

Premises to Old Testament Hermeneutics

1. The Luke 24 “Road to Emmaus” passage allows for Christological inquiry into the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings.
 - a. Jesus interpreted to them the things written about Himself through a five-fold framework
 - i. The messiah will suffer; will see death
 - ii. There will be vindication for that suffering
 - iii. Repentance and forgiveness of sins announced in messiah’s name
 - iv. To all nations
 - v. Mission launched from Jerusalem
 - b. Since no explicit guide is given, we cannot conclude:
 - i. That every passage/verse in the Old Testament in Christological
 - ii. That there is Christological absence simply from our inability to recognize it in any particular passage
 - iii. Discernment is key
2. The Old Testament Scriptures were compiled and composed intentionally
 - a. We must pay attention to the composition of a text literarily
 - i. Editorial composition does not alter text, but magnifies it
 - ii. Content was not changed, but arranged specifically
 - b. The message of a composed text conveys themes through strategically placed elements—the anthology view
 - i. Chronology of individual passages is not as important
 1. Psalms
 2. Job cf. Genesis
 3. Isaiah
 - ii. The orchestra conductor does not create the instruments, but arranges them strategically
 - iii. Scripture is not random; each narrative, poem, or prose contributes to an overall narrative
3. To obtain the best interpretation, we must seek to understand the original author’s intended meaning and understand the intended response from the original audience
 - a. The message originally conveyed is where we can derive the translatable life applications
 - b. “I’m so mad about my flat!” is understood differently to a Briton from an American; historical context is key
 - c. We should not compare Biblical cultural norms/laws with 21st century American norms/laws
 - i. Especially relevant when reading Leviticus
 - ii. It is important to compare the Biblical cultural norms/laws to the norms/laws of the cultures that surrounded Israel, which designated them as “set apart”
 - d. We should recognize attributes of God as unchanging and therefore translatable to 21st century American life