

What is Biblical Theology?

In order to completely understand what Biblical Theology is about, it is important to know that it stresses historical events in history (as in Noahic or Abrahamic eras) or of an individual writer (as Pauline or Johannine writings). It studies the periods of history in which God has revealed Himself through a variety of Biblical writings in a systematic fashion. It emphasizes of a given period of history as in the Old Testament or on a particular teaching of a particular writing as in the New Testament. It reveals the doctrinal teaching of a particular writer or of an entire period. In other words, it enables the reader to determine what is being emphasized during the Abrahamic era or it provides a different perspective from John the apostle. It pays attention to the important historical events in which the Biblical doctrines were given. Through this process we are able to ask questions like: Who was the audience of Matthew and John? What were the circumstances of the Letter to the Hebrews? What events promoted the Book of Revelation? Through Biblical theology, we are given what is called "progressive revelation". This is defined as God not revealing all truth about Himself at one time but revealed Himself piece by piece and to different people throughout history. Biblical Theology also reflects an inspired human element. While it is true that the Bible is verbally inspired and free of error, it is also true that the writers of Scripture each wrote according to their own style. It shows the individual backgrounds, interests and style of the author. As we learn and study more and more about Holy Scriptures, I am reminded of St. Jerome who urged all Christians to recognize that serious Bible study is a necessity, not an optional luxury: *"You erred, not knowing the Scriptures and not knowing the power of God. For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."*

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