

The Story of the New Testament

Park Church Denver

Spring 2015

Vision

The Story of the New Testament is a five-week class on the Biblical Theology of the New 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 New 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 New 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" (Graeme Goldsworthy, *Trilogy*, 41-42)

Teaching Outcomes

Students will leave the class with the ...

- **Historical** (Cognitive). Understanding of the major events in the New Testament
- **Biblical Theological** (Cognitive). Ability to connect Biblical Theological dots throughout the entire Bible
- **Revelatory** (Affection). Students will have an appreciation for God's reaching out to know them
- **Narrative** (Affection). an appreciation for how our story is part of His Grand story
- **Implicational** (Implication). Ability to embody New Testament gospel implications

Structure

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

Structure of the Class Content

Book One: Jesus

Chapter 1: Jesus' Birth

Chapter 2: Jesus' Life

Chapter 3: Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Summary: Jesus is True and Better

Book Two: The Church

Chapter 1: The Church's Birth (Jerusalem)

Chapter 2: The Church's Growth (Ends of the Earth)

Book Three: The Beginning of All things

Structure of Content in Class

The Story (Biblical Event)

Tell the story. Read the relevant texts. Develop the context of the story.

The Story Lines (Biblical-Theological Themes)

Connect the Old Testament and New Testament Quotes, Allusions, and Echoes through the person and work of Jesus.

Our Story (Gospel Implications)

Address how a particular truth has implications for every day life.

Week	Date	Lecture Outline	Reading
1	March 1	Class Introduction, Content Introduction, Book One Chapter 1: Jesus' Birth Chapter 2: Jesus' Life	
2	March 8	Chapter 3: Jesus' Death and Resurrection Summary: Jesus the True and Better	Matthew and John TS:433-469, 503-542
3	March 15	Book Two Chapter 1: The Church's Birth	Acts TS: 469-498
4	March 22	Chapter 2: The Church's Growth	Paul's Letters (Esp. Gal, Eph, Col) TS: 543-582
5	March 29	Book Three The Beginning of All Things	Revelation, Hebrews TS: 583-596, 613-629

Above 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).

Class Structure

A typical night will look something like this:

6:30-6:35	Review
6:35-7:00	Lecture
7:00-7:10	Q&A
7:10-7:15	Break for refreshments and bathroom
7:15-8:00	Lecture and discussion
8:00-8:15	Q & A

Expectations for the Class

As we commit to walking through the Story of the New 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 New 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. The NIV Study Bible is a great option as well.
- 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*
- 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*