HERMENEUTICS 101 GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

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APPROACHING BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

CONSIDERING HERMENEUTICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS

THE MORAL HANDBOOK APPROACH (LAW/GOSPEL VIEW)

Key Idea: The Law and the Gospel work in tandem toward God's purposes of salvation.

Pro: Emphasizes the role of the Law to convict of sin and surface the need for work of the Gospel.

Con: Dichotomizes God's redemptive work, runs risk of moralism.

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED APPROACH (CHRISTOCENTRIC VIEW)

Key Idea: Every passage directly points to Christ and the Gospel (primarily the work of the cross and resurrection).

Pro: Emphasizes grace over moralism and exalts Jesus.

Con: Risks forcing theology onto passages that don't fit exegetically.

THE GOD-CENTERED APPROACH (THEOCENTRIC VIEW)

Key Idea: The Bible is about God's nature/character, purposes, and actions.

Pro: Emphasizes the Triune Godhead working toward redemptive goal.

Con: Can lack Gospel focus and neglect the trajectory of Biblical storyline that climaxes in the work of Jesus.

THE IMAGE OF GOD APPROACH (CHRISTICONIC VIEW)

Key Idea: Sees Scripture as awakening the reader to the "ideal," which is ultimately embodied in Jesus Christ.

Pro: Emphasizes the purpose and meaning "behind" the text (what the author is "doing" with what he is writing).

Con: Risks emphasizing application over the historic and spiritual work of Christ.

CASE STUDY: DAVID AND GOLIATH

IS THE MAIN POINT:

- A. DAVID IS BEING FAITHFUL TO THE MOSAIC LAW THAT COMMANDED THE EXTERMINATION OF PAGANS FROM CANAAN.
- B. DAVID IS PRE-FIGURING THE WORK OF CHRIST AGAINST THE FOES OF SIN AND DEATH.
- C. DAVID'S VICTORY IS AN ATTESTATION TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND FAITHFULNESS OF YAHWEH.
- D. DAVID IS EXEMPLIFYING THE IDEAL LIFE OF TRUST IN GOD, AN IDEAL THAT CHRIST PERFECTED ON THE CROSS.

ACCORDING TO JESUS:

- "YOU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES THINKING THAT IN THEM YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, BUT IT IS THEY THAT BEAR WITNESS ABOUT ME." (JOHN 5:39)
- "AND BEGINNING WITH MOSES AND ALL THE PROPHETS, HE INTERPRETED TO THEM IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF." (LUKE 24:27)

THEREFORE:

- ALL THE SCRIPTURES ARE POINTING TO JESUS
 - AS GOD INCARNATE (JOHN 1:1, 14; 14:9)
 - AS SAVIOR OF SINS (2 COR. 5:21)
 - o AS EXEMPLAR "IMAGE OF GOD" (GEN. 1:26; ROM. 8:29)
- THE HERMENEUTICAL CHALLENGE IS TO RIGHTLY INTERPRET ANY PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE TO SEE HOW THE AUTHOR INTENDS US TO CONNECT THAT PASSAGE TO THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST, AND THAT IS NOT ALWAYS READILY DISCERNABLE!



Our mission is to show how the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus.

DEFINING "BIBLICAL THEOLOGY"

Biblical Theology: The development of doctrines in conjunction with the unfolding of progressive revelation.

THE PROCESS OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

- 1. Exegesis- studying a particular passage through a historical, grammatical, and literary analysis to derive its immediate meaning.
- 2. Interpreting the doctrine of the passage in light of the context of the book in which it is situated.
- 3. Interpreting the doctrine of the passage in light of the collective works of the author who wrote the passage.
- 4. Interpreting the doctrine of the passage in light of the testament/covenant in which it is situated.
- 5. Interpreting the doctrine of the passage in light of the development of the theme/doctrine as it unfolds across the whole of Scripture.

Significance: Biblical theology helps us grasp the Bible as a unified storyline, which allows us to understand individual passages in light of a "larger plotline."

A COVENANTAL FRAMEWORK

Defining "Covenant": A promise between two or more parties, which is confirmed by an oath and a seal of guarantee.

TYPES OF BIBLICAL COVENANT

- 1. Covenants of Works- A promise between God and His people (or creation) in which the blessing is conditional on fidelity to prescribed stipulations.
- 2. Covenants of Grace- A promise between God and His people (or creation) in which the blessing is unilateral and unconditional in nature.

PRIMARY BIBLICAL COVENANTS

ADAMIC COVENANT

- 1) Type: Works
- 2) Blessing: Eternal Sinless Life
- 3) Curse: Spiritual & Physical Life
- 4) Sign: Tree of Life (?)
- 5) Text: Gen. 2:15-17

COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

- 1) Type: Works (Intra-Trinitarian)
- 2) Blessing: Redemption of "Seed of the Woman"
- 3) Curse: Judgment of "Seed of the Serpent"
- 4) Sign: Enmity Between Seeds
- 5) Text: Eph. 1:4; Gen. 3:15

NOAHIC COVENANT

- 1) Type: Grace
- 2) Blessing: Judgment Postponed
- 3) Curse: None
- 4) Sign: Rainbow
- 5) Text: Gen. 9:8-17

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- 1) Type: Grace
- Blessing: Land, Descendants, Blessing to the Nations
- 3) Curse: None
- 4) Sign: Circumcision
- 5) Text: Gen. 12:1-3; 15; 17; 22:15-18

MOSAIC COVENANT

- 1) Type: Works
- 2) Blessing: Possession of the Promised Land
- 3) Curse: Exile
- 4) Sign: Sabbath (?)
- 5) Text: Ex. 20ff. (see also Deut. 5:12-15)

¹² "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

- 1) Type: Grace
- 2) Blessing: Eternal Kingdom
- 3) Curse: None
- 4) Sign: A Son
- 5) Text: 2 Samuel 7

NEW COVENANT

- 1) Type: Grace
- 2) Blessing: Forgiveness and Eternal Life in Kingdom
- 3) Curse: None
- 4) Sign: Baptism
- 5) Text: Jer. 31:27-34; Matt. 26:27-30

CONTINUITY AMONGST COVENANTS

While the individual covenants have their particularities, there is a discernible continuity that runs through them.

Each covenant serves as a "building block" that is working towards the overarching plan of cosmic redemption.

A particular passage must first be understood within the parameters of its respective covenant, *but* then understood within the larger redemptive narrative of the whole of Scripture.

"COVENANTS" VS. "DISPENSATIONS"

I. Emphasis on continuity versus discontinuity

A. Re: Salvation

B. Re: God's People

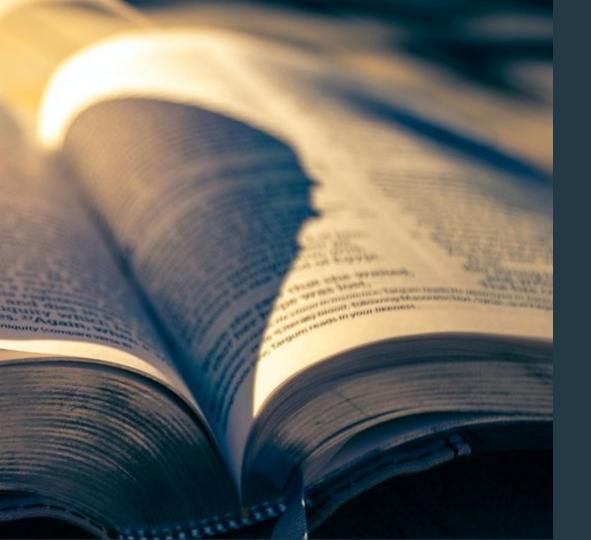
II. Important theological discussion that impacts interpretation of Scripture

A. Re: Relationship of Testaments

B. Re: Implication of Old Testament for Christians

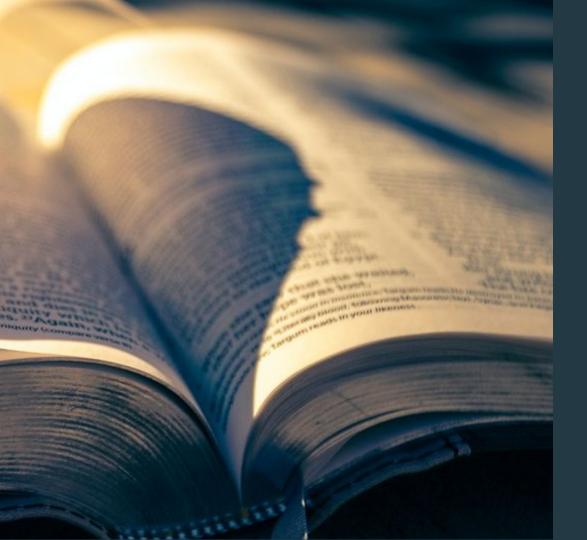
ENJOYING THE BIBLE MEDITATING ON THE BIBLE PRAYING THE BIBLE MEMORIZING THE BIBLE





Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

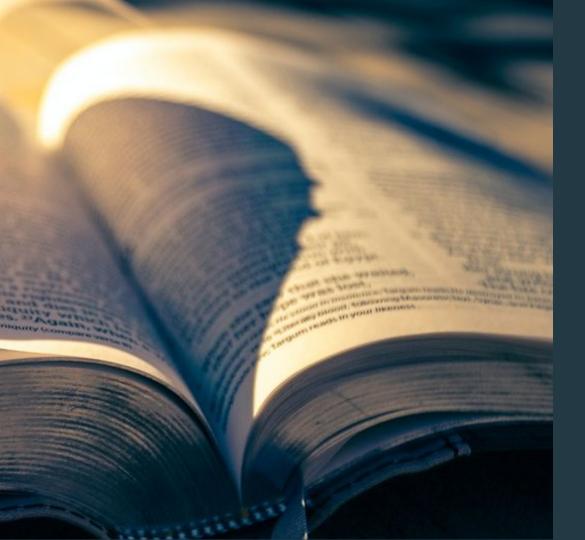


Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

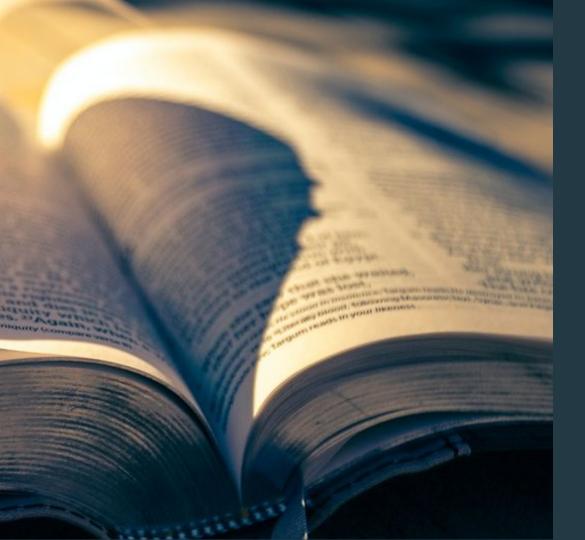
Meditate: הָגָה

- moan, growl, utter, speak, muse



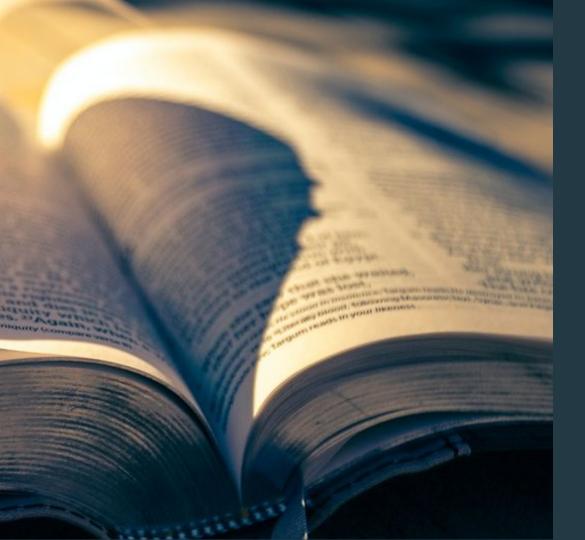
Psalm 1:1-2

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he <u>meditates</u> day and night.



Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.



Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- "...an activity in which the soul is occupied in reflecting upon these matters, approving of them, delighting in them, is astonished by them, and quickened by them."
- Wilhelmus á Brakel, Spiritual Meditation

- "...deep thinking on the truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture, or upon life from a scriptural perspective, for the purposes of understanding, application, and prayer."
- Donald S. Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life





TIPS TO GET STARTED

Try it for 5 minutes

- Choose your subject
- Pray
- Set a timer

Resolve for application (live out your meditation)

- Examine yourself
- Tell a friend
- Worship!



Let us learn from Mary Magdalene how to obtain fellowship with the Lord Jesus. Notice how she sought. She sought the Savior very early in the morning. If you can wait for Christ and be patient in the hope of having fellowship with Him at some distant season, you will never have fellowship at all; for the heart that is fitted for communion is a hungering and a thirsting heart. She sought Him also with very great boldness. Other disciples fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed; but Mary, it is said, "stood" at the tomb. If you would have Christ with you, seek Him boldly. Let nothing hold you back. Defy the world. Press on where others flee. She sought Christ faithfully—she stood at the tomb. Some find it hard to stand by a living Savior, but she stood by a dead one. Let us seek Christ after this mode, cleaving to the very least thing that has to do with Him, remaining faithful though all others should forsake Him. Note further, she sought Jesus earnestly—she stood "weeping." Those teardrops were as a spells that led the Savior captive and made Him come forth and show Himself to her. If you desire Jesus' presence, weep after it! If you cannot be happy unless He come and say to you, "You are My beloved," you will soon hear His voice. Lastly, she sought the Savior only. What did she care about angels? She turned herself back from them; her search was only for her Lord. If Christ is your one and only love, if your heart has cast out all rivals, you will soon enjoy the comfort of His presence. Mary Magdalene sought thus because she loved much. Let us arouse ourselves to the same intensity of affection; let our heart, like Mary's, be full of Christ, and our love, like hers, will be satisfied with nothing short of Himself. O Lord, reveal Yourself to us this evening!

TRACING PRIMARY THEMES OF SCRIPTURE

BIBLICAL SCHOLAR, D.A. CARSON SUGGESTS THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 20 PRIMARY THEMES OF SCRIPTURE AND ABOUT 60-70 MINOR THEMES.

EXAMPLES OF THEMES OF SCRIPTURE

EXAMPLES OF PRIMARY THEMES:

- EXILE
- SACRIFICE
- GARDEN
- LIGHT/DARK
- FEASTING
- WORD

EXAMPLES OF MINOR THEMES:

- WINE
- SLEEPING & AWAKENING
- ANIMAL IMAGERY
- HIDDENNESS & REVELATION
- SEA & CHAOS/DISORDER
- USE OF FOREIGNERS

"SEED"

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen 1:28

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Gen. 3:15

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel.

Gen. 4:1-2

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Gen 5:1-3

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands."

Gen. 5:28-29

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gen. 12:1-3

These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Ex. 1:1-7

Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²² Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

Ruth 4:18-22

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam. 7:12

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Is. 7:14

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matt. 1:1

³⁸ the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Luke 3:38

¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Gal. 3:16, 28-29

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Rom. 16:20

¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Rev. 12:17

"KINGDOM"

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen. 1:26-28

⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.

Gen. 17:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Ex. 19:5-6

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Sam. 7:12-13

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." Ps. 2:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.



¹³ "I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt. 3:2

"The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

Luke 17:20-21

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

Col. 1:13

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

Rev. 11:15

"DWELLING"

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Gen. 3:8

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Gen. 28:10-17

⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

Ex. 25:8

¹¹ I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹² And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Lev. 26:11-12

¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

1 Kings 8:10-11

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
 he has desired it for his dwelling place:
 "This is my resting place forever;
 here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

Ps. 132:13-14

²⁷ My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezk. 37:27

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jn. 1:14

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Jn. 2:19-21

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 Cor. 3:16-17

¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Cor. 6:16

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Eph. 2:19-22

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
- They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.
- For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Rev. 7:13-17

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Rev. 21:1-4

CONNECTING THE DOTS...

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

- Gen. 3:24 "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the tree of life."
- Gen. 4:16 "Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden."
- Gen. 11:2 "And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there."
- Gen. 13:10-11 "Lot looked up and saw the whole plain of the Jordan...So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east."
- Gen. 29:1 "Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east."
- "East" is a thematic movement away from God's presence, toward "exile" and "Babylon."

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

- Abram is called from Babylon (Ur of the Chaldees, see Gen. 11:28), to Canaan (moving from east to west), where he would receive the covenant of blessing from God, in which Abram would be blessed with an "everlasting covenant" in relationship with God (Gen. 17:4-8).
- After Jacob flees east to escape Esau, "the Lord said to Jacob, 'Return to the land of your fathers [west] and to your kindred, and I will be with you'" (Gen. 31:3). As he returns from the east angels of God meet him and he calls the place "This is God's Camp" (Gen. 32:2), and Jacob wrestles with God and calls the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." Then, he is reconciled to Esau.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

- Text: Adam and Eve sent out east from Garden
- In Context of Genesis: East is movement away from God's presence
- Themes: Sin leads to exile and Babylon
- Redemptive Theme of Scripture: God is reconciling His people to restore them to fellowship with Him, as He dwells amongst them as their God.
- Application:
 - Choosing sin removes us from God's blessing and presence
 - We have all sinned and chosen "Babylon" as our home and exile from God
 - God is working to bring His people back into relationship with Him, to "dwell together" (Hosea 3:4-5)—He wants to be with you!
 - Repent, turn from the "east" and "go home" to fellowship with the Lord
 - Recognize that sin robs you of the "goodness of Eden"

NEXT WEEK: INTERPRETING VARIOUS GENRES OF THE BIBLE