NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY: MEETING OF 3/12/2020

❖ **Chap. II. 3 and 4 (NTT and/within Biblical Theology; the Center of NTT. Difference between NT Biblical Theology and NTT)**

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 o 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 **T**a**N**a**K**h = **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[a]; 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*)

- **K. BEALE, *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*,** Grand Rapids, MI, Baker Academic, 2011, Introduction, pp. 1-25.

  For G. K. Beale, there is a NT Biblical Theology which is described as the Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New.

  ...How the OT itself relates to and informs the NT

In *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New,* G.K. Beale provides an exposition of the unfolding theological unity of the entire Bible from the vantage point of the NT.

G. K. Beale, coeditor of the award-winning *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*, examines how the New Testament storyline relates to and develops the Old Testament storyline.

To this end, he argues that every major concept of the New Testament is a development of a concept from the Old and is to be understood as a facet of the inauguration of the latter-day new creation and kingdom. Moreover, Beale is admant that what he is developing a unique New Testament *biblical* theology, one that draws its meaning from the dynamic relationship between Old Testament text and New Testament fulfillment, and is not therefore writing another 'New Testament Theology'.

Offering extensive interaction between the two testaments, this volume helps readers see the unifying conceptual threads of the Old Testament and how those threads are woven together in Jesus Christ.

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

- **Only** a *Christological center* to the NT writings ?
- **Anthropology (Bultman) ?**
- The justification of the godless ?
- The cross ?
- Kerygma ?
- Kingdom of God ?
- Covenant ?

4. NT Theology = NT Biblical Theology ?

- Not.
- Cf. **K. BEALE,** ***A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the*** *Old Testament in the New*, Grand Rapids, MI, Baker Academic, 2011, Introduction, pp. 1-25