

New Testament Use of the Old Testament

Week 3: Jesus's Use of the OT

Pastor Matt Postiff, Ph.D., Th.M.

Anchor Bible College

First Things First

- Quiz on week 2
- Discussion of chapters 2-3 of Beale's *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*.
- Questions?

Jesus's Use of the Old Testament

- Three word-for-word quotations in Matthew 4 from Deuteronomy, showing that He took the OT as completely authoritative.
- Adapting similar wording in Matthew 7:23 from Psalm 6:8 in a final judgment context. This is not a contextual use, but wording adapted.
- Matthew 9:13 uses Hosea 6:6 to rebuke the Pharisees for their merciless treatment of sinful people and an exhortation to obey a teaching of the OT. We could categorize this as teaching exhorted or theology applied.

More Examples of Jesus's Use of the OT

NT Ref	OT Ref	Explanation
Matt 4:4, 7, 10	Deut. 8:3, 6:16, 6:13	Law obeyed.
Matt 7:23	Ps 6:8	Wording adapted.
Matt 9:13	Hos 6:6	Theology applied.
Mat 10:35-36	Micah 7:6	Historical analogy. The Micah passage does not read as a prediction.
Matt 11:10	Mal 3:1	Prediction fulfilled. There is running question about the relationship between John the Baptist and Elijah. The latter is specifically mentioned in Mal 4:5-6 and Matt. 11:14, but note "if."
Matt 13:14-15	Isaiah 6:9-10	Historical analogy. The fulfillment is not a specific event. It is what I call a pattern fulfillment where later Israel does the same thing that earlier Israel did.
Matt 15:8-9	Isaiah 29:13	Historical analogy, and another pattern fulfillment.
Matt 18:16	Deut 19:15	Theology applied. The same principle applies today as then.

More Examples of Jesus's Use of the OT, 2

NT Ref	OT Ref	Explanation
Matt 19:4-5	Gen 1:27 Gen 2:24	Theology applied.
Matt 21:13	Isa 56:7 Jer 7:11	Prediction pending. The temple is supposed to be that already. Historical analogy.
Matt 21:16	Ps 8:2	Theology applied. The “have you never read” formula is an introduction that rebukes the Pharisees for not applying what they learned from the Old Testament. Could be a historical analogy as well.
Matt 21:42	Ps 118:22-23	Not clearly a prediction. Historical analogy and pattern fulfillment. Jesus is like Moses in this regard, or like Israel itself who will be the head of the nations. Jesus is the chief of the chief cornerstones, the greatest one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Matt 22:32	Ex 3:6, 15	Theology applied. The patriarchs are not annihilated, and the Pharisees should have understood that.

More Examples of Jesus's Use of the OT, 3

NT Ref	OT Ref	Explanation
Matt 22:37	Deut 6:5 Lev 19:18	Law explained or theology applied. Following verse 66's question, Jesus is explaining the summation of the Law from the Law. Or, we could say He is applying the theology of the law.
Matt 22:44	Ps 110:1	Prediction fulfilled.
Matt 23:39	Ps 118:26	Like above, not clearly a prediction. Historical analogy.
Matt 24:15	Dan 9:27	Prediction pending.
Matt 26:31	Zech 13:7	Prediction fulfilled.
Matt 26:64	Daniel 7:13	Allusion – prediction fulfilled.
Matt 27:46	Ps 22:1	Historical analogy. Jesus responded in the same way that the righteous sufferer in the Psalms responded in his lamentation.

Additional Examples

- Matthew 26:54 and 56 show that the prophets have to be fulfilled in the death of Christ. No particular OT/prophetic text is cited.
- The Scriptures testify about Jesus: John 5:39.
- Luke 24:27, 44, 45-46 record Jesus showing from the OT Scriptures about Himself.
- Obviously, the Lord thought the text of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms was God-breathed and He took it very seriously, down to the details.

Homework for Next Week

- Read Beale chapter 4. Be prepared to discuss in class.
- Find and classify the OT quotations / allusions in the next chunk of chapters in your assigned NT section. Turn in your work to receive instructor comment and grade for the week.
- You are NOT allowed to use AI at all. Use BI - Bible Intelligence. Or HI - Human Intelligence!

Homework for Next Week: Project Step 3

- You have selected an OT quotation and written about the meaning of the OT passage.
- Do some research and write a few paragraphs on the exact source of the quotation. Does it appear that the quote was taken from the Hebrew text directly, from the Greek translation of the Old Testament (LXX = Septuagint), from the Biblical author's adaptation of one of those, or something else? Give a substantial explanation. This will take a bit of research.
- Again, you are not allowed to use AI. Work with your Bible, Bible study software, read the context, and tell me what it means.