

# Understanding Scripture

## with Matthew as our guide

February 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.
- Schreiner, Thomas. *New Testament Theology, Magnifying God in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Schreiner, Thomas. *Magnifying God in Christ, A Summary of New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010

**Week 3: Appreciating the Prophecies**

**Matt 5:17 – Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (ESV)**

1. Jesus fulfilled the expectations of the Old Testament
  - a. Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophesy (5:17).
    - i. He did not abolish (do away) with the OT.
    - ii. He validated its storyline and message.
    - iii. He fulfilled its expectations and then some.
  - b. Matthew demonstrates this “fulfillment formulae” throughout his Gospel
    - i. “This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet” -> 10 times: (1:22, 2:15, 2:17, 2:23, 4:14, 8:17, 12:17, 13:35, 21:4, 27:9)

- ii. Only four (of the 10) quote a direct Messianic prediction.
    - 1. Mt 4:15-16 quotes Is 9:1-2 (Wonderful Counselor)
    - 2. Mt 8:17 quotes Is 53:4 (Suffering Servant)
    - 3. Mt 12:17 quotes Is 42:1-4 (God's Servant)
    - 4. Mt 21:4 quotes Zech 9:9 (Humble King)
  - iii. One is a play on words
    - 1. Mt 2:23 Nazarene sounds like Nazirite relating the birth of Jesus to that of Sampson (Judges 13:3-5).
    - 2. Also Hebrew word "nesar" means "branch" as in Is 12:1.
  - iv. The remaining five allude to similar stories/pronouncements and make use of "typology".
    - 1. Mt 1:22 quotes Is 7:14 (Jesus' virgin birth alludes to the timely birth of Isaiah's son-Maher-shalal-hash-baz)
    - 2. Mt 2:15 quotes Hosea 11:1 (Jesus' call out of Egypt alludes to Israel's Exodus)
    - 3. Mt 2:17-18 quotes Jer 31:15 (Herod's slaughter of babies alludes to weeping for the exiles removed to Babylon)
    - 4. Mt 13:25 quotes Ps 78:2 (Misunderstood parables of NT allude to misunderstood stories of the OT)
    - 5. Mt 27:9 quotes Zech 11:12-13 and alludes to Jer 19:1-11. (Judas' wages allude to the price of an evil shepherd in Zechariah and a broken potter's flask in Jeremiah.)
2. Jesus prophesies the destruction of the Temple and the end of the age (Matt 24)
- a. Destruction of the Temple happened in AD 70->the Now/Already
    - i. 24:2-Prediction of its destruction (note hyperbole)
    - ii. 24:4-14-Signs of tribulation during the church age
    - iii. 24:15-20-Descriptive of the Roman siege of Jerusalem in AD 70. Alludes to 1<sup>st</sup> temple destruction->Compare Lam. 2:17-21
    - iv. 24:23-28-False christs and prophets will abound

- b. The End of the Age is not yet
  - i. 24:14 Gospel proclamation to all nations prior to the end.
  - ii. 24:21-22 Great Tribulation like none other
  - iii. 24:23-28-False christs and prophets will abound
  - iv. 24:29-31-Son of Man returns on the clouds and gathers his own.
    - 1. Alludes to Daniel 7:13, 27.
    - 2. Note the apocalyptic language (Sun and moon darkened).
      - a. Alludes to Joel 3:15- Day of the Lord
      - b. Compare Rev 6:12- Great Day of Wrath
- c. Heaven and Earth pass away (24:35)
  - i. “Heaven and Earth passing away” refers to the cataclysmic events that usher in the new age of Christ’s eternal reign.
  - ii. Compare Matt 5:18 to Matt 24:35.
    - 1. 5:18-“until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”
    - 2. 24:35 “heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away”
    - 3. What has changed? Who has fulfilled what?