

What Is Biblical Theology?: A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns

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This concise and highly readable book orients readers to the unified story of Scripture, helping Christians grasp the perspective of the biblical writers and follow their lead in reading and interpreting God's Word.

James M. Hamilton Jr.

(PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is professor of biblical theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and preaching pastor at Kenwood Baptist Church. He is the author of *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment* and the *Revelation* volume in the *Preaching the Word* commentary series.

"What Is Biblical Theology? confirms Jim Hamilton's reputation as a top-shelf thinker and a wickedly good writer. This slim volume builds on the presupposition that the capacious biblical narrative—sixty-six books written by numerous authors and including stories, poems, proverbs, letters, and apocalypses—possesses a deep inner unity. Its unity arises from its divine inspiration, and it is in fact the true story of the whole world. Hamilton teaches his readers to engage in biblical theology, allowing the biblical story to shape us and conform us to God's will."

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Bruce Riley Ashford

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Provost and Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

"Theology is a word that comes with baggage. Most people, like me, find their brains shutting down a little at its mention, mainly because it stirs up the same sort of feelings as words like calculus and dentist appointment. But from the outset of this book James Hamilton assures us he's not performing mental acrobatics (though I'm sure he could if he wanted to). Rather, he's showing us that if the Bible is a story, and God is a storyteller, then biblical theology is less like math and more like literature; it's less like a cold study of the chemical properties of paint and more like gazing at a Van Gogh. This is a book I wish I could have read a long time ago."

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Andrew Peterson

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singer/songwriter; author, *The Wingfeather Saga* series; Founder, *The Rabbit Room*

"This short, accessible book shows how we can move away from making the Bible all about us, reducing it to just another self-help book. Anyone who reads *What Is Biblical Theology?* will begin to discover what the Bible is really about and will have more 'Now I get it!' experiences as it equips readers to trace the thematic threads and story-line resolutions of the Bible from beginning to end."

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Nancy Guthrie

author, *Even Better than Eden: Nine Ways the Bible's Story Changes Everything about Your Story*

"Disoriented Bible reading leads to disoriented living. Too often the Bible reader parachutes into a passage without understanding the immediate context or the overarching context of the entire Bible. Getting oriented to the whole story of the Bible is the only way to right interpretation and right living. Gaining this whole-Bible interpretive perspective is the burden of biblical theology, and Jim Hamilton has given us an outstanding introduction to this import yet neglected discipline. If the interpretive approach of Hamilton's book is applied, the reader will be able to better understand God's Word, know the mind of Christ, and glorify God."

Erik Thoennes

Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, Chair, Biblical and Theological Studies Theology Department, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University; Pastor, Grace Evangelical Free Church, La Mirada, California

"It is always a delight to read a book written by someone saturated in Scripture. This is one of those books."

Douglas Wilson

Senior Fellow of Theology, New St. Andrews College; Pastor, Christ Church, Moscow, Idaho

"It is an exciting privilege to watch and benefit from 'the coming of age' of the discipline of biblical theology in our generation. But in the explosion of literature we have needed a simple, brief, popular-level introduction—someone to provide us with an aerial view of the forest before we begin making our way among all the trees. This is what Jim Hamilton has done for us here. *What Is Biblical Theology?* provides a very helpful jump start for beginning students, and students of all levels will be blessed in the reminder of the marvelous patterns and themes that make Scripture such a glorious book."

Fred G. Zaspel

, Pastor, Reformed Baptist Church, Franconia, Pennsylvania; author, *The Theology of B. B. Warfield: A Systematic Summary* and *Warfield on the Christian Life: Living in Light of the Gospel*

"I am truly amazed at all that Jim Hamilton has packed into this little volume. *What Is Biblical Theology?* is an engagingly written distillation of years of both scholarly and devotional study of the Bible. The reader will find a succinct, clear, and compelling guide to the overarching story of Scripture. It will be at the top of my list of books to recommend for any

who want to better understand the Bible, the world, and their place in God's story. This is a gift for which I am exceedingly thankful."

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Rob Lister

, Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, Talbot School of Theology

"Want to know your Bible better? Of course you do! Jim Hamilton can help. What Is Biblical Theology? is a manual for seeing how the many books of the Bible tell the one story about Jesus Christ: who he is and what he has done. Dr. Hamilton will help you love Jesus more by understanding your Bible better."

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C.J. Mahaney

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Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville

Other Books

The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook, One of the keys to enjoying an in-depth and rewarding experience of reading the Bible is recapturing the ancient world--its cultures, customs, and histories. With this innovative guide, readers can enrich their study with fascinating insights into the Bible and the world in which it was written. The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook offers the most up-to-date evangelical biblical scholarship in a format that is readable and easy to understand. This book-by-book guide brings the Bible to life with more than 1,100 full-color pages packed with illustrations, maps, and photos, and 112 in-depth articles on a wide range of topics important to students of the Bible. Readers will discover how each part of the Bible fits into and informs every other part, giving them a cohesive understanding of God's Word. No reference collection will be complete without this incredible new handbook to the Bible.

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