

Book Report

“God’s Glory in Salvation Through Judgment” By James Hamilton Junior

This book introduced me to the concept of “Biblical Theology”, which is seeing themes as they unfold in Scripture. Hamilton’s thesis is that every book in Scripture shares the same “center of gravity” that God is glorified when He judges the enemies and saves His people.

While the “center of gravity” concept is interesting, what I found most personally beneficial in reading this book was his big picture observations of each book of the Bible. I don’t always agree with his analysis, but oftentimes I did and came away with a more comprehensive picture of the themes in Scripture.

In addition to putting themes together, Hamilton helps you see Jesus in the Old Testament. Here is one quote from the book as an example...

“As Psalm 78 sings these events (Ps. 78:15–20), the psalmist may interpret the rock that was struck as Yahweh himself: ‘They remembered that God was their rock’ (78:35). If we have here a picture of Yahweh standing before the rock, Moses striking the rock, and Yahweh being identified with the rock, with the result that water flows out that the people might drink, then it would seem that Yahweh is being struck so that the people might drink. Through the striking of their Lord, the people receive the water of life.”¹

¹ Hamilton Jr., James M.. God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment (Kindle Locations 1921-1925). Crossway. Kindle Edition.