

Bible Overview (BB001-512)

Australian College of Theology name: *Introduction to Biblical Theology*

Unit Description

While it is made up of sixty-six different books, written by forty different authors over a period of 2,000 years, the Bible reveals only one story: the story of God's plan for humanity. This unit takes an in-depth look at the whole story of the Bible from Creation to New Creation and considers the way God brings about his plans and purposes for humanity.

Exclusions

Prior to 2020, this unit content was delivered under the unit code BB205.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the unit, you will:

A. *Know and understand:*

Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the discipline of biblical theology and its uses.

B. *Be able to:*

1. Describe the nature and methods of biblical theology.
2. Trace the development of major biblical themes.
3. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on the theory and application of biblical theology.

C. *Be in a position to:*

1. Relating perspectives from this unit to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts.

Content

Part A: The Methodology of Biblical Theology

- (a) Understanding the discipline of biblical theology (defining biblical theology and its key terms) and its relationship to other theological disciplines (e.g. systematic theology, hermeneutics and exegesis)
- (b) How the nature of Scripture informs a view of biblical theology
- (c) Exploring different models of biblical theology (Christocentric, Christological, Christotelic, etc)

Part B: The Content of Biblical Theology

The content of biblical theology is designed to explain the progression of events within the unfolding revelation of the Scriptures.

- (a) Creation, sin and the effects of the fall (e.g. Genesis 1-11)
- (b) The Abrahamic covenant (e.g. Genesis 12,15,18)
- (c) The exodus event and the Sinaitic covenant (e.g. Exodus; Hebrews)
- (d) Conquest and settlement (e.g. Judges/Joshua)
- (e) Kingship (e.g. 1 and 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-12)
- (f) The division of the kingdom (e.g. 1 and 2 Kings)
- (g) Exile (e.g. 2 Kings 17; Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Isaiah 40-55)
- (h) Return and restoration (e.g. Ezra; Nehemiah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi)
- (i) Birth and ministry of Jesus (e.g. Gospels, NT Epistles)
- (j) Death and resurrection of Jesus (e.g. Gospels, NT Epistles)
- (k) Gospel to the world (e.g. Acts, NT Epistles)
- (l) New creation (e.g. Romans 8, 1 Peter 1, Revelation 19-22)

Part C: Six Key Themes in Biblical Theology (analysing and assessing how key themes develop within the progression of biblical theology). For example:

- a. Creation
- b. Redemption
- c. Covenant
- d. Temple
- e. Nations
- f. Kingship and the Kingdom of God

Alternative major themes may include priesthood, eschatology, salvation, election, grace and the people of God.