

MID TERM EXAM
PM 618

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Grade _____

Please answer the following questions for ten (10) points each.

1. Identify at least six genres of Old Testament literature.

- 1-Narrative
- 2-Law
- 3-Prophecy
- 4-Wisdom
- 5-Psalms (Poetry)
- 6-History

2. Discuss the principle of continuity and discontinuity as a way of approaching the use of Old Testament texts in Christian preaching.

The principles of Continuity and discontinuity speak to those standards and practices that continue to be valid (continuity) and those standards and practices of faith and community that are no longer valid (discontinuity).

For instance when speaking from an Old Testament text one should take time to examine the standards and practices being discussed and be sure to trace the links to New Testament understanding and cultural relevance to determine the appropriate areas of continuity and discontinuity. In many cases the themes of the Old Testament are reflected in New Testament theology.

3. Using the materials shared in class lectures and your own readings, identify at least five instances where Old Testament material is quoted or referred to by New Testament characters.

1) When Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit and tempted (Luke 4:1-8), He replied to His tempter by quoting from Deut. 6:13 and 8:3

2) Jesus connected Himself with the prophets by quoting from Isaiah as He taught in the synagogue in Nazareth. (Luke 4:16-19 to Isaiah 61:1-2).

3) When Jesus explains to the disciples why He speaks in parables (Matthew 13:11-15). He utilizes OT scripture from Isaiah 6:9-10 to also remind them of His fulfillment of prophecy in the way that He teaches. These Jewish men certainly would have known the words of Isaiah.

4) In Acts 2:15-21 Luke reminds His fellow Jews the words of the prophet Joel as he quotes from Joel 2:28-32. He now is explaining the actions of the disciples after they have received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

5) In 1 Peter 1:23-25 the author quotes from Isaiah 40:6-8 as he explains who mankind is because of the work of Christ.

4. In your own words, describe why it is necessary for Christians to hear sermons based upon Old Testament texts.

In my opinion there are 4 reasons why the Old Testament should be a source for preaching. The four C's utilized here have been added by this writer because his professor enjoys the use of this type of response.

1) Continuity In order to show that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. His love and grace abound in the Old Testament and there is a continuity in to the thoughts, actions and plan of God in history. Our God establishes a moral code in the Pentateuch that continues to guide the way we live. The OT also observes many key issues on the way family life is lived and society continues to function.

2) Christ For the church to realize the full importance of the Messiah, our Lord Jesus the Christ. The more than 700 years of waiting for Him, and the struggles of God's people before His ministry on the earth. The OT was authoritative to Jesus and it should be to us also (1 Peter 2:10).

3) Covenants (new-old) To better understand the New Testament writings. The authors of the New Testament were delivering the fulfillment of the Old Testament to us and explaining how the continuous principles of the OT apply to our lives. Omitting the Old Testament was not the intention of the New Testament writers. An Old Testament understanding is crucial to fill and enhance New Testament preaching, understanding the OT assists us in understanding the vocabulary and syntax of it's content.

4) Canon The Old Testament as included in the Canon of scripture accounts for 75% of our Biblical text (more than 1000 yrs of Biblical history). Thus preaching from the OT is a requirement if one is to utilize the full scope of Biblical authority in preaching and teaching in the church.

5. List the 8 Ls that are found in Living Water for Thirsty Souls, and then Discuss their use in sermon preparation.

- 1-Limit - Boundaries of text being utilized.
- 2-Literature - Type of Genre or text (Poetry, Narrative)
- 3-Location - Where in time and geographical place
- 4-Language - understanding of original language - word study.
- 5-Links - What other Bible references are to be found here.
- 6-Leads - Who are the major characters here, other angles to text?
- 7-Lessons - What did this say to the ancient/ original audience?
- 8-Life Application - Mixing ingredients together, what it means to us.

These 8 L's are crucial to completing an adequate exegetical study of a Biblical passage. To provide the clearest message of what God was intending to communicate to us from the text. This is the responsibility of those that serve the Lord through ministry.

This also deepens the teaching to levels that span the "So what?" mentality of the hearer. This work prior to the sermon assists the speaker in becoming adept at seeing how the Holy Spirit wishes to make the 'meal' edible for the hearer.

6. In what sense is it true to say that the Old Testament was the Bible for Jesus? Give some specific examples.

Yes, It is true that the OT was the scripture that our savior studied as a child (Luke 2:46), even sitting with the Hebrew teachers at the temple in Jerusalem and discussing the Torah with them. Jesus utilization of the OT in refuting the temptation (Luke 4) and His use of OT scripture in teaching the disciples (Matt:13) and even as he endured His death alone on the cross (Matt. 27:46) He cries out quoting from Ps. 22:1.

The references are so many that they cannot be missed, the understanding of being a prophet (Luke 4:16-19 to Isaiah 61:1-2) and even greater His knowledge of the fulfillment of the teachings of the prophets in His life, death and resurrection. Even in teaching the Pharisees and other teachers of the law, He never dismissed the OT, His intention was plainly to support the strength and truth of it's teachings (Matt. 22:34-40 where he quotes Deut. 6:5). In this passage Jesus clearly supports the Law and Prophets.

7. How does the Old Testament contribute to the Salvation History story of the Bible?

The OT contributes to the Salvation History story of the Bible through displaying for us the pain of lives lived in search of the safety and security that only trusting God can provide. The text of Ezekiel 36:25-28 speaks to the Hebrew people in exile and tells them of the restoration of the temple, but more than that speaks of a time when God will "give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you". This need for us to receive a salvation which transforms our hearts "from stone to flesh" and give us His Spirit so that we can keep His decrees (v27). This is what the story of the Old Testament shows us that we need, we need the righteousness of God upon us, so that we can be a people worthy to receive His Spirit and then be empowered to keep His laws. This righteousness can only be received through standing under the covering of the atonement for our sins, that only our high priest can provide (Jesus), because of the sacrifice that He has made.

The need for the Messiah is shown in the story of the OT. One cannot overlook the need for the indwelling of God Himself for His people to follow Him faithfully. Mankind's search for land, possession, safety, significance, meaning, family, stature and more is found in the OT. While God's love and concern for the return of His creation is demonstrated as well.

Bringing His people a 'promise' is the story of His ongoing love for us in the salvation story and is vital to our understanding of our need and God's love for us.

8. **Using the exegetical ideas of Joseph Stowell as discussed in class, what is the difference between “shopping for ingredients” and “mixing them to make a cake” so far as exegesis and homiletics are concerned?**

"Shopping for ingredients" - Entails the exegetical steps (first 7 L's) in sermon preparation. This step is the background work of preparation.

"Mixing them to make a cake" - This is the act of sermon writing - this step of Life Application. It is imperative in this step to make sure the meal is edible for your audience. This step is the step that makes sure the "So what?" question of the first 7 steps and in the mind of your audience is answered.

9. **What is the meaning of the word “canonical” and why is it important so far as Old Testament preaching is concerned?**

Orthodox Christians refer to authoritative list of books that belong to the New Testament and Old Testament as canonical. The Canon is made up of books that are not simply informative and helpful, but rather have been decided upon by Christian tradition and ecumenical councils to be the authoritative and inerrant word of God. This means that to be canonical the writing has been deemed not only to be a record of revelation, but a permanent written form of revelation. Knowing that the books of the OT are a permanent written form of revelation means that they must be utilized in teaching and all aspects of the Christian life.

10. **Identify one major practice or doctrine found in the Old Testament that was mandatory for Israel but is no longer required of Christians? Be specific.**

The Levitical code that declared some foods unclean and off limits (Lev. 11) for the Hebrew people was repealed by the teaching of Jesus in Mark 7:14-23. This is a change in practice that I am thankful for everyday! I truly love all types of foods and eat heartily whenever possible. Pork ribs, bacon and ham are definite favorites of mine (with extra bbq or mayo!).

Now that the Holy Spirit resides in me, others should see the outpouring of His holiness, this now sets me apart from others in this world and thankfully my food choices do not set me apart.

BONUS QUESTION

Answer this question for an additional 10 (ten) points

How has the Old Testament understanding of the term “atonement” been reshaped for Christians by the life and death of Jesus Christ?

The Old Testament understanding of atonement was found in a sacrificial system that did not bring atonement based on the value of the sacrificial victim, but rather because it was the divinely appointed way of securing atonement (Lev. 17:11). Each sin required a specific sacrifice and each individual in the community was responsible for having his sins handled in this way to receive atonement.

The writer of Hebrews reflected on this basis by noting in Heb. 9:22 that "without the shedding of blood there can be no remission for sins", however to this writer there was one key difference that reshaped his view and our view of atonement today. Redemption can only be found in the atonement brought to us through the sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 9:15). This reshaping of atonement brings appointment of the sacrifice and the value of the sacrifice together to deliver those who rely on this sacrifice as delivered from all sin once and for all. Now all members of the Christian community share one sacrifice which covers all sins, once and for all.