

**115.515 Biblical Theology**  
***Course Assessment and Delivery Outline***

**Campus:** Christchurch  
**Lecturer:** Alistair Donaldson

Semester 1, 2015  
NQF level: 5, 15 credits

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

1. The Bible and Theology
2. The Bible: Unity and Diversity
3. Creation: God Establishes His Kingdom (Act 1)
4. Fall: Rebellion in the Kingdom (Act 2)
5. Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel (Act 3 Scene 1)
6. Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel (Act 3 Scene 2)
7. A Kingdom Story Waiting for an Ending – the Second Temple Period
8. Redemption Accomplished: The Coming of the King (Act 4)
9. The Mission of the Church: Spreading the Good News of the King (Act 5)
10. Redemption Accomplished: The Return of the King (Act 6)
11. The Drama as Whole Story – Revisiting Key Elements
12. Biblical Theology and Place of Work

**ASSESSMENT TASKS, DUE DATES**

Assessment tasks involve the following:

**1. The story of the Bible**

Outline the story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Make specific reference to key biblical events, texts and themes. In your final 500 words (approx.) describe how this storied way of reading Scripture differs from other approaches, (e.g., Systematic Theology) highlighting both strengths and weakness.

Due date: End of week 7<sup>1</sup> (Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Length: 1600 words  
Weighting: 35%  
Time allocation: 24 hours  
Learning outcomes: 1, 2 & 3

Grading criteria:

- Coverage: Discusses key biblical events, texts and the themes
- Critical thought: Links key biblical events, texts and the themes into a coherent whole and clear understanding of this way of responding to the Bible
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions

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<sup>1</sup> “End of week” refers to the calendar teaching week. Assignments are to be uploaded to the course site by 11:55pm on the Friday of the week stated.

- Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

## 2. Essay

Select a theme from the options provided. Trace the development of the theme throughout Scripture while keeping in view the nature of the unfolding restorative drama and its significance for today.

Themes: Land  
Kingdom/kingship  
Temple  
People of God

Due date: End of week 12 (Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Length: 2500 words  
Weighting: 65%  
Time allocation: 50 hours  
Learning outcomes: 1, 2 & 4

Grading criteria:

- Insightfulness:
- Critical thought:
- Application: Clear relevant application of the biblical theme
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas consistent with a biblical theological reading of the text; valid conclusions
- Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

## LEARNING HOURS

115.515 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows.

Task	Weight	Hours
Core class periods (12 x 3 hours)		36 hours
Reading and reflection		40 hours
The story of the Bible	35%	24 hours
Essay	65%	50 hours
	100%	150 hours

Full attendance at class periods is expected. Unsatisfactory attendance (less than 80%) is grounds for failure of the course.

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

## TEXTBOOK:

The **required textbook** for this introductory course is:

- Bartholomew, Craig G, and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. 2014.

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

In order to ensure a wide and balanced appreciation of the range of theological opinion found in the Christian community, especially recommended additional works are:

- Alexander, D. *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Alexander, T. Desmond and Simon Gathercole, eds. *Heaven on Earth: The Temple in Biblical Theology*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2004.
- Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Baker, David L. *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Bartholomew, Craig G, and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2011.
- Beale, G.K. and Mitchell Kim. *God Dwells Among US: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth*. (Downers Grove: IVP, 2014)
- Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. London: Tyndale Press, 1962.
- Donaldson, Alistair W. *The Last Days of Dispensationalism: A Scholarly Critique of Popular Misconceptions*. Eugene, Wipf & Stock, 2011.
- Davis, Ellen F. and Richard B. Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Dumbrell, W. J. *The Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Covenant and Creation: A Theology of the Old Testament Covenants*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1984.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Goheen, Michael W. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2011.
- Goldingay, J. *Old Testament Theology: Israel's Gospel, Vol. 1*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Goldingay, J. *Old Testament Theology: Israel's Faith, Vol. 2*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel and Kingdom*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1988.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Hafemann, Scott J, ed. *Biblical Theology: Retrospect and Prospect*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Hafemann, Scott J. and Paul R. House, eds. *Central Themes in Biblical Theology: Mapping Unity in Diversity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- House, P. and Mitchell, E. *Old Testament Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2007.
- Jenkins, Michael. *Invitation to Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- LaSor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard and Frederic William Bush. *Old Testament*

- Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Leon-Dufour, Xavier. *Dictionary of Biblical Theology, fourth edition*. Ijamsville: The Word Among Us Press, 1988.
- Lloyd-Jones, Sally. *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.
- Mead, James K. *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Middleton, J. R. and B. J. Walsh. *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Middleton, J. Richard. *A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Migliore, Daniel M. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- Ollenburger, B., E. Martens and G. Hasel. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology, Vol. 1*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Pate, C. Marvin, J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays. *The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Plantinga Jr., Cornelius. *Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Roberts, V. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Story-line of the Bible*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Ryken, L., J. Wilhoit and T. Longman 111. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.
- Scobie, Charles H. *The Ways of Our God: An Approach to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Strom, Mark. *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes*. Phillipsburg, P & R Publishing, 1990.
- Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- Waltke, B. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Wolters, Albert. *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *Salvation Belongs to our God: Celebrating the Bible's Central Story*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2007.
- Wright, John. *Telling God's Story: Narrative Preaching for Christian Formation*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2007.
- Wright, N. T. *The Last Word: Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2005.

## Articles

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. Story and Biblical Theology. Accessed on 21 January 2013 from: <http://www.biblicaltheology.ca/>

Goheen, Michael, W. The Urgency of Reading the Bible as One Story. *Theology Today*, 2006, 4, 469-483.

Peterson, Eugene. Living into God's Story. Accessed on 21 January 2013 from: <http://www.biblicaltheology.ca/>

Wright, N. T. The Book and the Story. Accessed on 21 January 2013 from: <http://www.biblicaltheology.ca/>

Wright, N. T. The Bible for the Post Modern World. Accessed on 21 January 2013 from: <http://www.biblicaltheology.ca/>

A variety of other resources, including internet sources, will be suggested during the course. Students going on to do further Laidlaw courses in Theology will have their attention drawn to a wider range of reading in those courses.