BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

DEFINITION:
Biblical Theology views the Bible as one unified story, making observations and drawing conclusions about the things of God by tracing its connected themes.

1) Biblical Theology views the Bible as one unified story.

2) Biblical Theology is making observations and drawing conclusions about the things of God.

3) Biblical Theology looks for its connected themes.

BASIC BIBLE FACTS:

1) The Bible is comprised of _____ individual writings.

2) These writings were written over a period of about _____ years by at least _____ authors.

3) They were written originally in one of three languages: _____, _____, and _____

4) They are categorized into two main sections: _____ and _____

5) These writings include all different types of literature: history, narrative, letters, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecy, apocalyptic writings, etc.

KEY IDEA - CONTEXT:

We need to know what type of _____ we're reading, and where it fits into _____, in order to interpret it correctly.

"[Biblical theology] contends that to read the Bible as unified Scripture is not just one interpretive option among others, but that which best corresponds to the nature of the text itself, given its divine inspiration." – Steven Wellum

NOTES:

HERMENEUTIC TOOL #1
CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT

Definition: The context of a passage helps us to understand the passage's meaning.

Types of Context:

1. Context in the big story of scripture
2. Context of the book or genre
3. Context of the passage
4. Historical context

Examples:

1) Genesis 31:49 (ESV)
"The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight."

2) Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

THE BIBLE'S CLAIMS ABOUT ITSELF:

1) Scripture is the Very Word of God – Divine Inspiration

Divine inspiration means that while the Bible has many human authors, it has only _____.

1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - Scripture is "breathed out" by God… literally "expired."
2) Jesus believed that what scripture says, God says. (Matt 5:17-20, Matt 26:54-56, Mark 14:49, Luke 16:29-31, John 10:34-36, John 13:18)
3) Jesus affirms the Old Testament as a whole. (Luke 11:49-51)

How does divine inspiration work?
Human authors wrote the books of the Bible, but the Holy Spirit was working in them throughout their entire lives so that they wrote exactly what God wanted them to write.
Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

NOTES:

2) All Scripture is For God's People

While each book of the Bible was written for a particular audience, the ultimate audience is for all of God's people for all time. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11**

POINT: God ordained the events of history and the recording of those events so that we would have the 66 books of the Bible as we have them today.

3) Scripture is All About Jesus

The New Testament centers around Jesus.
Jesus claims that the entire Old Testament is about himself.
Read Luke 24:25-27, 44
(See also Luke 22:37 and John 5:39-40)

Therefore, when we read scripture, we should look for:

1) _____

2) _____

NOTES:

LOOKING FOR JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT – EXAMPLES

Prophecy: A _____ of something that God will do.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 – Isaiah describes the Suffering Servant

_____

_____

Christophany: When the _____ appears in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 6:1-4 and John 12:41 – Isaiah Sees Jesus on the Throne

_____

_____

Typology: When a _____ or _____ illustrates the person and work of Jesus Christ.

1 Samuel 17 – David and Goliath

_____

_____

WHAT WILL WE DISCOVER?

1) The Unified Story of the Bible

- When we read a piece of the story, or even a single passage, we cannot remove it from the larger story.
- Knowing the larger story helps us to know how to understand the pieces.

2) "Threads" Running Through the Bible

- A thread is when a concept, a person, or a term is repeatedly used throughout the story of the Bible.

3) How to Correctly Read and Interpret the Bible

- When left up to man's opinions, we can make the Bible say whatever we want, but God's Word tells us how we ought to read it.

NOTES:

HOMEWORK:
READ GENESIS 1-3

The book of Genesis was written by Moses after the Exodus from Egypt and before the Hebrew people entered the Promised Land. This means that Moses' original audience for the book of Genesis were these people who were about to enter the land and attempt to conquer these nations.

1) With this context in mind, why would Genesis 1-3 be important for the Hebrews who are about to go into the land? What hope and encouragement would it give them? What clues in the passage help us to see that?

2) If you've read some of the Bible before, you may already recognize some themes or threads in this passage. What threads do you see beginning in Genesis 1-3?

3) In the fall of humankind (Genesis 3), how was God gracious to the man and the woman? List as many instances of grace you can find.

4) If all of scripture points to Jesus, where does Genesis 1-3 do this? Do you see any connections to Christ in this passage?