

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 12

Overview:

1. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation Part 1: In what ways has the church interpreted the Bible over time?
2. Longman Chapter 13 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Ezra/Nehemiah About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Ezra/Nehemiah and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Ezra/Nehemiah?
 - d. Connections: How Does Ezra/Nehemiah Connect to the Gospel?

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation Part 1:

1. Throughout church history, the Bible has been interpreted in _____ ways.
2. An overview of the first 500 years of the church's interpretive history of the Bible.
 - a. New Testament Author's use of the Old Testament (A.D. 45-90)
 - i. The authors and characters of the New Testament (NT) understood the Old Testament (OT) to be _____ accounts, God's inspired Word, and without error.
 - ii. They cited the OT passages with their original _____ in mind.
 - iii. They understood that the OT passages were anticipatory to _____.
 - iv. They did not use _____ as the means to interpret the OT.
 - b. Allegorical Interpretation (A.D. 100-500)
 - i. Allegory- a "genre of literature that assigns symbolic significance to textual details."¹ One modern example of allegory is John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*
 - ii. What happens if a reader forces allegory onto a Biblical text that the author didn't originally intend?
 1. Context misunderstood-
 2. Original intent and instruction misunderstood-
 3. Misunderstood application-

¹ Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 87.

iii. Augustine's allegorical interpretation of the Parable of the Good Samaritan:

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii^[a] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."²

iv. Why were the early Christians attracted to allegorical interpretation?

1. It was not common in the Bible.
2. Man is enamored with conspiracies and secretive meanings.
3. Allegorical interpretation was commonly used to side step the difficult sections of religious writings.

v. Some notable stalwarts of faithful interpretation: Lucian, Diodore of Tarsus, John Chrysostom, Theodore of Mopsuestia and Theodoret.

² The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Luke 10:25-37. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

Longman Chapter 12 Discussion:

1. Content: What Is Ezra/Nehemiah About?

a. Originally one work-

b. Outline:

i. The People Return and Rebuild (Ezra 1-6)

1. God's Grace Allows Israel's Return (Ezra 1)-

2. The List of the Returning People (Ezra 2) -

3. Worship, Building Challenges, and God's Provision (Ezra 3-6)-

ii. The People Are Rebuilt (Ezra 7-10)-

iii. The Walls Are Rebuilt (Nehemiah 1-7) -

1. God Hears Nehemiah's Prayer and Answers it (Neh. 1:1-2:10) -

2. The Work Begins (Neh. 2:11-7) -

iv. The People Are Rebuilt (Nehemiah 8-12) -

v. The Sad Ending (Nehemiah 13) -

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Ezra/Nehemiah and When?
 - a. Authorship:
 - i. Hebrew Tradition- Ezra
 - ii. Some believe- Chronicler
 - iii. Current scholarship- _____
 - b. Date - Possibly after _____ BC.
3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Ezra/Nehemiah?

Theological Historical Narrative-
4. Connections: How Does Ezra/Nehemiah Connect to the Gospel?
 - a. Awaiting A Fuller Salvation-
 - b. Age of Separation-

R.E.A.P.

Nehemiah 8:1-8

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, ^[a] helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, ^[b] and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading."³

³ Nehemiah 8:1-8.

1. **Read** aloud together

2. **Explain** by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about _____?
 - a. God:

 - b. Man:

 - c. Christ:

3. **Ask-** What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?

4. **Pray-** Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.