

Understanding Scripture

with Matthew as our guide

January 2018

Week 1: Understanding the Narratives

Week 2: Recognizing the Literary Devices

Week 3: Understanding the Teachings

Week 4: Appreciating the Prophecies

Recommended Reads:

- Sproul, R.C. *Knowing Scripture, Revised Edition*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Press, 2009.
- Duval, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Journey Into God's Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.
- Plummer, Robert. *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2010.

Week 1: Understanding the Narratives of Matthew

**Matt 1:1 – The book of the generation of Jesus Christ,
the son of David, the son of Abraham. (KJV)**

1. Matthew's narrative is true history
 - a. It is the "life history" of Jesus (Matt 1:1)
 - i. Word for "generation/genealogy" in 1:1 is "genesis" (γενεσεως)
 - ii. The Greek word "genesis" can also translate "life history".
 - b. The details of the narrative support its historicity
 - i. (1:2-11) Genealogy ties Jesus to real people in history
 - ii. (1:19-23) Herod and Archelaus are historical figures
 - iii. (4:12-13) Place names are real, verifiable locations.

- c. The details of the narrative support an eyewitness account (1st century authorship)
 - i. (4:25) Decapolis place name ceased to exist 50 years later
 - ii. (8:28) Gedara-local town, not well known outside Israel.
- d. Differences in the narrative with other Gospels can be explained.
 - i. Compare the demoniac stories of Matt 8:28-34 and Mark 5:1-20.
 - ii. How are they different?
 - iii. How can the differing details be reconciled?

2. Matthew's narrative often alludes to the Old Testament narrative

- a. The story of Jesus in Matt 1-7 alludes to the story of the Exodus
 - i. (1:2-11) Genealogy of Jesus picks up where Gen 11:10-32 ended.
 - ii. (2:13-15) Jesus flees to Egypt like Jacob and sons in Gen 42-47.
 - iii. (2:16-17) King tries to kill Jesus like Hebrew babes (Ex 1:15-2:9).
 - iv. (2:15,19-21) Jesus called out of Egypt like Israel (Ex 3-12).
 - v. (3:13-17) Jesus baptized in Jordan like Israel in the Red Sea as per Ex 14-15.
 - vi. (4:1-4) Jesus is hungry in the wilderness like Israel (Ex 16)
 - vii. (4:1-11) Jesus is tempted in the wilderness for 40 days like Israel was for 40 years (Ex 16:35).
 - viii. (5:1-7:29) Jesus delivers the law of his kingdom from a mountain like God delivered the OT law from a mountain (Ex 20-31).
 - ix. (17:1-2) Jesus face shown on a mountain like Moses (Ex 34:29-35)

- b. The story of the transfiguration (17:1-7) alludes to several OT stories
 - i. How does it allude to the story of Moses on Sinai?
 - ii. How does it allude to the story of Elijah on Horeb (1 Kings 19)?
 - iii. To what does Peter's request to build tents (17:4) allude?
 - iv. How does the aftermath of Jesus' mountain top experience differ from those of Moses and Elijah?