

Kyrie Christian Fellowship

How to Study the Bible

Part Two -
The Old in the New

“The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.”

– *Saint Augustine, c. 400AD*

- ❖ The OT was not called the Old Testament by the authors of the NT - it simply was called Scripture, or the Sacred Writings, and was their Bible
- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:14-17 *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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."*

- ❖ While much of the OT chronicles the life of the nation of Israel, we learn in the NT that all of it was given that we might understand who God is
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:11 *"Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction..."*

- ❖ Lastly, all of the OT point to Jesus
- ❖ Luke 24:27 *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself..."*

❖ Cross-References

- ❖ *“I do not know any way whereby the Word of God, as to the majesty, authority, truth, and perfection of it, can be more honoured and held forth, and the adversaries of it of all sorts so thoroughly convinced and silenced, as to have the Scripture to be its own interpreter. This I am sure - did men in their expositions on the Scriptures speak less themselves, and the Scripture more, the Scripture would have more honour and themselves less.”* John Canne, 1644.

- ❖ Pay attention to the little letters and numbers
- ❖ Read the footnotes
- ❖ Look for direct quotes
- ❖ 1 out of every 22 verses in the NT is actually from the OT

- ❖ Take a Bible you don't mind writing in or highlighting
- ❖ Find each quote in the NT
- ❖ Highlight and write next to it the OT reference
- ❖ Find the verse in the OT
- ❖ Highlight the paragraph it comes from and write the next to it the NT reference.
- ❖ When you are done (there are around 300 direct quotes) you will have a divinely inspired commentary on the OT

Old in the New Study

- ❖ 6 Questions to help understand why the NT author is quoting the OT:
- ❖ Who is talking and to whom are they talking?
- ❖ When, in the history of Israel, is the statement made?
- ❖ Where, geographically speaking, is the statement made?
- ❖ What is the immediate context of the statement?
- ❖ Why is the OT author saying what he is saying?
- ❖ How does the NT author use that statement?

- ❖ For example: The first time the NT quotes the OT is in Matthew 1:23
- ❖ Matthew 1:21-25: *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.* All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- ❖ Isaiah 7:10-17: Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.

- ❖ Who? Ahaz, king of Judah
- ❖ When? During Ahaz's reign in Judah (broadly speaking - after David, before Babylonian Exile)
- ❖ Where? Jerusalem, most likely
- ❖ What? Syria and the Northern kingdom of Israel have joined forces, and are attempting to conquer Jerusalem. The city is frightened, but God has come through the prophet Isaiah to speak comfort to the king and to the people.
- ❖ Why? Isaiah gives the promise of a virgin-born son, who will be named God With Us (Immanuel). Even though Ahaz refuses to believe Him, God remains faithful to His promise to protect and deliver His people. God, through Isaiah, says what He does in order to make His glory known, and to impress upon Ahaz the reality that God will accomplish His good and perfect will.

- ❖ How - Matthew shows that Jesus is the ultimate point of that prophecy. Jesus is the peace God promised to Judah. Though immediate relief would come (Ahaz was saved from Syria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel), there was a deeper problem that needed to be addressed. Just as Eve, Abraham, Moses and David were promised a Messiah, so too Ahaz, wicked, faithless Ahaz, is promised the advent of the flesh-bearing God, in whom all things would find their peace. The boy child Immanuel, who the Jews had been waiting for for centuries, was declared to Joseph in a dream. And he called His name Jesus, for He would save His people from their sins. He would keep them, and protect them from a far greater threat than Syria. He came to protect them from the grave.

- ❖ Letting Scripture interpret Scripture is one of the best ways of actually discovering what the Bible says
- ❖ It brings the OT alive
- ❖ It makes you realize that the whole thing is all about Jesus