

New Testament Life and Times

Class Handout – 11/15/2020

1. Material available online at ClassNotes.leanderchurch.org
2. The *meaning* of the scriptural text is informed by
 - a. Historical events which occurred before the text was written
 - b. History, culture, worldviews, etc., existing at the time the text was written
 - c. Literary form
 - i. Poetry – Metaphor and exaggeration are typical
 - ii. Apocalyptic – Symbolism is expected
 - iii. Narrative – The big picture is more important than the details
 - iv. Instructional – Details are key, e.g., ceremonial law, tabernacle building
 - v. Wisdom Literature – Advice for living a rewarding and acceptable life
 - vi. Theology – Characteristics and expectations of God
 - d. The words of the text
 - e. How the text was used later by the Spirit
3. There are varying degrees of difficulty involved in ascertaining this information.
 - a. The view is worth the climb.
4. “Inspecting the foundations is not glamorous work, but if cracks in the walls develop later you will wish you had taken the time earlier to ensure the foundation was correct.”
5. Random fact: Over the last 4000 years in the land of Israel, on average, an army has marched through it every 44 years.
 - a. How does that affect
 - i. Children’s concept of security?
 - ii. National political expectations?
 - iii. What people expect of their God?
 - b. How is the ~400 year culture of the USA different from the 4000 year experience in the land of Israel? What assumptions do we bring to the text that the authors did not share? What are we oblivious to in the text that was understood implicitly by an author?
6. How do different worldviews impact this process?
7. “While the New Testament was written for us, it was not written to us.”
8. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”
 - a. Use all your mind/intellect to love the Lord...
 - b. Do not leave your mind on auto-pilot.