

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 28

Overview:

1. Biblical Interpretation: Can a passage in the Bible have more than one meaning? (Part 2)
2. Longman Chapter 29 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Jonah About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Jonah and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Jonah?
 - d. Connections: How Does Jonah Connect to the Gospel?

Biblical Interpretation: Can a passage in the Bible have more than one meaning? (Part 2)

When we ask the question, “Can a Bible passage have more than one meaning?”, the answer could be yes, _____ the divinely inspired author consciously intended more than one meaning to that passage. If you missed the discussion on part 1, please watch it on our website at https://waialaebaptist.org/discipleship_phase_2/.

This week we will be continuing this discussion by covering a challenging passage, and talking about four different approaches to passages that seem to have multiple meanings; specifically, passages of Scripture that NT authors seem to introduce additional meaning beyond the OT author’s conscious intent.

Passage	Context in Isaiah’s period	Matthew’s Usage of Isaiah’s Prophecy
Isaiah 7:14 ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.	Isaiah was proclaiming God’s message, that a child will be born to “the prophetess” -referring to Isaiah’s wife; the Hebrew word here is (<i>hā·‘al·māh</i>) הַעַלְמָה which means a young woman who is of childbearing age. The Septuagant uses the word <i>παρθένο</i> (<i>parthenos</i> - meaning virgin) which was also used by Matthew’s reference to Isaiah 7:14. Therefore, this child that will be born to this young woman will be a sign to Ahaz that soon after he is a few years old, Assyria will defeat Ahaz’s adversaries.	Roughly 700 years after Isaiah’s prophecy, Matthew uses this passage to speak of its fulfillment in Jesus Christ’s birth. Matthew wrote, “ ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” ¹

¹ Matthew 1:23.

Below are four different approaches to understanding this passage.

<p><u>Eisegesis</u>- Matthew _____ new meaning into this text</p>	<p>This approach claims that Matthew was either incompetently using this text in Isaiah, or he was intentionally deceptive by offering his own meaning that he has forced into the text. This first approach should not be considered valid by Christians.</p>
<p><u>Sensus Plenior</u> - Matthew was inspired by the Holy Spirit for the _____ meaning of Isaiah 7:14</p>	<p>This approach claims that the Holy Spirit intended there to be an additional hidden meaning behind Isaiah's prophecy that he was not aware of. This approach often becomes confused with typology.</p>
<p><u>Implication</u>- Matthew intended this to be an implication, not the _____ of the passage</p>	<p>This approach claims that Matthew was conveying the implications of the original meaning of the text. Therefore, in this view, Matthew's reference and usage were not Isaiah's intended meaning, rather they were submeanings of the passage that legitimately fell under Isaiah's conscious intention.</p>
<p><u>Typology</u>- Matthew was using Isaiah 7:14 typologically</p>	<p>This approach understands Isaiah's prophecy, and its original fulfillment in his day, as a type that foreshadows God's future deliverance in Matthew's day.</p>

Longman Chapter 29 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Jonah About?

a. Introduction:

i. One of the most unique books of prophecy-

ii. A memorable story that often overshadows its overall message-

iii. The reluctant prophet-

b. Outline:

i. Jonah's First Commission and Disobedience (Jonah 1-2)

1. Jonah's blatant disobedience (Jonah 1:1-3)-

2. God's Sovereignty Experienced (Jonah 1:4-1:17) -

3. Jonah's Psalm of Deliverance (Jonah 2)

ii. Jonah's Second Commission and God's Lesson (Jonah 3-4)

1. Jonah's Half-hearted Obedience and Nineveh's Repentance (Jonah 3) -

2. Jonah's Anger, Bitterness, and Need for Repentance (Jonah 4) -

