

Seeing Christ in All of Scripture

Biblical Theology

Ephesians Workshop, week 3 2/23/2020

INTERPRETATION – what does it mean?

STEP 1: Answer your questions for interpretation

STEP 2: Biblical & theological reflection, find Christ

“Theological reflection is a rigorous and prayerful discipline of taking the time to meditate on my text and how it relates to God’s plan of redemption. It is an exercise that asks how my passage relates to the Bible as a whole, especially to the saving acts of God in Jesus.”

David Helm, *Expositional Preaching*

Taking time to do Biblical Theology. What is Biblical Theology?

“A way of reading the Bible as one story by one divine author that culminates in who Jesus Christ is and what he has done, so that every part of Scripture is understood in relation to him.”

Roark and Cline from *Biblical Theology*

- Jesus is the hero, the centerpiece of the story, from cover to cover.
- Jesus is “the interpretive key to the Bible, which means a careful Bible reader will find him in the beginning, middle, and end of this story.”
- “God’s story is a grand story - the grandest of them all, in fact - and it’s centered on his plan of redemption in the person and work of Jesus Christ.”

The term “biblical theology” can be used in two ways:

1. **Sound doctrine.** The term can mean what the average person would think it means: theology that is biblical, or theology that accurately reflects what God has revealed of himself in his Word.
2. **A way of interpreting the Bible.** But the term “biblical theology” also has a second, more technical meaning. It describes a “hermeneutical discipline” (or way of interpreting the Bible). Specifically, it’s a discipline that attempts to trace the Bible’s one main storyline through all of the Bible’s different books and genres. Biblical theology in this sense looks at,
 - how certain themes develop throughout all of Scripture,
 - how the Old and New Testaments relate to each other,
 - and how all of Scripture, in one way or another, points to the saving work of Jesus Christ.

(9Marks)

- That the Bible is about, *Christ from Beginning to End – the full story of Scripture reveals the full glory of Christ.* (Hunter and Wellum)
- That the, “Bible is one unified story that leads to Jesus.” (Bible Project)

Why is it important we do this theological reflection when we study the Bible?

- **Luke 24:25-27, 44-47**
“he interpreted to them all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”
- **John 5:39, 46**
- **Acts 17:2-3**
Also, Acts 17:22-31, is an example, moved through the story of God in sermon
- **1 Peter 1:10-12**
- Interpreting the Bible with the instincts of Jesus and Paul and Peter.
- Finding how the part relates to the whole, the story of God’s redemption in Christ.
- Guards against proof-texting and moralism.
- It’s finding the fuller meaning, God’s intentions in the text according to his full plan.
- It gets at the core, the gospel and how it affects our hearts. We are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, “we need our eyes and mind opened (Lk 24:31,45) to recognize Jesus in all the Scriptures in order that we might love him with all your hearts from all the Scriptures (Lk24:32)” – leads us to Jesus, gospel, and who we are as his people.

How do we do Biblical Theology?

Three Contexts of Bible Study – close, continuing, complete

1. Studying the immediate context - what is happening in the book?
2. Studying the continuing context - where am I at in God’s Story?
3. Studying the complete context - how does this point to Christ?

(Christ from Beginning to End, Wellum & Hunter)

Looking Down - Studying the Immediate Context

- what is happening in the book?
**puzzle illustration - working on a half-done puzzle - single area (color, shape)

Three Questions as we seek to look down at the immediate context (historical and literary)

1. What is the book about and where am I at?
2. What is happening in this particular passage?
3. What kind of literature is this?

COMA Study Method

- **Context** - where am I at?
 - Background of the book & current place in the story.
 - Author, original audience
 - Historical context, cultural features and circumstances
 - Type of literature - story, poetry, prophecy, epistle, etc.
- **Observation** - what do I see?
 - Words, grammar, etc - figures of speech, word/phrases repeated
 - Structure - how is the passage arranged, does this give clues?
- **Meaning** - what does it mean?
 - *Who is...* the author talking about? Accomplishing the action?
 - *What is...* the meaning of this word or phrase? Implication of this statement? Meaning of this figure of speech? The author's flow of thought and tone?
 - *Why did the author...* choose this word? Include this phrase or statement? Not include or mention something? Connect these ideas?
 - Look up *cross references* and find other places where words and topics are used.
 - *Compare multiple translations* such as ESV, NIV, NAS, NKJV. This can help give you a feel for the meaning.
 - Look up *background information* in a Bible Dictionary or Encyclopedia.
 - Compare your findings with ideas in *commentaries*.
 - *Summarize* the passage in a big idea statement, chart, drawing, or summary paragraph.
- **Application** - how can I apply this to my life?
 - Universal principle - statement of truth from meaning applied to any situation at any time.
 - Potential applications one could make
 - Write out something you will do, "I will"
 - Or, S.P.E.C.K. - how?

What kind of literature is this?

1. Narrative (Historical & Law, Gospels & Acts)
2. Wisdom Literature & Poetry (Psalms & Proverbs)
3. Prophecy (Major & Minor)
4. Discourse (Epistles)

Looking Back - Studying the Continuing Context

- where am I at in God's story?
**puzzle illustration - take a break and look at what you have accomplished

1. Where am I at in the grand story of redemption?
 - Creation
 - Fall
 - Redemption – God plan to save through Christ
 1. OT promises and themes, *redemption anticipated*
 2. NT fulfillment in Christ, *redemption accomplished and applied*
 - New Creation
2. Where am I at in the drama of God (Acts and Scenes)?
 - *Read the Bible for Life, Reading God's Story, Day-by-Day Chronological Bible* by George Guthrie
3. Where am I at in the progression of promises made and kept (Covenants)?
God's covenant with...
Creation through Adam & Noah (Gen 3:15, 9:13)
Abraham and his children (Gen 12:1-3, 15:6)
Israel through Moses (Ex 4:22, 19:6, 19-20)
David and his sons (2 Sam 7:14)
God's New Covenant in Christ (Jer 31:31-34; Lk 22:20)

Looking Ahead - Studying the Complete Context

- how does this point to Christ?
**puzzle illustration - take a look at the box cover

As we study, regularly ask, "What does this reveal about Jesus?"

1. How is this pointing forward to the person and work of Christ? How is this person, event, or institution a type of Christ?

Type (definition) - An OT person, event, or institution designed by God to be fulfilled in Christ and his people.

****Indicators of Types:**

- **A pattern rooted in history** - repeated, Goldsworthy's three places - 1) OT history 2) prophecy, 3) NT fulfillment.
- **Designed by God** - purpose in God's plan – theme picked up & applied to Christ/redemption, not a random reference out of nowhere but the NT explains it (reflects back, quotes, alludes).
- **A progression fulfilled in Christ** - unpacked through covenants, lesser to greater escalation of theme, comes to a clear & final fulfillment in Christ

Person – Adam, David, Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Isaac & sacrifice, Boaz (kin-redeem).

Event – Exodus, Day of Atonement, Passover, Noah's Ark.

Institution – Priests, Temple, Exile-remnant, Judges, Law

TIP - Read Hebrews! Esp. 9-10 how describes as better, greater/better... Moses, etc.

2. How does the story create a desire for something better? What is the longing or the hunger here (human need) that only Jesus can satisfy? How does he satisfy it?

Examples

- Mana - spiritual hunger - bread of life, satisfies spiritual hunger
- Promise Land
- Barrenness
- Features of covenant
- Kings/shepherds - the leaders let people down... Christ King of Kings, Good Shepherd – satisfies need for direction, protection, provision.

3. What promises are made and how are they ultimately kept through Christ?

Tips

- Daily Bible reading - read regularly in OT and NT together in your plan
- Look for promises as you read, mark
 - Certain color in reading, OT, underline
 - Specific prophecy that was fulfilled in Christ
- Go backwards, read Matthew - flip back and read OT passage, mark
- Go through a resource that lists quotations and their passages (ESVSB)

Summary – questions to ask to find how a passage relates to the person and work of Christ
(adapted from *Biblical Theology*)

1. How does my passage point forward to Christ's first coming? How does it anticipate or predict the gospel?
2. How does my passage explain Christ's person and work? How does my passage reflect upon or apply the gospel?
3. How does my passage anticipate Christ's return? How does it predict or explain the future consummation of all things, the new heavens and earth in Christ?

Growth Project

Let's try it! Applying Biblical theology to Ephesians 4:17-24

Looking down – what is the main point of the passage? (summarize Josh's sermon)

Looking back – where are we at in God's story?

- Where are we at in the grand story of redemption?
- Where are we at in the drama of God?
- Where are we at in the progression of promises made and kept (covenants)?

Looking Forward – How does the passage explain Christ's person and work? How does the passage reflect upon or apply the gospel?

1. Do we find any major themes in the passage woven throughout the Bible that find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ's person or work?
2. How does the passage create a desire for something better? What is the longing or the hunger here (human need) that only Jesus can satisfy? How has he satisfied it?
3. Do we find any promises made and ultimately kept through Christ?
4. How does the passage anticipate Christ's return? How does it predict or explain the future consummation of all things, the new heavens and earth in Christ?

5. Do we find any types (person, institution, event) that point to Christ? Are any types explained - do we see Jesus fulfill any of these types?

Growth Project

Find 2-4 themes in the book of Ephesians that are woven throughout Scripture – find a place where the theme exists in three places: 1) the OT history books, 2) in the OT prophets or wisdom literature, and 3) an additional place in the NT that further explains how the theme relates to the person and work of Christ.

Resources

- Study Bibles - *ESV Study Bible, Gospel Transformation Study Bible*
- *Biblical Theology* by Roark and Cline
- *Christ from Beginning to End* by Hunter and Wellum
- *Read the Bible for Life* by George Guthrie
- *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament* series - Nancy Guthrie Studies
- *According to Plan* by Grame Goldsworthy
- *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Dictionary of NT use of OT*

Read Through the Bible for Life (Summary)

GOD'S STORY

ACT 1 – God's Plan for All People

- Scene 1 – Creation: *The God of all life*
- Scene 2 – The Fall: *Rejecting God's Vision for life*
- Scene 3 – The Flood: *God judges and makes a covenant to preserve life*

ACT 2 – God's Covenant People

- Scene 1 – The People: *God calls a covenant people*
- Scene 2 – Deliverance: *God Rescues His people*
- Scene 3 – Covenant and Law: *God embraces and instructs His people*
- Scene 4 – The Land: *God's place for His people*
- Scene 5 – Kings and Prophets: *God shapes a kingdom people*
- Scene 6 – Kings and Prophets: *God Divides the Kingdom People*
- Scene 7 – Kings and Prophets: *The Southern Kingdom as God's people*
- Scene 8 – Exile: *God disciplines His people*
- Scene 9 – Return: *God delivers His people again*

ACT 3 – God's New Covenant People

- Scene 1 – Christ's Coming: *God's true king arrives*
- Scene 2 – Christ's Ministry: *God's true king manifests his kingdom*
- Scene 3 – Christ's Deliverance of His people: *God's work through the death, resurrection, and enthronement of His king.*
- Scene 4 – Christ's Church: *God's people advance the Kingdom*
- Scene 5 – Christ's Second Coming and Reign: *God's future for his kingdom*