

March 2, 2022

Where Is The Meaning Found in Biblical Hermeneutics?

Meaning and who/what controls it?

What is meaning?

Authorial Intention: _____

Reader Response: _____

Textuality: _____

“The autonomy of the text is the condition of its ‘surplus’ of meaning, that is, of its transcending its original situation and having something to say to readers in the present.” – (Kevin Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*, 107)

“A text has only potential meaning until a reader ‘awakens’ and makes sense of it.” – (Kevin Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*, 108)

Different Types/Levels of Meaning

Literal vs. Allegorical

John Chrysostom of Antioch (c. 347-407) – “*We must not examine the words as bare words, else many absurdities will follow, but we must mark the mind of the writer.*”

Martin Luther (1483-1546) – “*I consider the ascription of several senses to Scripture to be not merely dangerous and useless for teaching but even to cancel the authority of Scripture whose meaning ought always to be one and the same.*”

Is it allegorical interpretation to find Christ in the Old Testament? Why/Why not?

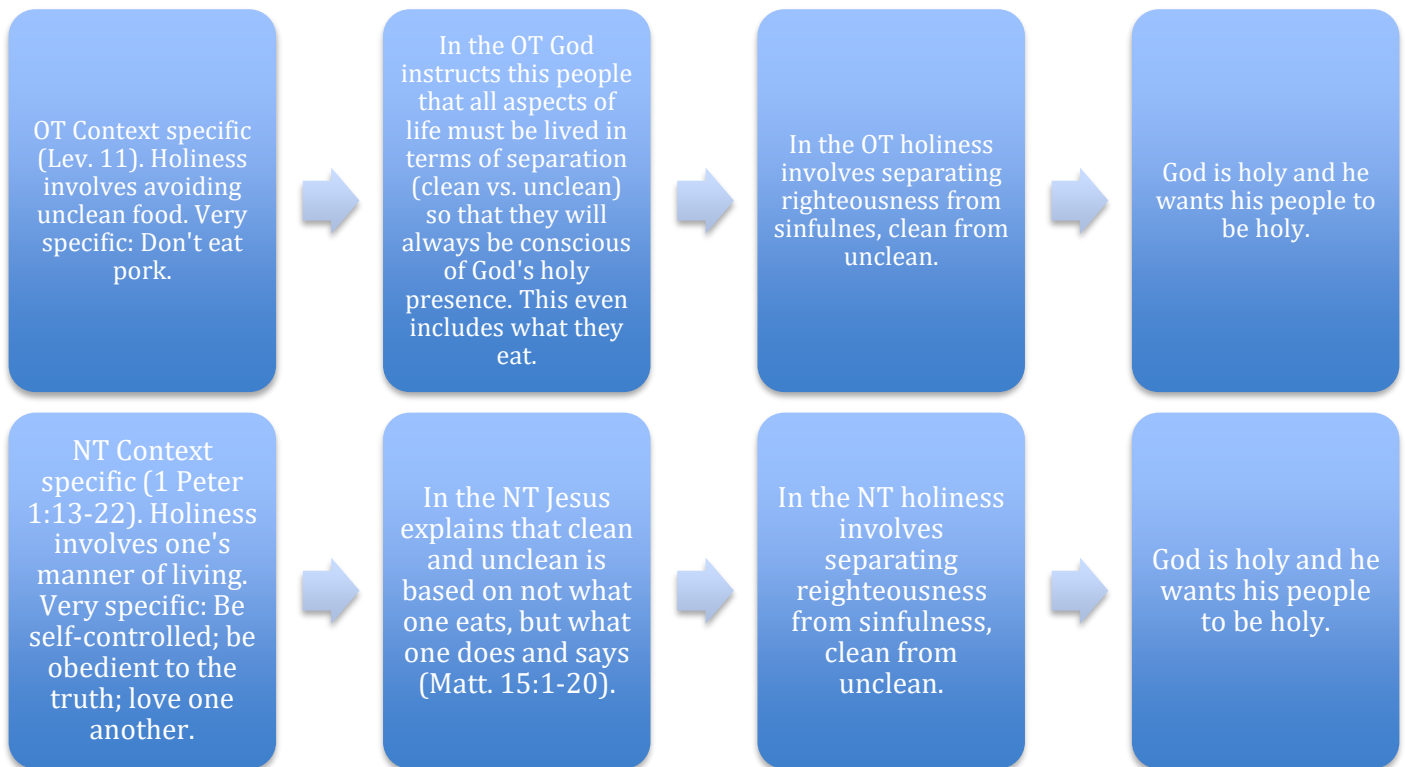
Typology: _____

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How are figurative/typological interpretations different from allegorical interpretations?

Determine The Theological Principle (The Timeless Meaning in Context)

- The principle should be reflected in the text.
- The principle should be timeless and not tied to a specific situation.
- The principle should not be culturally bound.
- The principle should correspond to the teaching of the rest of Scripture.
- The principle should be relevant to both the biblical audience and the contemporary audience.



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Reflection For the Week:

- “Read 1 Kings 17:1-6 and use your imagination to develop a far-fetched allegorical interpretation. Ignore the context completely and try to come up with a ‘superspiritual’ meaning for as many of the details as possible. Keep in mind that the point of this exercise is to misinterpret the passage intentionally. Don’t be concerned with the real meaning of the passage. Be as creative (and wrong) as you can.” – (Assignment taken from Duvall and Hays, *Grasping God’s Word*, 223).

Preparation For Next Week:

- Read - <https://blog.tms.edu/what-is-the-holy-spirits-role-in-bible-study>

Resources For Going Further:

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Journey Into God’s Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation To Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There Meaning in This Text?: The Bible, The Reader, and the Morality or Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.