

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY: MEETING OF 3/12/2020

❖ Chap. II. 1 and 2 (NTT and/within Biblical Theology)

II. NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY AND/WITHIN BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

1. NT Theology and the Old Testament

– *The NT's use of the OT :*

- Régular quotation from OT
- Appeal : "As it has been written" (kath-os gegraptai) : occurring formula
=== authority of Israel's sacred writings
E.g : Mark 1:2; John 12:14; Acts 15:15; Rom 1:17; 4:17; 15:19; 1 Cor 1:31; 2 Cor 8:15; 2 Pet 3:15.
- Mt, in particular : fulfillment quotations: certain events happened "in order that it might be fulfilled," and the relevant text is cited.
- Prominent narratives and arguments that depend entirely on the scriptures cited : e.g. the accounts of Jesus' crucifixion in the Gospels... using psalms, particularly Psalm 22.

– *Theological dependence :*

- Not only NT writers had a kind of familiarity with OT, they depended heavily on it. It was essential for them that they should be able to claim, and claim validly and effectively, that what they were writing was wholly in accord with their scriptures [The **TaNaKh** = **T**orah or Law ; **N**eviim or Prophets ; **K**etuvim or (other) Writings], on whose revelation of God and his will they depended entirely. Luke 24:44 and Ga 5 :14

[Jesus Appears to the Disciples : Luke 24 :44]

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "**This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**"

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

[Life by the Spirit : Ga 5 :14]

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[Ⓜ]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself" [...]

(cf. Lv 19 :18)

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Without the support of the OT, **the NT writers** themselves would not have been able to make claims that were central and essential for their faith and praxis (topics like resurrection, love, etc).

However a modern biblical theology may evaluate the relation and continuity and discontinuity of OT and NT, **there can be no doubt that for the NT writers, the OT was a major and determining factor in their own theologizing.**

However, for a biblical theology of the NT it is not simply a matter of identifying where and considering how the NT authors work with the OT

(quotation, allusion, echo to/of texts, motifs, and themes) [In indexes of Greek Testaments the list of **echoes** and **allusions** is much longer than the list of actual **citations**].

Still more important is the way in which the OT has influenced and shaped the writing of the NT, no doubt often subconsciously. The scripture of the first Christians (Tanakh) formed and shaped their own theologizing, is Paul's talk of "the righteousness of God"; another is the way James draws on the Jewish wisdom tradition.

But to appreciate what is involved here one has indeed to be so immersed in the material, both OT and NT, that one's hearing becomes attuned to **motif** and **movement of thought** as well as the more perceptible **allusion** and **echo**.

Conclusion : NTT from OT : because of :

- ***The authority of scriptures*** for the first Christians and writers motif, mouvement of thought, allusion, echo, quotation.
- ***The OT as ongoing Revelation*** : the Fatehr of Jesus who is revealed to us in NT, is not separated from the God, Father of Israel, YHWH.

2. NT Biblical Theology

- **Déf** : Eugene H. Merrill defined biblical theology as tracing "the history of salvation a step at a time throughout the Bible, allowing the history to take whatever form appropriate at any given stage of revelation, recognizing how the doctrine developed as revelation progressed. (Roy Zuck & Darrell Bock, *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament*)
- **Difference** between NTT and NTBT ?

3. The Central Subject Matter of a Biblical Theology of the NT

- **Only** a *Christological center* to the NT writings ?

4. NT Theology = NT Biblical Theology ?