

Understanding Scripture Class

Session 8: OT—Law and Psalms

Recap:

Biblical hermeneutics is the craft of interpreting Scripture.

1. *Grasping the Text in Their Town*
2. *Measuring the Width of the River to Cross*
3. *Crossing the Principizing Bridge*
4. *Grasping the Text in Their Town*

New Testament - Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelation

Old Testament - Prophets, **Law (Torah), Psalms**

I. Law (Torah)

A. What is it?

1. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. A few “issues” with the Law:
 - a. Some of these laws seem strange
Leviticus 13:40 - *When a man has lost his hair and is bald, he is clean.*
 - b. Some of the laws we violate today
Deuteronomy 14:8 - *The pig is also unclean; although it has a split hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcass.*
 - c. Some of the laws we obey
Leviticus 19:18 - *Love your neighbor as yourself.*

B. How are we to think about this? This can be really confusing.

1. Think context
Narrative Context
Covenant Context

Genesis: God created everyone and after sin, chose to redeem for Himself a people...Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (think why Moses would remind the nation of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?)

Exodus: The Covenant is established:

Exodus 19:5-6 - *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; 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.”*

Exodus 24:8 - *And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."*

Leviticus: Addresses how God's people are to live with God in their midst.

Numbers: Israel doesn't obey the Lord and they don't enter the Promised Land so God sends them to the Wilderness until the generation dies out that was disobedient.

Deuteronomy: The reinstating (and restating) of the Mosaic Law Covenant with the younger generation.

2. Nature of the Covenant:

- a. "The Mosaic Covenant is closely associated with Israel's conquest and occupation of the land of Canaan."
- b. "The blessings from the Mosaic Covenant are conditional."
- c. "The Mosaic Covenant is no longer a functional covenant."

Hebrews 8:13 - *In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

- d. "The Old Testament law as part of the Mosaic covenant is no longer applicable over us as law."

Galatians 2:15-16 - *We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

Romans 7:4 - *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*

Notice how this speaks to the whole of the Torah...

Galatians 3:23-29 - *Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 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. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- e. "We must interpret the OT Law through the lens of the NT."
There are many principles and truths that we can learn from the Law.
- f. "The best method for interpreting the Law is to follow the Interpretive Journey."

Torah has implications all over the NT:

John 1:14-18 *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. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

NOTE: Read the Torah, then immediately go and read Hebrews. It will blow you away.

II. Psalms

- A. What is it?

- B. Every Psalm is a Messianic Psalm.

Example: Psalm 1

*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 meditates day and night.
He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

1. *Grasping the Text in Their Town*
2. *Measuring the Width of the River to Cross*
3. *Crossing the Principizing Bridge*
**Does the NT, namely the work of Christ on the cross, modify or inform the OT principle?*
4. *Grasping the Text in Their Town*

Other examples:

Psalm 2

*Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
"Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."
He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
"As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."
I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

Psalm 45

*My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.*

*Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
 in your splendor and majesty!
 In your majesty ride out victoriously
 for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
 let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!
 Your arrows are sharp
 in the heart of the king's enemies;
 the peoples fall under you.
 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
 The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
 From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
 at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear:
 forget your people and your father's house,
 and the king will desire your beauty.
 Since he is your lord, bow to him.
 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
 the richest of the people.
 All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.
 In many-colored robes she is led to the king,
 with her virgin companions following behind her.
 With joy and gladness they are led along
 as they enter the palace of the king.
 In place of your fathers shall be your sons;
 you will make them princes in all the earth.
 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
 therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.*

Quickly:

- Look for structure and repetition in the Psalms. They mean something.
- Imagery - "They do not write essays; they paint pictures."

Enjoy the Journey!