



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Ph.D. in Biblical Studies: Biblical Theology Entrance Exam Study Guide

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Biblical Studies: Biblical Theology will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

Part 1 (the morning session) will assess readiness for work in Biblical Studies generally. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer. More specific instructions will be given the day of the exam.

Part 2 (the afternoon session) will assess readiness for advanced work in your area of specialization. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

Part 3 (the second day) will assess readiness for advanced work in Biblical Languages. Biblical Theology will be given a choice of a Hebrew or Greek passage to translate.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Part 1: Biblical Studies (Area)

Archer, Gleason L. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, revised edition. Chicago: Moody, 1996 revised and updated paper.

Carson, D.A., Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. (OP)

Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Nashville: B&H, 2016.

Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. 2d ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

Köstenberger, Andreas and Richard Patterson, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic and Professional, 2011).

Part 2: Biblical Theology (Specialization)

Alexander, Desmond and Brian Rosner, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester and Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000, pp. 1-363.

Carson, D. A. "New Testament Theology." In *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Ed. Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997, pp. 796-814.

Hafemann, Scott J., ed. *Biblical Theology: Retrospect and Prospect*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002.

David Baker, *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Particular Issues of Concern:

- Be able to trace the major story line running throughout the Bible,
- Identify and be able to discuss the unfolding of major themes (such as Messiah, justification, covenant, mission) through Scripture.
- Be able to describe and interact with different models of relating the Testaments (e.g. dispensationalism, covenant theology).

- Be able to discuss elements of diversity and unity in the biblical canon.
- Discuss the contribution of specific biblical books to the Christian canon.

Questions:

1. Explain the hermeneutical “spiral” using insights from Osborne’s text. Note how one moves from text, to interpretation, to proclamation.
2. Discuss the value of historical background, literary analysis, and theological meaning of the Old Testament, using insights from Dillard and Longman and Köstenberger and Patterson.
3. Discuss the way(s) the “histories” from Deuteronomy to 2 Kings have been understood as a whole, giving attention to critical theories of the history, coherence, and theology(ies) of these texts. Use insights from Harrison on this corpus.
4. Discuss the formation of the New Testament canon using insights from Carson/Moo and Kostenberger, Kellum, and Quarles. Include major figures, dates, events, and documents in the church’s canonical discussions, the criterion by which the church recognized canonicity, and modern views of the relevancy of the concept of canonicity.
5. Discuss the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Include relevant biblical examples and the insights from Osborne and Kostenberger, Kellum, and Quarles.
6. What is Biblical Theology? Provide a range of ways in which Biblical Theology has been defined and assess the appropriateness of the various definitions.
7. Provide a history of Biblical Theology as an academic discipline and discuss the challenges and opportunities with which Biblical Theology is faced at the present time.
8. Discuss the relationship between Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, and exegesis, and make a case for Biblical Theology as a viable academic discipline.
9. Provide a thorough discussion of the diversity and unity of Scripture. Give examples of specific Scripture passages and show how this issue has been dealt with in scholarship.
10. How and why is Biblical Theology important for effective ministry?
11. Discuss the theme of the Messiah as a motif integrating the entire Scripture.

12. Discuss the ways that the Old and New Testaments have been understood, and can be understood, as related to one another theologically. Use specific insights from Baker.