

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 21

Overview:

1. Biblical Interpretation Review Part 1: Weeks 12-15
2. Longman Chapter 22 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Lamentations About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Lamentations and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Lamentations?
 - d. Connections: How Does Lamentations Connect to the Gospel?

Biblical Interpretation Review Part 1: Weeks 12-15

Week 12:

Throughout church history, the Bible has been interpreted in _____ ways.

1. A.D. 45-90 - _____ Testament Author's use of the _____ Testament
2. A.D. 100-500 - Allegorical Interpretation
 - a. Allegory is a "genre of literature that assigns symbolic significance to textual details."¹
 - b. Allegory can be a powerful literary tool, but it must be _____ by the author.
 - c. What happens if a reader forces allegory onto a Biblical text that the author didn't originally intend?

Week 13:

1. A.D. 500-1500 - Four Fold Meaning of Scripture -
 "Indeed, much biblical scholarship in the medieval period was not true _____ but the cataloging of church fathers' interpretations of various passages. Church tradition effectively trumped the primacy of Scripture."

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

2. A.D. 1500-Present - A Return to the Authority of the Bible
 - a. *Ad fontes!* - which means “[back] to the _____”
 - b. Sola Scriptura - which means “the _____ alone.”
 - c. Rob Plummer summarizes it well, “to understand the Bible, we must look to the sense of the author’s actual _____ according to the norms of language and grammar.”²
3. Anti-Supernatural Skepticism and Human Reason (A.D. 1650-Present) In an attempt to find the historical _____, they conclude that supernatural events did not happen; resulting in extreme skepticism of the historical reliability of the Bible.
4. Final thoughts:

Week 14: The Ontological Divide Exercise - Click [here](#) to preview this discussion again,

Week 15: General Principles of Biblical Interpretation:

1. Approach in Prayer- In order to not be deceived or deceive others, we need _____ to instruct us and be our guide.
2. Read with a Christocentric Understanding - Plummer writes, “If we study or teach any part of the Bible without reference to _____ the Savior, we are not faithful interpreters. [...] As we know how the story wraps up (in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection), we must always be asking how prior chapters lead to that culmination.”³
3. Scripture Should Interpret Scripture - Since the Bible is inspired by God and cannot contradict itself, _____ passages of the Bible should be interpreted with reference to passages that are more _____ and understandable in meaning.
4. Dwell on Scripture - The Bible, especially the Psalms, will use the word _____ to explain how believers must dwell/ruminate on passages from the Bible.

² Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 91.

³ Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 96-97.

5. Approach in Faith and Obedience- “The Bible is not a philosophy textbook to be debated; it is a revelation from God to be _____ and _____.”⁴

Longman Chapter 21 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Lamentations About?

a. Introduction:

- i. The Name of the Book- The English name of this book reflects the form of poetry found in Lamentations. There are _____ lament poems that make up this Old Testament book.
- ii. Purpose- Together, these poems record Israel’s _____ over Jerusalem and the temple’s destruction due to the Babylonian takeover in 586 BC.
- iii. The author’s use of acrostics-
- iv. Chapter five-

b. Outline:

- i. First Poem: The Devastation of Jerusalem (Lamentations 1)-
- ii. Second Poem: The Wrath of God (Lamentations 2) -

⁴ Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 95.

iii. Third Poem: The Poet's Prayer for Deliverance (Lamentations 3) -

iv. Fourth Poem: The Cause of Jerusalem's Ruin (Lamentations 4) -

v. A Prayer for Restoration (Lamentations 5)-

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Lamentations and When?

a. Author: traditionally, _____

b. Date: close to _____ BC

3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Lamentations?

A Lament Poem that sits amongst the Major Prophets-

4. Connections: How Does Lamentations Connect to the Gospel?

God the Mighty Warrior-

What is R.E.A.P.?

R.E.A.P. is a method of studying the Bible together to prepare for a group discussion. We highly encourage everyone to keep an ongoing journal and bring it to Monday nights, Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and any Bible study to engage well in our discussions together.

R.E.A.P.

1. Through **Reading**, people can circle and journal what they found noteworthy in each day's reading.
2. Through **Examining**, people can answer three major questions to prepare for discussion (What does this text teach us about God? What does this text teach us about humanity? What does this text teach us about Jesus?).
3. Through **Asking**, people can journal one or more significant questions they have about the text (Questions about events, people, places, situations, etc.) The goal is not to find answers to these questions themselves. Rather, the goal of asking significant questions is to think critically about the text and to bring thoughtful questions to pastors and teachers.
4. Through **Prayer**, people can take a moment to pray to God concerning things they read, examined, and asked.

Why do we REAP?

We believe that this method is helpful in reading God's Word at every level. From beginners to advanced readers, we know that the Bible is infallible (error-free) and God's revelation of Himself. We REAP to learn more about God, who He is and what He's done; and to know Him personally as Savior.

How do I use REAP?

1. Goal: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
2. REAP the passage before Sunday's worship service, before the Wednesday night Bible Study, or before your Sunday School class. Don't allow the sermon or the Bible study to be the first time you face the text. Marinate in the text before we gather.
3. What do I do with my questions in the Ask section?
 - a. The big/main questions of interpretation should be answered by the sermon and preceding Bible study. If there are significant questions about how to understand the text after the sermon, we would encourage you to email me or Pastor Matt.
 - b. Join a growth group so that you can discuss the questions and how we should live out the applications of the text.

R.E.A.P.

Lamentations 3:19-39

¹⁹Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!

²⁰My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;^[b]
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

²⁸Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;

²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;

³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not
cast off forever,

³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

³⁴To crush underfoot
all the prisoners of the earth,

³⁵to deny a man justice
in the presence of the Most High,

³⁶ to subvert a man in his lawsuit,
the Lord does not approve.

³⁷ Who has spoken and it came to pass,
unless the Lord has commanded it?

³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High
that good and bad come?

³⁹ Why should a living man complain,
a man, about the punishment of his sins?⁵

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.

⁵ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Lamentations 3:19-39 .
All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.