

## Week 1

### Introduction: Bible Inspiration and Interpretation

#### 1. Inspiration of the scriptures

Morpheus, 8-10; 20-21

2 Timothy 3:15-17: [F]rom infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training** in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly **equipped for every good work**.

See <http://bible.gospelcom.net> (10 searchable on-line translations)

2 Peter 1:20-21: Above all, you must understand that **no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation**. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but **men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit**.

Romans 15:4: For everything that was written in the past was **written to teach us**, so that through endurance and the **encouragement** of the Scriptures we might have **hope**.

Matthew 7:24-25: Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

#### 2. Why interpret the scriptures?

Dauids, 8-29; Morpheu, 5-7; 11-19, 57-59; Fee/Stuart 1-27

שְׂדָמ־לִּכְבוֹ שְׁפִי-לִכְבוֹ שְׁבִלִי  
לִכְבוֹ שְׁחִי אֶחָדָה תִּבְחָה  
Deut. 6:

- **'Decoding'**: required for all written material
- **Language**: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- **Context**: words, sentences, paragraphs, books, genre, Bible
- **History**: what events happened around this writing
- **Culture**: how people thought and acted
- **Pre-conceived ideas**: our thoughts are not God's thoughts
- **Sin**: inherent resistance to God's truth
- **Spirit revelation**: importance of experience with God

οὐδεὶς ἄνθρωπος  
#Agaphseib kurion ton  
geon sou ejh o&h/th/  
kardia/sou kai;ejh o&h/th/  
yuch/sou kai;ejh o&h/th/  
dianoia/sou:  
Matt 22:37

See  
<http://bible.crosswalk.com>  
(Hebrew and Greek bibles,  
plus lexicons)

#### 3. Overview of interpretation, schools and tools

##### a. Two fundamental questions

- **#1: What did the scripture mean to the writer and his listeners?**
- **#2: What does the scripture mean to us?**

'exegesis'  
'hermeneutics'

- b. Sources of authority
- Self
  - Structure
  - God / Spirit
  - Scriptural Author

		SOME SCHOOLS OF INTERPRETATION						
		Rabbis: Peshet	Rabbis: Masorah	Church fathers (Alexandria) Antioch /	conservative evangelical	'Higher criticism'	'New hermeneutic'	Structural
<b>TOOLS:</b>								
<b>Linguistic</b>		●	●	●	●			
	Plain / literal meaning	●		●	●			
	Manuscripts	●	●	●	●			
	Translations	●	●	●	●			
	Definitions	●	●	●	●			
	Structure				●			●
	Other scriptures	●	●	●	●			
<b>Literary</b>								
	Context				●			
	Genre				●			○
	Allegory			●				
	Symbolism			●				
	Typology			●				
<b>Historical</b>								
	Historical context				●	●		
	Cultural context				●	●		
	External writings				○	●		
<b>Authorities</b>								
	Jesus			●	●		●	
	Rabbis	●	●					
	Church leaders, scholars			●	○			
	Denomination				○			
	Doctrine / 'rule of faith'			○	○		○	
	Outside scholars, leaders			○		●		
<b>Revelation</b>								
	Holy Spirit				○			
	Mystery		●					
	Apocalypsis		●		○			
	Existential response				○		●	
<b>Speculation</b>		○	○	○		●	○	○

c. Schools of Bible interpretation and principal tools