

## Monday Night Discipleship: Week 22

Overview:

1. Biblical Interpretation Review: Weeks 16-20
2. Longman Chapter 23 discussion:
  - a. Content: What Is Ezekiel About?
  - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Ezekiel and When?
  - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Ezekiel?
  - d. Connections: How Does Ezekiel Connect to the Gospel?

### Biblical Interpretation Review: Weeks 16-20

Week 16: The General Principles of Interpretation Part 2

1. Regularly Consider the Biblical Genre- As you read the Bible, always take note of what Biblical genre you are reading.
2. Be Aware of the Background Issues (Historical/Cultural)- Every Biblical author wrote with the assumption that the readers would be familiar with certain cultural, geographic, political, and historical background information.
3. Be Faithful to the Structural Context- Wherever we read any passage from Scripture, we must understand it within the \_\_\_\_\_ of the overall sentence, paragraph, sub-unit, book, and its place in the metanarrative of Scripture.
4. Read the Bible and Understand it in Community- In short, we must not simply read the Bible by ourselves and arrive at our conclusions about Scripture. We read the Bible together to safeguard each other from straying away from faithful interpretation and application.
5. Commit to Being a Lifelong Learner- Understand that no matter how long you've been a Christian, what degree you may have, or how long you've been a member of this church, every Christian will always remain a student of the word.

Week 17: Review of Ruth through Proverbs. Click [here](#) to watch this discussion.

Week 18: The General Principles of Interpretation Part 3: Applications of Interpretation

1. Grow in your Bible reading- In order to understand the context of individual passages, it is helpful for one to \_\_\_\_\_ through the entire Bible regularly.

2. Listen to faithful teaching and preaching - As mentioned in a previous session, “Good Biblical interpretation is better \_\_\_\_\_ [...] than taught.”<sup>1</sup>
3. Don’t just affirm, but, apply faithful interpretation-
  - a. The Problem of Inconsistent Exegesis-
  - b. The Result of Inconsistent Exegesis-
4. Humbly receive feedback - Asking for honest feedback from trusted friends and colleagues, gives us the chance to \_\_\_\_\_ in faithful communication of God’s Word.
5. Build a theological library and use it
  - a. Plummer- A “diligent student of the Bible will make it a priority to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ to aid in his or her study of Scriptures.”
6. Serve the Church (share what you are learning)

Week 19: What are some resources that will help me interpret the Bible? Click [here](#) to watch the full discussion with specific recommendations.

1. Study Bibles- A study Bible is a resource that offers extensive \_\_\_\_\_ from one or more authors included in a particular Bible translation.
2. Concordances- Concordances are Bible index tools that help readers understand specific \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible.
3. Word Study Tools - In our discussion of word study tools, we discussed two common dangers to avoid. The dangers of Illegitimate Totality Transfer and the dangers of Etymological Fallacy. As stated in this lecture, word study tools are not necessary today because we have many excellent English translations unlike any other era of the church.

Week 20: What are some resources that will help me interpret the Bible? Part 2 Click [here](#) to watch the full discussion with specific recommendations.

1. Commentaries- A Bible commentary is a resource that explains the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible typically in a verse by verse or stanza by stanza format.

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<sup>1</sup> Plummer, Robert, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 95.

2. Bible Software Programs- Bible software programs help readers study the Bible through \_\_\_\_\_ libraries.
3. Websites- In this lecture we discussed several helpful websites that could serve you in your understanding of the Bible.
4. Advanced Study: For those who wish to grow in Biblical interpretation, it would be also helpful to study other areas within Biblical education. If you are interested, but are not at the stage in your life where you could be a seminary student, I would highly recommend my alma mater's online certificate program: <https://cert.sebts.edu/cert-biblical-studies>. You could take the seven basic courses at your own pace and complete this certificate for only \$679.

Longman Chapter 23 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Ezekiel About?
  - a. Introduction:
    - i. The prophet:
      1. Ezekiel was born into a family of \_\_\_\_\_, which meant that he would have begun his temple service as a priest when he reached 30 years old.
      2. Based on the dates of Jehoiachin's reign (the king of Judah), Ezekiel's prophetic ministry lasted almost \_\_\_\_\_ years.
      3. Unlike the other prophets, Ezekiel is remembered for his prophecies that were bizarre symbolic actions that represented God's judgment.
      4. Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel would have witnessed the devastating destruction of Jerusalem, the annihilation of the temple, and the exile/deportation of Jerusalem's citizens to Babylon.
    - ii. The people:
      1. Privileged:
      2. History of unrepentance:

- b. Outline:
  - i. God commissioned Ezekiel as a prophet (Ezekiel 1-3)
  
  - ii. God's judgment announced over Judah (Ezekiel 4-24)
    - 1. Punishment for sin (Ezekiel 4-7)
  
    - 2. God's glory departs (Ezekiel 8-11)
  
    - 3. The reason and extent of God's judgment (Ezekiel 12-24)
  
  - iii. God's judgment on the foreign nations (Ezekiel 25-32)
  
  - iv. God's promise of restoration after their judgment (Ezekiel 33-48)
    - 1. God's grace (Ezekiel 33-35)-
  
    - 2. God will give them new life (Ezekiel 36-39)-
  
    - 3. God's instructions before, during, and after the restoration (Ezekiel 40-48) -
  
- 2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Ezekiel and When?
  - a. Author: Ezekiel
  - b. Date: We know that his prophecies were between 593 and 573

3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Ezekiel?
  - a. Major Prophets-
  - b. First person-
  - c. Many literary forms-
4. Connections: How Does Ezekiel Connect to the Gospel?
  - a. As Longman states, “the New Testament directly or indirectly cites [Ezekiel] some \_\_\_\_\_ times, most being found in the book of Revelation.”<sup>2</sup> Given the time, we can note three important examples.
    - b. Jesus the Good Shepherd-
    - c. Jesus is the river of life-
    - d. Jesus is the new and true temple-

### **R.E.A.P.**

Ezekiel 36:22-32

“<sup>22</sup>Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. <sup>23</sup>And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. <sup>24</sup>I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup>I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup>And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup>You shall dwell in the land that I

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<sup>2</sup> Tremper Longman III. *Introducing The Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2012), 137-138.

