

BIBL 543: THE USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Rikk Watts

July 12 – 16; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

2 or 3 graduate credit hours; or 2 audit hour

Live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION

No body of literature exercised as much influence on the writers of the NT as did Israel's Scriptures. This is hardly surprising since for them this new thing God had done in Christ was the climactic fulfillment of his centuries old promises to his people. Yet few matters are the subject of such impassioned and wide-ranging debate as is the question of how the NT authors interpret the OT, particularly in the light of Jesus and his gospel. Questions abound: What, if at all, is the role of the OT context? How do we explain the significant variations and sometimes remarkable differences between the OT text and its supposed quotation in the NT? How can a text that was not even considered a prophecy be "fulfilled"? Are the NT authors reliable guides or must we admit that they use methods that no modern bible reader could accept? Are their citations merely *ad hoc* or is there an underlying coherence, and if so, what does this mean for how they understood theology?

COURSE OUTLINE

In this lecture series we will

- a) begin with a review of the broad range of issues involved in the modern debate,
- b) illustrate the kind of interpretative approaches available to first century authors
- c) examine a number of particular instances of how the NT uses the OT to gain some insight into their underlying assumptions (the main body of the lectures).
- d) conclude with a proposal as to how this all makes sense in the contexts of the first century world and ours.

Please note:

- a) the lectures do not require knowledge of the biblical languages though on occasion certain points will necessitate some discussion of this kind.
- b) major assignments: the range of topics is designed to accommodate those with or without facility in the languages.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Beale, G. K., *Handbook on the NT use of the OT: Exegesis and Interpretation*, (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013). NB: available as a Regent library eBook.

Moyise, S., *Evoking Scripture: Seeing the Old Testament in the New* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2008). ISBN: 9780567033253. \$36.95

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