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 (metonomy)
         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

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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