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BT 605 Old Testament Theology

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BT 605 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

Spring 2000—A Three Hour Course

Instructor: Lawson G. Stone

Course Aspirations and Place in the Curriculum

General Course Objective: OT 605 seeks to equip students for ministry by initiating them into the discipline of Old Testament theology. The course explores the issues raised when we seek to employ the fruits of exegetical and historical biblical study in shaping an understanding of the Old Testament *as scripture*, that is, as a norm and rule for Christian faith. The class will examine selected fundamental methods, insights, and examples of such attempts, and will attempt a theological interpretation of large sections of the OT. Students who realize these aspirations will be able to :

Specific Objectives: We will pursue the general objective of the course by pursuing these specific objectives, which will shape the day-to-day conduct of the class. Students will:

1. Explore and become conversant with the *contemporary discipline* of OT Theology by carefully surveying its history, noting its principle problems, methods, and achievements, all in a quest to define the exact role and goal of the discipline of OT theology.
2. Discern in the the OT itself via certain crucial thematic *motifs* unfolding through the OT in its present, canonical form, that seem to form the basic network of theological teaching in the OT;
3. Read and study carefully the universally recognized seminal classic in OT Theology, the magisterial work of Walther Eichrodt.
4. Explore how a knowledge of the discipline of OT Theology, combined with an awareness of the overarching themes of OT theology, illuminate the OT by working critically and exegetically with specific texts of the OT to explore

These specific objectives serve as the main guidelines for the professor's organization of class presentations.

Means of Realizing Course Aspirations

READING

Sailhammer, John. H., *Introduction to Old Testament Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995. This book reviews the history and achievements of OT Theology, but does so with a thematic and methodological concern that goes beyond a mere bibliographic survey.

Eichrodt, Walther, *The Theology of the Old Testament*, 2 Vols, Westminster, 1961ff.

Recommended: Bauer, David. *Biblical Resources for Ministry*. Revised 2nd Edition, 1995. Contains excellent listings of other volumes dealing with the OT theology.

CLASS SESSIONS are *lecture* with accompanying *interaction*. Instead of directly expounding readings, will typically move the issues developing an additional point of view..

Four Essays, 5-7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 1" margins) will be assigned. These papers are take-home assignments, details of which will be circulated 2 weeks prior to the due date. They are to be the students' own individual study, thought, organization, and wording completed without assistance from others. Use of materials other than texts and class notes is not required and will, in fact, detract from the student's own analysis. Work done for other classes or by other students is dishonest and will result in a failing grade and institutional disciplinary action.

At least two of these papers will involve direct study of biblical texts in an exegetical, historical mode, while at least one will involve analysis and interaction with the assigned reading material for the course. A fourth essay could be of either type.

The four papers each count 25% of the course grade. They will be assigned a letter grade which will then be converted to a numerical equivalent for averaging purposes. The resulting average will be assigned a letter equivalent. The chart below indicates the *typical* values for grade but should not be taken as an inflexible rule:

Numerical Equivalents for Papers:		Approximate Final Grade Scale	
A	100	A	95-100
A-	94	A-	90-95
B+	89	B+	87-89
B	86	B	84-86
B-	83	B-	80-83
C+	79	C+	77-79
C	76	C	74-76
C-	73	C-	70-73
D+	69	D+	67-69
D	66	D	64-66
D-	63	D-	60-63
F	59	F	0-59

ATTENDANCE: Mature students understand the consequences of poor attendance. *Attendance is taken, by means of a sign-in book that will circulate through the classroom.*

Paper 1—March 2
Paper 2—March 30
Paper 3—April 27
Paper 4—May 15
The final exam period will be for turning in the final paper and a final class presentation

Lecture Themes and Emphases

OT THEOLOGY AS A FORM OF BIBLICAL STUDY (FOCUS ON HASEL AND PREUSS)

- A. Essential Definitions
- B. Crucial Developments in OT Theology
- C. OT Theology as Biblical Interpretation
- D. OT Theology as Theological Reflection

E. OT Theology as A Body of Study and Literature

OT THEOLOGY AS THE UNFOLDING, ACCUMULATING THEMATIC EMPHASES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. A Whole New Worldview
- B. The God Who Promises
- C. The Name of Yahweh
- D. The Acts of Yahweh
- E. The Will of Yahweh
- F. The Service of Yahweh
- G. The Gift of Yahweh
- H. The People of Yahweh
- I. The Anointed of Yahweh
- J. The Word of Yahweh
- K. The Praise of Yahweh
- L. The Wisdom of Yahweh