The Development of a Course in Biblical Theology Based on a Book-by-book Approach to the Bible

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Abstract

The purpose of this project was to develop and undergraduate college course in Biblical Theology. Part One establishes a theoretical background by exploring the biblical and theological foundations.

Chapter 1 states the purpose, justification, and limitations of the project. Chapter 2 begins with a historical review of the discipline. Following J. Gabler's definition, Biblical Theology became a purely historical and descriptive discipline which delineates the theological views of the biblical writings and the communities of their origin, explaining "what it meant" in biblical times. This brought an emphasis on diversity and development within the Scripture.

The discipline split into separate Old Testament and New Testament Theologies, which later were succeeded by studies of the religion of ancient Israel and the early church. This occurred mainly because historical criticism regarded the biblical text as data from which to reconstruct history, and looked not so much at the text as through the text to the history which lies behind it.

Chapter 3 defines Biblical theology as an ordered study of the understanding of the revelation of God that (1) has as its source the entire canonical Scriptures, (2) is limited
in Biblical Theology. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries have witnessed some rather remarkable shifts in the methods used for interpreting the older portion of the Bible. One of the most amazing shifts was the way that the messianic texts of the O T were treated as part of the theological study. I became a theologian because the scientific treatment of the Bible interested me. It was only gradually that I came to realize that a professor of theology also has the practical function of preparing students for service in the Protestant church, and that this practical. But this runs counter to the clear hopes expressed repeatedly by the O T prophets that God would conclude in space and time what he promised to do long ago to Abraham and David: to restore Israel to her land." Answer: Biblical theology is the study of the doctrines of the Bible, arranged according to their chronology and historical background. In contrast to systematic theology, which categorizes doctrine according to specific topics, biblical theology shows the unfolding of God’s revelation as it progressed through history. Biblical theology may seek to isolate and express the theological teachings of a specific portion of Scripture, such as the theology of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament) or the theology contained within John’s writings, etc. Or it may focus on a particular. By way of contrast, biblical theology approaches the Scriptures primarily with historical analysis. It looks at the Bible as a window that gives access to history. Having seen that biblical theology is based on historical analysis of the Scriptures, we should turn to the fact that it is primarily concerned with the acts of God. The Bible reports many different kinds of historical events, but biblical theology primarily asks, "What do the Scriptures say that God has done?" In book 1, chapter 1, section 7 of his well-known Summa Theologica, Aquinas called theology "sacred doctrine," and defined it in this way: A unified science in which all things are treated under the aspect of God either because they are God himself or because they refer to God.