

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**MATS Degree Completion Program**  
**BTHD 632 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders**

**Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.**

**July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2005**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An analysis of signs and wonders in the Scripture with reference to the various words which express these phenomena and the cultural context that shaped the particular world views of biblical authors and their opponents. Related issues of contemporary interest and relevance (e.g., their relationship to faith and spiritual warfare) will also be considered and the Scriptural evidence examined.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As a result of this course the student should:

1. Be able to construct a missional strategy for regional and international evangelization;
2. Be able to apply this teaching of signs and wonders to personal and corporate life and ministry;
3. Be able to appropriately evaluate the various types of, and contemporary approaches to, signs & wonders;
4. Be able to teach and guide others in respect to spiritual warfare activities so closely attached to signs and wonders.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required:**

Aker, Benny C. and Gary B. McGee, eds. *Signs & Wonders in Ministry Now*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1996.

Arnold, Clinton E. *Three Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1997.

**Recommended:**

Greig, Gary S. and Kevin N. Springer. *The Kingdom and the Power*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993.

## COURSE METHODOLOGY

1. Writing a four page review of *Signs & Wonders in Ministry Now* and a four page review of *Three Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*.
2. An oral (about 15 minutes from an outline) and written (8-10 pages) book review from the bibliography.
3. Interact with lectures and discussion, i.e., participate in class.
4. Read/research and write a paper on a topic related to signs and wonders.
5. The class procedure includes power point slides.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all class sessions. Attendance is an important indication of the student's interest in learning and is taken seriously. Up to 20% of class hours are permitted in the case of an emergency. The student should notify the professor in advance if possible. The student should also check to see what was missed in that class(s) and be prepared to make up work. (Cf. Student Handbook)
2. Class participation.
3. A **four page review** of *Signs & Wonders in Ministry Now* and a **four page review** of *Three Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*. **Due July 19.**
4. Prepare a book report on one of the books from the bibliography (8-10 pages). It should be one that has not been read before and should be at least 150 pages. **The written report is due July 26.** For class presentation, an outline will be given the professor (before presenting). This outline will guide the presenter in the oral class report. **The date of the oral report will be worked out in class.** However, these will begin after the first class period. The report should last around 15 minutes. The purpose of this review/report is to give wider exposure to the study.
6. Prepare a ten page research paper on some aspect of signs and wonders. If you wish, you may consult with the professor on a topic. Use sound hermeneutics and theological method (classroom methods may be used as a model). The paper should also relate to your interest and ministry, and apply to life.
  - Please follow Turabian, 6th edition for format of paper: title page, table of contents, footnotes, bibliography, division of paper, etc. The student should consult a good number of journal articles as well as good scholarly books. The material should be well-documented; quotes should be avoided (only to be used if necessary for your argument; do not confuse quotes with footnotes/documentation). Be sure to use good style and organization. Avoid passive verbs; watch redundancy and wordiness. The required number of pages (noted above) includes only the body of the paper itself, not the title page or bibliography, etc.
  - **Due August 9.**

**Note: late papers will be penalized.**

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to Signs and Wonders
  - A. Survey of contemporary scene  
[Read full issue in regards to point A: *Christianity Today* (September 3, 2001)]  
[Read articles from a Bible Dictionary on the topics in points B, C, and D.]
  - B. The nature of sin and evil in the Bible: a survey
  - C. The development and the nature and work of Satan and Demons in the Bible
  - D. An Overview of salvation in the Bible
  - E. Signs and Wonders and the Exodus Motif in the Bible
  
2. Signs and wonders in theology and ancient history
  - A. In the Old Testament (use a concordance)
    - a. Survey of terms
    - b. Interpretation of Exodus language of deliverance
  - B. In the New Testament
    - a. Survey of terms
    - b. Analysis and comment
  - C. In the Intertestamental Period:
    - a. Survey of terms
    - b. Analysis and comment
  - D. In the Greco-Roman world  
[Consult from syllabus bibliography: Steven Scherrer, *Journal of Biblical Literature* 103 (December 1984): 599-610.]
  - E. Framing the term: Interpretation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus language: both OT and NT
  
3. Signs and wonders in life and ministry [For this section, bring Arnold's book to class where we will interact with him.]
  - A. Signs and wonders, spiritual warfare, and power encounter
  - B. Signs and wonders, conversion, and discipleship
  - C. Signs and wonders and faith
  - D. Signs and wonders and spiritual gifts
  - E. Spiritual mapping
  - F. Territorial spirits

## GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Two, Four page reviews-- 50 points each
2. Research paper-- 100 points
3. Oral report (including written outline)-- 50 points
4. Paper-- 100 points
5. Total possible points: 350 points

The grade will come from the appropriate percentages of the total possible:

100%	A+		
94-99 %	A	80-83 %	B-
90-93 %	A-	77-79 %	C+
87-89 %	B+	74-76 %	C
84-86 %	B	70-73 %	C-

### SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## **SPECIFIC DATA**

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