

Great Expectations: Class 1 Introduction

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Interpreting the Bible

- The nature of the reader
 - Culture
 - Expectations
 - Vocabulary
 - Personal preferences

What Does this Mean?

- GODISNOWHERE

What Does this Mean?

- **GODISNOWHERE**
 - God is now here

What Does this Mean?

- **GODISNOWHERE**
 - God is no where
 - God is now here

What Does this Mean?

- Eagle's Wings

What Does this Mean?

- Eagle's Wings
 - USA

What Does this Mean?

- Eagle's Wings
 - USA
 - Swiftness

What Does this Mean?

- Bear

What Does this Mean?

- Bear
 - Russia

What Does this Mean?

- Bear
 - Russia
 - Medes and Persians

Interpreting the Bible

- The nature of the text (Scripture)
 - Genres (varied styles of literature)
 - Historical particularity
 - Eternal relevance

Recommended Book

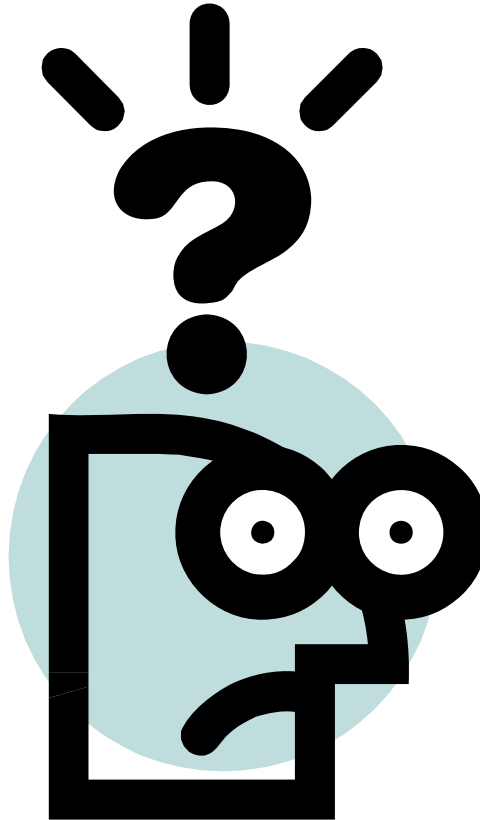
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

Two Tasks

- Exegesis
- Hermeneutics

Exegesis

- Exe whasis?



Exegesis

- What did it mean to the writer and readers?
- Find out what the text (including names, symbols, and places) originally meant; this task is called exegesis.

Hermeneutics

- Herman Who?



Hermeneutics

- What does it mean to us?
- Apply what the text means to ourselves and our situations. We call this second task hermeneutics.

Aim of Good Interpretation

- The aim is to get at the plain meaning of the text.
- The test is that it makes good sense of the text.

Guides for Interpreting Prophecy

- Prefer the straight forward reading
 - Interpret grammatically
 - Interpret historically

Interpret in Context

- Local context
- Context in the book
- Context of other prophecies and the Bible

Methods of Prophetic Revelation

- Straight forward utterance
- Types
- Symbols
- Parables
- Dreams and visions

Straight forward utterance

- Jesus' death and resurrection: Mark 9:31

Types

- Brass serpent: Numbers 21:9
(symbol for Jesus, John 3:14-15)

Symbols

- Fiery red dragon: Revelation 12:3
(symbol for Satan, Revelation 12:9)

Parables

- Wheat and Tares: Matthew 13:24-30
(End times judgment)

Dreams and visions

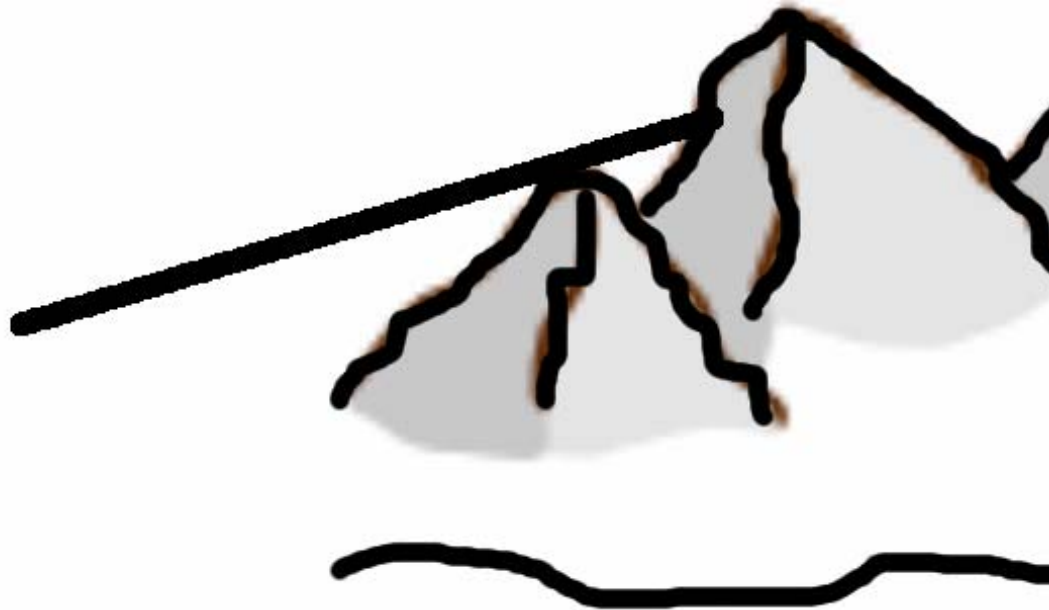
- Nebuchadnezzar's Dream: Daniel 2
(presents world empires through history)

Multiple fulfillment

- Sometimes a prophecy might apply to two related events.
- Example Elijah's future coming was partially fulfilled by John the Baptist: Matthew 17:10-13, Mark 9:12-13, Luke 1:17, John 1:21.

One Mountain?

- Sometimes from a distance two mountains look like one. Likewise two fulfillments of the same prophecy is possible.



End Time Definitions

- End Times
- The Resurrected
- Rapture
- The Second Coming
- Tribulation
- Millennium
- Great White Throne Judgement
- The Holy City

End Time Definitions

- The Antichrist and his prophets
- The Mark of the Beast
- Armageddon
- The Final Judgment

Conclusion and Concerns