

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 27

Overview:

1. Biblical Interpretation: Can a passage in the Bible have more than one meaning? (Part 1)
2. Longman Chapter 28 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Obadiah About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Obadiah and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Obadiah?
 - d. Connections: How Does Obadiah Connect to the Gospel?

Biblical Interpretation: Can a passage in the Bible have more than one meaning? (Part 1)

Terminology Used in Interpretation:

1. Meaning- the _____ that the conscious author intended to communicate through words or symbols.¹
2. Implication- the _____ of those words or symbols that logically fall under the principle communicated by the author (whether the author was aware of these submeanings or not).²
3. Significance- the reader's _____ to the intended meaning of the principle the author communicated.³
4. Subject Matter- the _____ themselves behind the elements the author used to communicate the principle (without connection to *how* the author is communicating its meaning).⁴

¹ Robert H. Stein, "The Benefits of an Author-Oriented Approach to Hermeneutics," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44, no. 3 (2001): 457.

² Stein, 458.

³ Stein, 460.

⁴ Stein, 461.

Examples:

	Meaning	Implication	Significance	Subject Matter
Proverbs 11:1 “The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.” ⁵	It pleases God whenever people use “honestly weighted scales in business transactions, and thus readers should use such scales.” ⁶	The text implies that modern readers who work by the hour should honestly clock in and out from work. By implication, this type of honesty in the workplace pleases God.	The reader or listener who is an hourly worker can then respond by accepting this implication (obedience) or rejecting it (disobedience).	The reader could spend his time telling others about the construction of ancient scales and the precious metals that were used as weights.
Jeremiah 29:11 “ ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” ⁷	During the Babylonian exile, these exiled Jews were to do the work of establishing themselves in this foreign land (building houses, planting gardens, marry and have children 29:4-7), and reject the false teachings that the exile will be brief. Despite the chaos of being in exile, the people of Judah in the late sixth century were to live in such a way that reflected their trust in God and His promise of future hope.	The text implies that Christians today should live lives that reflect their hope in God’s promised future. The text implies that Christians should do the work of establishing themselves on mission in this world as we wait for the return of Jesus Christ.	Readers or listeners who are Christian can then respond by accepting this implication (obedience) by being responsible stewards with the time they have here on earth. Or they can reject it (disobedience) by squandering their time on earth.	Teachers could spend their time explaining the current archeological findings regarding the houses and gardens that the Judean exiles would have built.

⁵ The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Proverbs 11:1.

⁶ Robert Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 136.

⁷ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jeremiah 29:11. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

<p>Philippians 4:13 ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.</p>	<p>Paul is explaining the secret to his contentment despite his current circumstance - jailed in a Roman prison and facing the persecutions of a criminal for his faith in Jesus Christ. Paul's contentment comes from his union with Jesus Christ and his dependency on Him to face persecution while on mission.</p>	<p>The text implies that Christians today should relentlessly learn to be content in the ups and downs of great commission living because of their relationship with Christ and their continued dependence on Him.</p>	<p>Readers or listeners who are Christian can then respond by accepting this implication (obedience) by being content in their missional life. Or they can reject it (disobedience) by living a life for themselves in resentment for the things God hasn't given them.</p>	<p>Teachers could go to great lengths explaining the composition and construction of the prison chambers in Rome during this time.</p>
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Which of these four elements are essential for the preacher/teacher to communicate? Explain.

Longman Chapter 28 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Obadiah About?

a. Introduction:

- i. A short yet difficult superscription-
- ii. The shortest of the Minor Prophets, and shortest Old Testament book-
- iii. The First Audience-

c. The conflict of Jacob and Esau

R.E.A.P.

Obadiah 10-18

¹⁰ Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off forever.

¹¹ On the day that you stood aloof,
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

¹² But do not gloat over the day of your brother
in the day of his misfortune;
do not rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their ruin;
do not boast^[a]
in the day of distress.

¹³ Do not enter the gate of my people
in the day of their calamity;
do not gloat over his disaster
in the day of his calamity;
do not loot his wealth
in the day of his calamity.

¹⁴ Do not stand at the crossroads
to cut off his fugitives;
do not hand over his survivors
in the day of distress.

¹⁵ For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations.
As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.

¹⁶ For as you have drunk on my holy mountain,
so all the nations shall drink continually;
they shall drink and swallow,
and shall be as though they had never been.

