

Core Seminars—How to Study the Bible

Class 4: Interpreting the OT and NT



“And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”
(2 Peter 1:19)

I. Interpreting the Old Testament: Five Interpretive Lenses

1. Context

- a. Historical Context
- b. Literary Context

2. Covenant

- a. The Adamic covenant (Gen. 1-2; Hosea 6:7),
- b. The Noahic covenant (Gen. 9:8-17),
- c. The Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-14),
- d. The Mosaic covenant (Ex. 19-25),
- e. The Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7),
- f. The New covenant (Jer. 31:27-34; Ezek. 36:24-28; Matt. 26:27-30).

Creation → Fall → Redemption → New Creation

3. Canon

Use your cross references!

Use the handout with Biblical allusions.

How To Study the Bible Schedule

- I. Section One: First Things
 - a. What is the Bible & is it Reliable?
 - b. Biblical Theology & Systematic Theology
 - c. The Inductive Study Method
- II. Section Two: Anatomy of the Bible
 - a. Interpreting The Old Testament and New Testament
 - b. Genres I: Narratives and Histories
 - c. Genres II: Poetic and Wisdom Writings
 - d. Genre III: Epistles & Apocalyptic Literature
- III. Section III: Interpretive Tools
 - a. Purpose and Context
 - b. Structure and Parallels
 - c. Linking Words
 - d. Repetition
 - e. Using Commentaries & Other Resource

4. The Character of God

5. Christ

“He said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’ **27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself....44** He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**’” (Luke 24:25-27, 44)

- What does this passage reveal about Jesus Christ?
- How does this text point forward to Christ?
- How does the gospel affect my understanding of the text?
- How does my text anticipate or reflect upon the gospel?

II. Interpreting the New Testament: Four Things to Remember

1. In the New Testament, Remember the Basic Genres

- Gospels
- Epistles
- Apocalyptic

2. In the Gospels, Remember to Keep Your Eyes Fixed on Jesus

When you read any passage in the Gospels, notice:

- What Jesus did;
- What Jesus taught;
- Who Jesus is; and
- What it means to be His disciple.

3. In the Epistles, Remember the Indicative / Imperative Pattern

- Indicative: “God has done this.”
- Imperative: “You need to do that.”

Imperatives flow from indicatives; indicatives give rise to imperatives.

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” **(1 Peter 1:14-16)**

4. In Application, Remember What Scripture Is For

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” **(2 Timothy 3:16)**

- What is this text teaching me?
- What is this text reproving or rebuking in me?
- What is this text correcting in me?
- What is this text training me to do?