

13 Weeks Schedule

THE TEXT TO BE EXAMINED

1. What Is The Bible? Week 1

THE TOOLS THAT ARE NEEDED

2. Exegetical Tools Week 2
3. Biblical Theology Tools 1 Week 3
4. Biblical Theology Tools 2 Week 4
5. Systematic Theology Tools 1 Week 5
6. Systematic Theology Tools 2 Week 6

THE STORIES TO BE TOLD

7. Creation Week 7
8. Fall Week 8
9. Love Week 9
10. Sacrifice Week 10
11. Promise Week 11

PUTTING IT TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH

12. Preaching Week 12
13. Other Benefits for the Local Church (Counseling, Missions, Social justice, etc.) Week 13

Core Seminars—Biblical Theology Class 4: Biblical Theology Tools 2



INTRODUCTION: REVIEW OF EPOCHAL & CANONICAL HORIZONS

THE PROPHETIC CHARACTER OF SCRIPTURE: PROMISE-FULFILLMENT

Promises are not simply random good intentions. They point to and delineate a divine plan for history. Though redemptive history is linear, it also follows a pattern or framework.

Multiple Horizons of Fulfillment

The promises of God (prophecies in the broadest sense of the term) typically have multiple horizons of fulfillment. What's more, each successive fulfillment is not only later in time chronologically, but greater in significance both theologically and historically.

TYPOLOGY

One definition: “Typology is simply symbolism with a prospective reference to fulfillment in a later epoch of biblical history. It involves a fundamentally organic relation between events, persons, and institutions (type) in one epoch and their counterparts (antitype) in later epochs.” (Lints, p. 304).

The Biblical understanding of *types* is that there is an organic “relationship between some ‘essential’ aspect of the type and antitype.” (Lints, p. 304n17).

Types involve a comparison of historical realities that establish an analogy or pattern that organically develops and expands.

And so, like the prophetic promise, the *type* in Scripture often finds its fulfillment in multiple antitypes, each pointing beyond itself to one still greater yet to come.

Are there any restraint and interpretive rules on recognizing and interpreting typical relations across the epochs of Scripture?

1. There must be a real, historical, and essential resemblance or analogy between type and antitype. King David/King Jesus
2. The type must clearly be providentially designed to foreshadow God’s ultimate redemptive activity in Christ. Accidental similarity is not enough to make the connection.

3. Unlike a mere symbol, which represents a general truth or idea, a type by its nature must look forward to its greater fulfillment in the anti-type.

One other benefit: keeps us from moralizing and allegorizing the OT.

CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY

Despite the continuity of the story, despite the continuity of God’s saving plan and actions, the movement from promise to fulfillment is described in Scripture as the movement between shadow and reality (Col 2:17), between a mere copy and the genuine article (Heb 8:5), between mere symbol and the truth it represented (John 4:23; 15:1). In addition to continuity, there is significant discontinuity as we move across the epochs from one horizon of fulfillment to another.

1. Discontinuity required to ultimately fulfill the promise.
2. Discontinuity required by the very nature of the fulfillment itself.

How do we make sense of both kinds of discontinuity? The New Testament gives us the key.