

2018 – Overview of Old Testament Preaching Series!

Sept 30 – Creation Part I: Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-3

Oct 7 – Creation Part II: Gen. 2:18-24 (*First Reading of Day – Creation of Eve*)

Oct 14 – The FALL/ Original Sin!: Genesis 3

Oct 21 – Noah and the Second Covenant: Genesis 6:5-22, 7-9

Oct 28 – Abraham and the Third Covenant: Genesis 22

Nov 4 – Moses, the Exodus, and the Fourth Covenant: Deut. 6:2-6 (*First Reading of the Day – “Hear, O Israel...”*)

Nov 11 – Judges – The Disintegration: Judges 2:11-19; Judges 17:6

Nov 18 – The rise of the Kingdom...THE TEMPLE! (the importance of the Temple)

Nov. 25 – *Christ the King - The Davidic King/ the 4th Covenant*: 2 Samuel 7:5-16, (*and also readings of the day*)

Dec. 4 – The Exile and the Promise...the 5th Covenant: Jeremiah 33:14-16

How do I read the Old Testament?

How do we read the Bible? Especially when it comes to dealing with more difficult and violent passages? Jesus Christ is our lens through which we read Scripture. And this isn't just some new idea, but rather this comes from the Bible itself, in the NEW Testament. Below are some Scripture passages in the New Testament that gives us some guide of how to read the Old Testament

New Testament Guide to Reading the Bible

Revelation 5: *The Lamb that was slain*

Galatians 1:13-16: *Christ becomes Paul's new lens for reading Scripture*

Galatians 4:22-27: *Reading OT as “Allegory”*

Ephesians 6: *Spiritual Battle*

Four senses of scripture

Also from early on in Christianity, there was developed a guide of reading the Scriptures, with its layers of meaning...known as the “Four Senses of Scripture.” The first layer is the “Literal”...this doesn't mean that we necessarily read it “literally”, but looking at what KIND of literature it is, and what is it's historical context...in other words HOW would the people at the time that it was written have understood it? This is also known as the “Historical-Critical” Method. The Three other senses are the “spiritual senses”, which is expounded below:

1-Literal – how Scripture read in its historical setting (“historical-critical”)

(Other 3 “Spiritual” sense)

2-Allegorical – how they point to Christ/Christianity, (crossing red sea as sign of baptism, or sense of the victory Christ did for us in freeing us from liberation of sin) (**Faith**)

3-Moral - how it speaks of right and wrong of how we should live our lives (Again, through lens of Christ) (**Act**)

4-Anagogical – “eschatological”, understanding them in light of eternal significance, of heaven and homeland (**Destiny**)

How do I PRAY with the Old Testament?

“**Lectio Divina**” is the simply put, praying with Scripture (literally “Divine Reading”). Here are the four basic steps/stages given by the Church to guide your praying with Scripture:

1) **Reading (“Lectio”)**: In *Lectio*, you read a passage of Scripture a few times and allow the words and verses to capture your attention. In this way, you begin to listen as God speaks to your heart.

2) **Reflecting (“Meditatio”)**: In *Meditatio*, you reflect or meditate on the words that caught your attention. In an effort to understand their meaning, you ponder and “chew on” them, seeking to acquire the mind of Christ and learning what he wants to reveal to you. In some passages you may imagine yourself *in the scene* as an observer (or even, at times, as one of the active people in the story) reflecting on what you see, what you hear, and to whom you are drawn. You consider how the words you are reading relate to your life today.

3) **Praying (“Oratio”)**: In *Oratio*, you pray from your heart and respond to what Jesus has spoken to you in the words of Scripture. You allow the grace of the words to move you towards prayer. You personally ask Jesus for all the help and graces you need to respond to your reading and reflection. You have a conversation with your Lord.

4) **Resting (“Contemplatio”)**: In *Contemplatio*, you commune with God further and rest in His love and presence so that the very core of your being is stilled. Your attention is entirely centered on your God. You allow the transformation process that the Word has stirred up to encourage, refresh, and strengthen you for a new level of beginning.¹

¹ Father Sam A. Morello, O.C.D., *Lectio Divina and the Practice of Teresian Prayer* (Washington, D.C. ICS Publications, 1995)