

Lecture 2 – Biblical Theology (Part 2)

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. I Timothy 2:3-6

Key Terms

Kingdom, mediator, covenant

Objective

To understand the concepts and themes in the development of biblical theology

Biblical Theology (Part 2)

IV. Biblical Theology: Developing It (cont.)

A. Two concepts explicated

1. Mitte – a central unifying theme

a. Varied suggestions

- i. Sellin: Holiness
- ii. Kohler: Lord
- iii. Wildberger: Election
- iv. Klein, Bright, Helberg: Kingdom
- v. Fohrer: Rule and Communion
- vi. Vriezen: God and Community
- vii. Smend: Yahweh and Israel
- viii. Von Rad: None
- ix. Eichrodt: Covenant
- x. Hasel: Chapter IV, pages 77-103

a. None of the above can serve to unite all themes

b. Central concept: God (cf page 139)

b. A complex of three themes

- i. Understood: sovereign God is revealer and Lord of all
- ii. The three – kingdom, covenant, mediator; an integrated complex

2. Benefits (or practicality)

- a. Inseparable relationship between word and deed
- b. Achieving a comprehensive grasp of the unity of the entire Bible
- c. Call for use of all biblical disciplines
- d. Indispensable aid for preaching and teaching

B. Discussion of the three integrated themes

1. Kingdom

a. Term refers to all or one or more aspects in a given text

- i. The king (metonymy)
- ii. The reign
- iii. The throne – center of ruling activity
- iv. The domain

b. Biblical references

- i. Κλαμφ - (malak) the verb to reign, i.e. God reigns
 - a. Psalm 47:9 (Hebrew-*Elohim* reigns over nations)
 - b. Psalm 93:1 (*Elohim* reigns over creation)
 - c. Psalm 96:10

- d. Psalm 97:1
 - e. Psalm 99:1
 - f. Psalm 146:10
 - g. Isaiah 52:7 ('thy God reigns')
 - ii. Daniel 9, 11 – Kingdoms of earthly rulers under reign of the kingdom of God
 - iii. New Testament references – *baseleias*
 - a. John (Matthew 3:2)
 - b. Jesus announced it (Matthew 4:17)
 - c. Paul preached it (Acts 28:31)
 - d. John suffered (Revelation 11:9)
2. Covenant (*berit*)
- a. 290+ references in the Bible
 - i. Never defined in Bible (cf Vos pages 23, 24, 256, 257)
 - ii. Etymology of noun: preferred *birtu*; Assyrian: bond
 - iii. Verbs
 - iv. Translations in context
 - b. Aspects
 - i. Unilateral
 - ii. Bilateral
 - iii. Conditional
 - iv. Contingent
 - c. Elements (*only a few of these are mentioned at this point*)
 - i. Parties
 - ii. Obligations/stipulations
 - iii. Promises
 - iv. Oath/vow
 - v. Blessing/curse
 - vi. Witnesses
 - d. One, two or many between God and mankind?
 - e. Cf Robertson, pages 4-15: "...in blood"; also Art. WTJ, Vol 40, #1, Fall '77 (compared J Murray and M Kline; he gives own view)
 - f. Conclusion: Abiding relationship with aspects and an administering means
3. Mediator
- a. First Adam (and Eve)
 - b. Seed of woman
 - c. Offices – agents: kings, priests, prophets
 - d. Second Adam: the Messiah/Christ