

# The Story of the Old Testament

Park Church Denver

Fall 2014

## Vision

The Story of God is a five-week class on the Biblical Theology of the Old Testament. This class will walk through the storyline of the greatest story ever told. Major turning points, characters, themes, and events in redemptive history will be explored. While a comprehensive study of the Old Testament could never be accomplished in five weeks (let alone five months), this study will seek to provide a clear structure for understanding the pillars of the story and peak interest for further study.

## Purpose

The purpose of this class is to provide participants with a clear understanding of how the history of God and His people continues to shape and form our theology and life today. Frequently our theology is a smorgasbord of disparate parts, collaged together in relative abstraction. Biblical theology provides a compelling vision for God's work in the world because it's rooted in a story.

Graeme Goldsworthy says that the story of the Old Testament is:

*"... a theological history. Rather than a religious history (a human record of human religion), it is God's record of God's own dealings with the world and with men. ... The history of the Bible is purposive; the purpose which governs the events is God's purpose. ... Biblical history is theological history"* (Trilogy, 41-42).

The goal for this class is to equip participants with the ability to do the following:

- Understand and articulate how the good news of God's redeeming a people for His name and glory is both rooted and developed in the Old Testament before the New.
- Understand and articulate why Christians should delight in the God who created the world, who sustains the world, and who works in the world.
- Understand and articulate how the Old and New Testaments have unbelievable continuity as well as discontinuity.
- Understand and articulate the narrative flow or story arc of the Old Testament.
- Understand and articulate the biblical-theological themes that are traced through the whole Bible, through individual corpora, and through individual books.
- Understand and articulate how the Bible hangs together.
- Understand and articulate why the Old Testament should be read and enjoyed alongside with the New.

## Structure

The class will have three major components: reading, lecture, and discussion. Readings will be expected before the beginning of each class. The *primary* readings for this class are the readings from the Bible. Read your Bible first, don't read someone talking about the Bible until after you've read the Bible. Lecture and discussion will happen in class.

Below is the tentative structure to the class. We will attempt to follow this outline as much as possible, but might move faster or slower depending on lecture and discussion. In the Reading portion, the bolded print is expected reading in the Bible, the non-bolded print is from Schreiner (TS).

Week	Date	Lecture Outline	Reading
1	Oct 20	Class Introduction, Content Introduction, Chapter 1: Creation to Abraham	<b>Gen 1-3, 12-15</b> TS: 3-27
2	Oct 27	Chapter 2: Abraham to Exodus Chapter 3: Exodus to Sinai	<b>Gen 22, 33, 45</b> <b>Ex 3, 12-13, 20, 32-34</b> TS: 28-66
3	Nov 3	Chapter 4: Sinai to Promised Land Chapter 5: Conquest to Kingdom	<b>Lev 26, Num 13-14, Deut 6-7,</b> TS: 67-106 <b>Josh 1, 6-10, Judg 2, 1 Sam 8, 15-16,</b> <b>2 Sam 11-12</b> TS: 107-165
4	Nov 10	Chapter 6: Kingdom to Exile	<b>1 Kings 3, 8, 12, 2 Kings 17, 25</b> TS: 164-191
5	Nov 17	Chapter 7: Exile to Return	<b>Jer 1, Isa 1, 52, Hos 2, Mal 4, Ezra 1,</b> <b>3, Neh 3, 9, 13</b> TS: 327-423

A typical night will look something like this:

<b>6:30-6:35</b>	Review
<b>6:35-7:00</b>	Lecture and discussion
<b>7:00-7:10</b>	Break for refreshments and bathroom
<b>7:10-7:50</b>	Lecture and discussion
<b>7:50-8:00</b>	Q & A

### Expectations for the Class

As we commit to walking through the Story of the Old Testament together, I expect the following things.

- 1) **Punctuality.** As much as possible, please try to arrive on time. We will start promptly at 6:30 with one break in the middle of class. Traffic is a direct result of the Fall and one of the most sanctifying endeavors in our modern age, so plan according. All this being said, life happens and sometimes we're late. I'm thankful you're here and would rather you be late than not come.
- 2) **Reading.** As noted above, read your Bible and if possible the relevant sections of Schreiner.
- 3) **Engage.** I will ask questions throughout, but also expect you to ask lots of questions. This isn't a pure lecture, but an exploration of the Old Testament together.

### Required Reading

- 1) The Bible. I'd suggest investing in a decent study Bible. The ESV Study Bible is worth missing a few meals to purchase. Park Church uses the English Standard Version, which I'd recommend. But there are a lot of good translations out there (NIV,
- 2) Thomas R. Schreiner, *The King In His Beauty*. While I put this under the heading of "required reading," reading the Bible is paramount to reading Schreiner's volume.

### **Suggested Resources**

- 1) Graeme Goldsworthy, *Revealing the Kingdom*
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_, *The Goldsworthy Trilogy*
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_, *According to Plan*
- 4) Edmund Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery*
- 5) G.K. Beale, *A New Testament Biblical Theology*
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_, *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_, *The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God (NSBT)*
- 8) T. Desmond Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*
- 9) James M. Hamilton Jr., *God's Glory in Salvation Through Judgment*
- 10) Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture*