



**OT 507 – OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**  
**Fall 2021 • 2 Semester Hours**  
**Mark A. House, Ph.D. • mhouse@newgeneva.org**

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

God’s revelation of himself and his purposes in Scripture can be compared to the blossoming of a flower—it advances in stages from bud to full bloom. This theological development over time does not imply an evolutionary concept of religious advancement, but rather reflects the progressive unfolding of God’s self-revelation throughout the various periods of his program of salvation. This course provides an overview of Old Testament theology, noting in particular the progression of the key themes of God’s revelation throughout the various epochs of redemptive history from the creation to the prophetic era. Each theme is also examined in the fuller light of New Testament revelation.

Recommended Prerequisite: At least two of the Old Testament Bible survey courses—OT 501-503.

**II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. To gain a deeper appreciation for the unity of God’s Word within the rich diversity of its revelation;
2. To appreciate the progressive nature of Scripture as it reveals God’s nature and his will for his people throughout the various epochs of redemptive history;
3. To grasp the distinctive character and unique focus of each epoch of salvation history;
4. To appreciate the difference between the partial and shadowy revelation of the Old Testament and the more complete and substantial revelation in the New Testament;
5. To reflect deeply on particular theological themes as these have been progressively revealed from one redemptive epoch to another;
6. To grow in our commitment to grasping and obeying God’s Word in the Old Testament as it is understood in the light of the fullness of New Testament revelation.

**III. COURSE STRUCTURE**

1. **Class Sessions:** Class sessions will meet for two fifty-minute class hours each week. The first hour will normally be devoted to lectures that introduce the essential themes of OT biblical theology. The second hour will also provide periodic opportunities for students to work together in small groups in a “Biblical Theology Workshop” to discuss important theological themes, build the skills necessary for developing an informed biblical understanding, and clarify the differences between “biblical” and “systematic” theological understandings. Student presentations will also be made during the second hour.
2. **Reading Assignments:** The assigned readings are crafted to work together with the lectures in leading you through theological treatments of the major epochs of Old Testament revelation. Thus the timely completion of each assigned reading is essential to fulfilling the learning goals of the course. See the schedule below for details. Completion of the reading assignments will be assessed by **five unannounced reading quizzes** given throughout the semester, covering that week’s reading assignment. The quizzes will focus on the broad themes and major points of the reading assignment rather than minutia. If you need to be absent, a maximum of two of the five reading quizzes may be made up by submitting, within the following week, a 750-word factual summary of the reading

assignment. It is your responsibility to find out whether or not you will need to make up a reading quiz for the week you are absent. See the course calendar for the specific weekly assignments.

3. **Research Paper:** Each student will have the opportunity to reflect in greater depth on a particular theological theme and to map its development throughout the various epochs of OT revelation in the light of the fullness of NT revelation. For example, a student may choose to examine the development of biblical teaching regarding the eternal reward of believers in heaven from a shadowy notion in the times of the patriarchs to a clear idea in the New Testament era. While the paper should conclude with reflection on the chosen theme from a NT perspective, the focus of the paper should be on how the theme was revealed throughout the OT. An “A” paper will be approximately 2,500 words in length and will interact with at least 3 outside sources of published scholarly research (books or articles) that deal with biblical theology. The paper is due by midnight, May 10, 2009, and late papers will be downgraded at a rate of 10% per week. The theological theme to be dealt with in your paper should be announced by March 1, 2009, and will require instructor approval.
4. **Student Presentation:** Each student will be responsible to make a twenty-minute in-class presentation on the Old Testament theological theme chosen for the research paper. The presentation should briefly trace the theme from its inception in an early phases of OT revelation to its more complete revelation near the final phase of OT revelation. In particular, the presentation should highlight the ways in which God’s revelation of that theme was developed or unfolded through the various phases of OT revelation. The presentation should culminate with a brief summary of the way the theme reached its culmination in NT revelation. Both professor and fellow students may be involved in the evaluation process for each presentation.

#### IV. STANDARDS AND GRADING

**Attendance:** Attendance at each two-hour class session is essential to integrating the material learned through the readings with the weekly lectures and workshop activities. However, because unexpected circumstances sometimes arise, two excused absences during the semester will be allowed without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% diminishment of the final grade. Having more than four unexcused absences without prior approval by the instructor will normally result in a failing grade for the course. Excuses will be granted only for personal or family emergencies such as hospitalization or natural disaster, but do not include such things as difficulties in personal, family, or vocational scheduling or transportation issues.

**Grading:** The final grade for the course will be weighted as follows:

1. Reading Quizzes: 25%
2. Biblical Theology Workshop: 25%
3. Presentation: 20%
4. Research Paper: 30%

#### V. TEXTBOOKS

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Promise-Plan of God: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Zondervan, 2008.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*. P&R, 1981.

**VI. LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment (Chapters)</b>
<b>1</b>	The Bible and Biblical Theology	
<b>2</b>	Creation and Corruption	Kaiser Introduction; Robertson 1-4
<b>3</b>	Deluge and Renewal	Kaiser 1-2 (Pre-Patriarchal/Patriarchal)
<b>4</b>	Patriarchs and Promises	Robertson 5-6 (Creation, Adam)
<b>5</b>	The Law as a Moral Code	Robertson 7-9 (Noah/Abraham)
<b>6</b>	The Law as a Civil System	Kaiser 3 (Mosaic)
<b>7</b>	The Law as a Ceremonial Guide	Robertson 10-11 (Moses)
<b>8</b>	Worship and Wisdom	Kaiser 4-5 (Pre-Monarchial/Davidic); Robertson 12 (Davidic)
<b>9</b>	Reflections on the Hard Questions	Kaiser 6 (Wisdom)
<b>10</b>	The Prophets and God	Kaiser 7 (Prophets-9 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>11</b>	The Prophets and the Covenant	Kaiser 8-9 (Prophets-7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>12</b>	The Prophets and the Future	Kaiser 10-11 (Prophets-Exilic, Post-exilic)
<b>13</b>	Christ in the Old Testament	Robertson 13 (Christ)
<i>No Class—Term Paper Due by Midnight</i>		