

## Biblical Hermeneutics Key

*A Biblical Theological view of Scripture seeks to understand the process of God's revelation toward humankind, understanding Jesus Christ as its fulfillment & the key to interpretation, by the Holy Spirit, thus relating the entire Bible to Christian lives.*

### **PRESUPPOSITIONS:**

1. God is sovereign and all happens according to plan.
2. God desires us to have a relationship with Him.
3. God has revealed/self-proven Himself progressively.
4. God reveals Himself naturally/generally (in creation) & supernaturally/specially (through His Word – Bible).
5. Even prior to the Fall, humankind was dependent on God's supernatural Word to understand humanity's relationship to God, to each other and to the world.
6. Sin distorts our relationships, suppresses general revelation/truth, & rebels against God's Word/Truth.
7. Special revelation through God's redemptive Word (ultimately in Jesus) subdues man's rebellious will, by the Holy Spirit, convincing him God's Word is Truth.
8. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate biblical interpreter.

### **PRIMARY THEMES TO CONSIDER:**

1. **Covenant**
  - a. *Sovereignty of God: Authority-Initiates & Upholds*
  - b. *Loving Commitment to Redeem Creation*
  - c. *Restoration by Promises to people Elected by Grace*
2. **Kingdom of God**
  - a. *Creation & Recreation/Regeneration*
  - b. *Order & Goodness of Creation (Restored)*
  - c. *Image of God in man (Relationships)*
  - d. *Man's responsibility before God*
3. **Now but Not Yet**
  - a. *Spiritual Warfare & Christian Hope*

### **THE TEXT IN REDEMPTIVE HISTORY:**

1. **Kingdom Prototype (prior to the Fall)**
  - a. Garden of Eden in which Kingdom Pattern was established
2. **Kingdom Type/Shadow (Promises)**
  - a. History of Israel
    - i. *Abraham (given), Moses (acted), David (fulfilled)*
  - b. Prophetic Eschatology (Promises)
    - i. *Remnant & Renewal (restated)*
3. **Kingdom Antitype (Jesus is the Key)**
  - a. Jesus Christ: Kingdom fully revealed; God, Man World relationships realized; Renews all things.
  - b. JESUS CHRIST SHOWS US THAT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY IS ABOUT GOD BRINGING IN HIS KINGDOM IN WHICH ALL RELATIONSHIPS ARE RESTORED TO PERFECTION.

## Biblical Thematic Overview (Goldsworthy)

**Prayer before Biblical Study:** Lord, come apply the sword of your Word to my life. May it judge the thoughts and attitudes of my heart. Reveal yourself through your Word that I may know you more intimately. AMEN.

### **Creation (Generation) of the Kingdom of God:**

Creation results in the kingdom as God, mankind and the rest of creation all relating perfectly. GENESIS 1-2

Creation by Word: *John 1:1-3 & Colossians 1:16*

### **Fall (Degeneration) of Creation:**

Humanity's rebellion against God resulted in the fall of the whole created order from its place in the kingdom of God. GENESIS 3

The Fall: *Luke 4:3-4 & Hebrews 4:15*

### **First Promises of Regeneration (Recreation):**

Immediately after the fall God begins his work of restoring the whole created order to its right relationship to himself. He acts on the basis of his covenant commitment to creation, and reveals his kingdom by the election of certain people through whom he will work out his purposes. GENESIS 4-11

First Revelation of Redemption: *Matthew 24:37 & Hebrews 11:7*

### **Further Promises of Regeneration:**

God's covenant commitment is given its next main expression in the promises made to Abraham. Election and grace are demonstrated in the way the promises are given and sustained in the face of what seem to be impossible obstacles. The promises are that Abraham's descendants through Isaac and Jacob will possess the land, be God's special people, and be the instrument of blessing for all nations. GENESIS 12-50

Abraham Our Father: *John 8:56, 58 & Galatians 3:29*

### **Regeneration of a Nation:**

God's covenant promises appear to have no substance when the chosen people find themselves in slavery to a foreign power. But God's faithfulness is shown in the redemptive act by which he saves Israel from their captivity. Signs and wonders demonstrate that entry into God's kingdom is only possible through a supernatural work of God himself. EXODUS 1-15

Exodus-A Pattern of Redemption: *Matthew 2:14-15 & 1 Cor. 5:7*

### **The Meaning of Regeneration:**

Regeneration is more than a movement from one land to another. It also involves coming under the rule of God and being conformed to his character. Israel, living as God's people in the Promised Land, is to be characterized as a people whose God dwells with them and enables them to approach him through the ministry of the tabernacle. EXODUS 16-40, LEVITICUS

New Life- Gift & Task: *Matthew 5:17 & Galatians 3: 24-25*

### **Promises of a Regenerated World:**

A regenerated nation without a regenerated land would be like Adam & Eve without Eden. The promise of possession of the land is the promise of a land that is renewed in a way that points to the removal of all the ill effects of the fall. Such a land is part of the kingdom that can be received only by faith. NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

The Temptation in the Wilderness: *Matthew 4:3-4 & John 3:14-15*

### **Foretaste of a Regenerated World:**

The land of Canaan was a good land ready to be possessed and enjoyed by the people of God. Their entry into the land was attended by signs of the regenerating power of God. But, even as they took possession, their disobedience and failure threatened their status as the redeemed people of God enjoying the blessings of the covenant. JOSHUA, JUDGES & RUTH

Into the Good Land: *Hebrews 4:9 & Luke 23:43*

### **The Pattern of Rule in the New Earth:**

The combined effect of the reign of Saul, David and Solomon was to show the pattern of God's rule in the new earth. At the heart of it was the covenant. The king represented the whole nation as the true covenant partner to God. At the same time, he mediated God's rule to the people in conjunction with the temple and its ministry of reconciliation and forgiveness. 1 & 2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS 1-10, 1 CHRONICLES & 2 CHRONICLES 1-9

God's Rule in God's Land: *Luke 1:31-32 & Jon 2:19*

### **\*The Regenerating of Human Existence:**

The regenerating power of God, in redemption, works on the lives of the individual people of God. The revelation of redemption provides the framework within which the regenerated mind works to understand reality. The believer expresses fellowship with God by reaching out for true knowledge of God's world, and by returning praise and thanks to the Lord. \*ALL ABOVE BOOKS

The Life of Faith: *1 Corinthians 1:24, 30 & Luke 24:44*

### **The Degeneration of the Kingdom Pattern:**

The pattern of redemption and the kingdom of God as revealed in the history of Israel from Abraham to Solomon is complete. But now the inability of Israel to be faithful to the covenant leads to a decline in the kingdom. Once again the reality of the fall is shown to such a degree that it is clear that the kingdom of God has not yet come. 1 KINGS 11-22 & 2 KINGS

The Fading Shadow: *Revelation 2:5 & 2 Corinthians 5:21*

### **The Regeneration of All Things Predicted:**

The prophets now fill the gap left by the failed historical kingdom of Israel. They speak of a future fulfillment of all God's purposes. Israel's historical experience of God's saving work is shown to be a shadow of the final and true work of salvation. In this all things, including the heavens and the earth, will be regenerated. JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL, DANIEL, ESTHER [ISAIAH=2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus] There is a New Creation: *2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Peter 3:13 & Revelation 21:1, 5*

### **The Regeneration Remains a Future Hope:**

The restoration of the Jews to the Promised Land looked as if it would be the fulfillment of God's promises. In fact, the expected regeneration of all things did not come to pass. The only hope now is that at some future time God will act to bring about his kingdom and the salvation of his people. EZRA, NEHEMIAH & HAGGAI

The Second Exodus: *Luke 9:30-31*

### **The Regeneration Comes in Jesus for Us:**

The regeneration in the Old Testament was revealed as a re-creation of the people of God and of the created order. The New Testament reveals that this first comes about in a representative way in the person of Jesus. He is true God, true human being, and true world in which God meets his people. GOSPELS

The New Creation for Us: *John 2:19*

### **The Regeneration Begins in God's People:**

The regeneration that first came in the person of Jesus Christ now becomes a reality in the lives of God's people. The Holy Spirit takes the place of the bodily presence of Jesus. At Pentecost he comes, for the first time, to relate believers to the regeneration as it is fully revealed in Christ. ACTS

The New Creation in Us Initiated: *Acts 2:21 & 16:31*

### **The Regeneration Grows in God's People:**

That which believers possess by faith, the regeneration for us in Christ, becomes that which begins to be formed in them. The personal regeneration of the believer is the fruit of the regeneration in Christ [*noting that fruit grows over time & does not appear suddenly*]. Both are related to the final regeneration of all things, which will take place when Christ returns. N.T. EPISTLES

The New Creation in Us Now: *Colossians 3:1-4*

### **\*The Final Perfection of the New Creation:**

That which believers possess by faith, the regeneration for us in Christ, becomes that which begins to be formed in them. At the return of Christ the regeneration of believers is completed, and the whole creation is renewed. The kingdom of God, first revealed in Eden, is consummated for eternity. \*NEW TESTAMENT

The New Creation Consummated: *Revelation 21:3-5*

### **KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK:**

1. **How does the passage fit in with the overall redemptive history of the Bible?** What's the main point of the passage within the context it was written to its original readers?
  - a. Consider style/genre and word meaning in relation to phrase, paragraph & discourse.
2. **How does the passage relate to the whole Bible's focus on Jesus Christ?** What does God (the Trinity) reveal of Himself that reaches fulfillment in Jesus Christ?
3. **How does the passage apply to/ instruct the Church of today?**
  - a. What insight do I gain into myself in relation to God and others?