – Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)

Description: Students will reflect upon the textbook and course instruction, practice the techniques taught, and utilize the tools taught.

Requirements: Instructors will provide access to an online discussion board where students will provide commentary on the weekly readings, answer questions put forth for consideration, and engage with the ideas of their classmates in discourse that is both charitable and critical. To receive full credit students must evidence familiarity with the assigned readings, provide thoughtful commentary, and assess the ideas of fellow students prior to each class.

#### **Approximate Course Load: 15 Hours Total**

## 2.Theme-Tracing Paper (300 points – Objectives 3, 4)

Description: Students will implement the truths, tools, and techniques explained in this course to trace a literary theme, phrase, or concept through the entire canon of Scripture. Instructors may require students to trace themes in canonical order or approximate chronological order, or instructors may allow students to choose either order and provide their justification for doing so in the introduction.

Requirements: This paper will be 2,400-3,600 words (8-12 pages if formatting according to the *Midwestern Style Manual*) and require at least 7 academic sources. Paper will include the following sections: 1. Introduction (100-150 words), 2. Development Through Scripture (1,800-2,400 words), 3. Synthesis (300-900 words), and 4. Conclusion (100-150 words). Instructors will inform students of any more detailed requirements.

Assignment Options:

- A theme or phrase chosen by the student and approved by the instructor
- The Kingdom of God
- Garden
- City
- Wisdom
- Serpents, Dragons, Monsters, Beasts
- Spiritual/Angelic/Demonic Beings
- Hills and Mountains
- The Holy Spirit
- Kings and/or Priests
- The Tabernacle/Temple
- “I will be your God”
- Covenants
- Seas/Oceans
- Seeds/Planting
- Lambs
- Incense/Aroma
- Firstborn Son(s)

Submission/Presentation: Instructors will provide details on formatting, submission, and due date. Additionally, instructor may require students to present their papers to the class.

**Approximate Course Load: 15 Hours**

**Approximate Course Load from Core Assignments: 30 Hours**

### **Flex Assignments**

#### Reading Reflections (100 points each/300 points total – Objectives Vary)

Description: Students will read and reflect upon two or more books from Appendix 1, as assigned by the instructor. Each student is required to read books totaling at least 50 hours (as calculated on Appendix 1), but may choose the combination of books to read and write their reflection papers on. Students are encouraged to pick the topics that are most interesting to them. Each book selection must be by a different author (unless approved by the instructor) so as to expose the student to different approaches to and practitioners of biblical theology.

Requirements: Students will reflect upon each work in 900-1,500 words (3-5 pages if formatting according to the *Midwestern Style Manual*). Reflections will include 1. A summary of the book’s contents (450-900 words), 2. An evaluation of the book’s point(s) and argument(s) (300-500 words), and 3. The student’s plan to apply the book’s truths to his or her life and ministry (150-300 words).

Grading: Each reading reflection paper will be worth 100 points. The top three grades will be counted toward the final grade (i.e., a total of 300 points is possible), assuming submissions have totaled to 50 hours of reading (as defined in Appendix 1). In the event that a sufficient number of reading reflections have not been submitted by the final due date, a student will receive a grade of zero for every unsubmitted paper (even if they have already submitted three reading reflection paper). In the event that a student acquired the needed hours of readings through two books, then submitting two reading reflection papers will suffice and the top grade will be counted twice (to bring the total amount of points to 300).

**Course Load: Varies by book level (see Appendix 1)**

## VI. Grading Scale

<b>A</b>	93-100	<b>C</b>	73-77
<b>A-</b>	90-92	<b>C-</b>	70-72
<b>B+</b>	88-89	<b>D+</b>	68-69
<b>B</b>	83-87	<b>D</b>	63-67
<b>B-</b>	80-82	<b>D-</b>	60-62
<b>C+</b>	78-79	<b>F</b>	59 or less

## VII. General Information

1. Questions regarding this syllabus, class schedule, or class policies should be addressed to the instructor. The instructor of this class reserves the right to reasonably amend the details of this syllabus as needed. It will be the responsibility of the instructor to communicate any changes to all students with appropriate notice. It will be the responsibility of the student to inquire about apparent discrepancies or request further detail.
2. Plagiarism is a serious ethical and legal matter, and instances of plagiarism will result in an “F” for an assignment and possibly an “F” for the course. Students are to read and abide by the section entitled “Integrity in Theological Studies” in t.
3. Spurgeon College is committed to facilitating students with disabilities. Students seeking effective auxiliary aids for a current documented disability—including exams, classroom participation, or assignments—should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or term in order for special arrangements to be considered. Students should conform with institutional policies and procedures as listed in the Midwestern Students with Disabilities Information Brochure, available at <http://www.mbts.edu/consumer-information>.
4. **Class Attendance:** Attendance is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. **Absences, for any reason, should not exceed 25% of the total class time.** Withdrawal from the course is required after a student is absent from more than 25% of the class sessions, except in cases of confining illnesses or serious circumstance.
5. In Christian higher education institutions, it can be assumed that each believer-learner is at a different place of personal maturity and educational preparedness. For these reasons, it is requested and expected that each student exhibits mutual respect, even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Students should refrain from behaviors that negatively affect the teaching environment. Students should conduct themselves as ministerial professionals who give, and are worthy of, a high level of respect.

## VIII. Class Schedule

Note that “*ITB*” stands for *Invitation to Biblical Theology: Exploring the Shape, Storyline, and Themes of Scripture*, by Jeremy M. Kimble and Ched Spellman (see Section IV).

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Assignments Due:</b>	<b>Class Topic:</b>
<b>January 24</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Introduction, Ch. 1-2 (pgs. 9-79)	Introduction to Class Meaning of and Motivation for Biblical Theology
<b>January 30</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 3-4 (pgs. 81-118)	Presuppositions and the Relationship of Biblical Theology to Other Theological Disciplines
<b>February 7</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 5-7 (pgs. 121-181)	The Biblical Storyline. Is There a Central Theme?
<b>February 14</b>	<b><i>Use This Week to Make Progress on Reading Reflection Assignments</i></b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>February 21</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 8-10 (pgs. 183-229)	How Biblical Theology Helps Us to See and Savor Christ as We Study the Scriptures
<b>February 28</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 11-12 (pgs. 233-270)	How the Biblical Covenants Help Us Understand the Shape and Progression of Scripture
<b>March 7</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 13-14 (pgs. 271-307)	Promise, Fulfillment, and Their Relationship to the Christian
<b>March 14</b>	<b><i>Submit One Reading Reflection Assignment</i></b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>March 21</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 15 (pgs. 309-326)	Biblical Typology and the Role of Authorial Intent
<b>March 28</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 16 (pgs. 327-344)	Illustrations of Biblical Theology: "Mystery" and the Serpent
<b>April 4</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 17 (pgs. 345-362)	Illustrations of Biblical Theology: The People of God and the Temple
<b>April 11</b>	<b><i>Submit One Reading Reflection Assignment</i></b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 18 (pgs. 363-380)	Illustrations of Biblical Theology: The Law and the Sabbath
<b>April 25</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 19 (pgs. 381-396)	Illustrations of Biblical Theology: Resurrection and Mission
<b>May 2</b>	<i>IBT</i> : Ch. 20 (pgs. 397-414)	Illustrations of Biblical Theology: The Land The OT Use of the OT: Exodus 15:2 → Isaiah 12:2
<b>May 9</b>	<b><i>Make Progress on Remaining Reading Reflection and Theme-Tracing Papers</i></b>	<b>No CLASS</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b><i>Submit Remaining Reading Reflection Paper(s)</i></b>	The NT Use of the OT: Numbers 13-14 → Psalm 8 → Hebrews 3-4
<b>May 23</b>	<b><i>Make Progress on Theme-Tracing Paper</i></b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>May 30</b>	<b><i>Submit Theme-Tracing Paper</i></b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>

## Appendix 1: Reading Reflection Options

### **Level One: 10 hours**

- Burge, Gary M. *The New Testament in Seven Sentences: A Small Introduction to a Vast Topic*. Introductions in Seven Sentences. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019. \$18.00. 152 pages.
- Hamilton, James M., Jr. *What is Biblical Theology?: A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013. \$12.99. Read pages 11-116. 105 pages.
- Roark, Nick, and Robert Cline. *Biblical Theology: How the Church Faithfully Teaches the Gospel*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017. \$14.99. 160 pages.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences: A Small Introduction to a Vast Topic*. Introductions in Seven Sentences. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019. \$16.00. 184 pages.

### **Level Two: 15 hours**

- Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Eden to the New Jerusalem: An Introduction to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2009. \$21.99. 208 pages.
- Beale, G. K. and Mitchell Kim. *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014. \$20.00. 215 pages.
- Beale, G. K. *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012. \$17.99. 192 pages.
- Chou, Abner. *The Hermeneutics of the Biblical Writers: Learning to Interpret Scripture from the Prophets and Apostles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2018. \$18.83. 256 pages.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002. \$28.00. Read pages 9-241. 232 pages.
- Klink, Edward W. III and Darian R. Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology: A Comparison of Theory and Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2012. \$17.99. 192 pages.
- Lawrence, Michael. *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church: A Guide for Ministry*. 9Marks. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. \$19.99. Read pages 23-218. 195 pages.
- Any volume from Short Studies in Biblical Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. Series Editors Dane C. Ortlund and Miles V. Van Pelt. Approximately 200 pages.
- Any volume from Essential Studies in Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. Series Editor Benjamin L. Gladd. Approximately 200 pages.

### **Level Three 20 hours**

- Beale, G. K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008. \$35.00. 341 pages.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *Christians in an Age of Wealth: A Biblical Theology of Stewardship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2013. \$17.49. 247 pages.

Gentry, Peter J. and Stephen J. Wellum. *God's Kingdom Through God's Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. \$19.99. 304 pages.

Pate, C. Marvin, and J. Scott Duvall, J. Daniel Hays, E. Randolph Richards, W. Dennis Tucker Jr., and Preben Vang. *The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004. \$37.00. 384 pages

Perrin, Nicholas. *The Kingdom of God: A Biblical Theology*. Biblical Theology for Life. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019. \$29.99. 262 pages.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Biblical Theology for Life. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. \$32.99. 387 pages.

*Any volume from New Studies in Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. Series Editor D. A. Carson. Approximately 300 pages.

#### **Level Four: 25 hours**

Beale, G. K. and Benjamin L. Gladd. *The Story Retold: A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020. \$55.00. Read pages 1-490. 489 pages.

Beale, G. K. and Benjamin L. Gladd. *Hidden But Now Revealed: A Biblical Theology of Mystery*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014. \$30.00. 364 pages.

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *God's Relational Presence: The Cohesive Center of Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019. \$34.99. 416 pages.

Gaffin, Richard B., Jr. *In the Fullness of Time: An Introduction to the Biblical Theology of Acts and Paul*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2022. \$44.99. 419 pages.

Meyer, Jason C. *The End of the Law: Mosaic Covenant in Pauline Theology*. New American Commentary Studies in Bible & Theology. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2009. \$19.99. 352 pages.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Third Edition. Edinburgh, Scotland; Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2014. \$30.00. 440 pages.

#### **Level Five: 30 hours**

Hamilton, James M., Jr. *God's Glory in Salvation Through Judgment: A Biblical Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010. \$50.00. 570 pages.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *The King in His Beauty: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. \$59.99. 630 pages.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006. \$55.00. 536 pages.

#### **Level Six: 40 hours**

Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. \$64.99. 960 pages.

