# He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

### **Lesson Guide**

LESSON NINE

## MODERN APPLICATION & THE NEW COVENANT



Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

#### **CONTENTS**

HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE	3
NOTES	4
I. INTRODUCTION (0:20)	4
<ul><li>II. FULFILLMENT (2:52)</li><li>A. Old Testament (3:52)</li><li>B. Intertestamental Period (12:18)</li><li>C. New Testament (14:47)</li></ul>	4 4 5 6
<ul> <li>III. APPLICATION (24:49)</li> <li>A. Guidelines (27:35)</li> <li>1. Old Testament (29:15)</li> <li>2. New Testament (33:47)</li> <li>B. Example (38:36)</li> </ul>	7 8 8 9 10
IV. CONCLUSION (53:00)	11
REVIEW QUESTIONSAPPLICATION QUESTIONS	

#### HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

#### Before you watch the lesson

- o **Prepare** Complete any recommended readings.
- Schedule viewing The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.

#### While you are watching the lesson

- Take notes The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
- Record comments and questions As you watch the video, you may
  have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the
  margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share
  these with the group following the viewing session.
- Pause/replay portions of the lesson You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.

#### After you watch the lesson

- Complete Review Questions Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
- Answer/discuss Application Questions Application Questions are
  questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology,
  and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written
  assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it
  is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

#### I. Introduction (0:20)

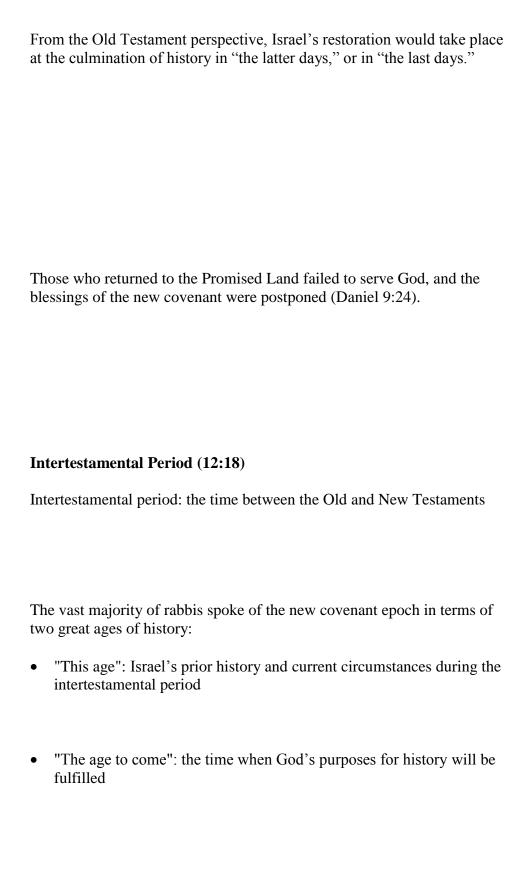
#### II. Fulfillment (2:52)

When the new covenant in Christ finally arrived, it wasn't exactly what people had imagined.

#### A. Old Testament (3:52)

Old Testament hopes for a new covenant rose out of words God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

The Book of Restoration (Jeremiah 30:1-31:40) rehearses several descriptions of the exile and the blessings that would follow after the exile.



В.

The vast majority of rabbis taught that the transition from this age to th	e
age to come would take place with the appearance of the Messiah.	

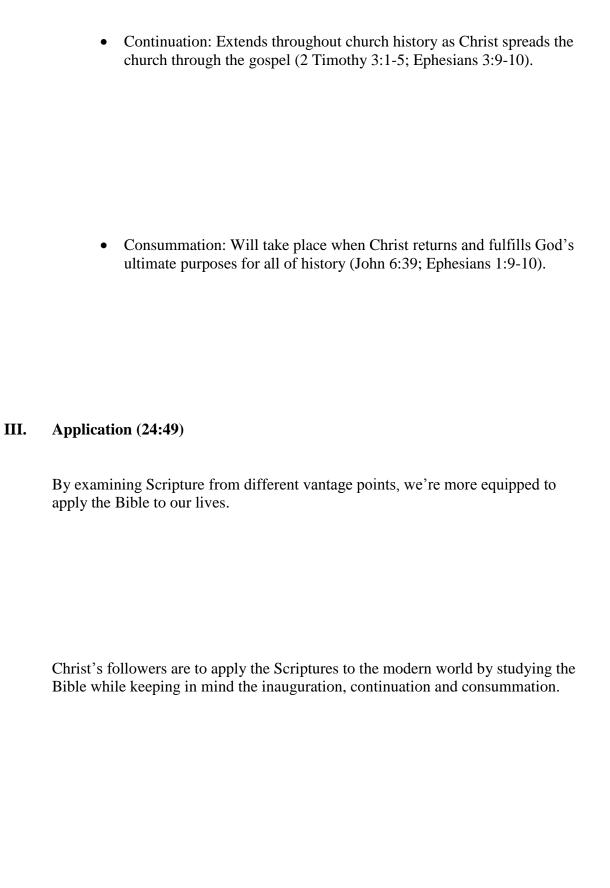
#### **C. New Testament (14:47)**

Jesus announced that the kingdom of God began with his earthly ministry; it would grow over time and culminate when he returned in glory.

Paul said that the "mystery" regarding the last days had been kept hidden from people in the past but was now being revealed in Christ (Ephesians 3:3-5).

Inaugurated Eschatology ("the now, but not yet") meant the fulfillment of the age of the new covenant was to take place in three stages:

• Inauguration: Initiated in Jesus' first coming and in the ministries of his apostles and prophets (Hebrews 1:1-2; Ephesians 2:19-20).



#### **A. Guidelines** (27:35)

Every application of Scripture involves appropriately connecting original meaning to contemporary audiences.

#### 1. Old Testament (29:15)

The Old Testament refers to six major covenants, but the Old Testament books were written in the covenant epochs of Moses and David.

It's essential to look for ways New Testament authors applied the Old Testament to all three stages of the new covenant.

#### 2. **New Testament (33:47)**

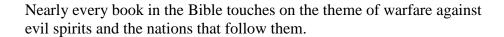
New Testament books were initially written for people during the inauguration of the new covenant, but they have many implications for us in the continuation of the new covenant.

Differences between today and the times of the New Testament:

- Appeals for guidance could be made directly to individual apostles and prophets.
- Widespread issues could be decided by the interactions of the church's foundational leaders (Acts 15).
- New Testament contains many examples of miraculous and supernatural events.
- New Testament authors wrote about doctrinal and practical issues that were important for the inauguration of the new covenant.

If we understand the original meaning, we can apply it to our time by taking into account developments within the new covenant age.

#### **B.** Example (38:36)



To see how the theme of warfare applies to our lives, we must view it in light of the three stages of the new covenant epoch in Christ:

• Inauguration: Some aspects of the theme of war against evil in the world were fulfilled uniquely in Jesus' earthly ministry

• Continuation: Christ initiated the final defeat of evil, but this war is still a part of our experience throughout the history of the church.

During the continuation, we are at war with Satan and other evil spirits, rather than at war with people.

• Consummation: Jesus will complete the war against evil when he returns in glory.

When the final defeat of sin and death has taken place, Christ will reign and invite all of his followers to reign with him in victory.

To apply any biblical theme more fully, we must see how it is viewed in light of all three stages of the new covenant age in Christ.

#### IV. Conclusion (53:00)

#### **Review Questions**

1.	According to Daniel 9:24, why did God postpone the promise of the new covenant that was foretold in Jeremiah chapter 31?			
2.	Describe the two great ages of history that most Old Testament rabbis referred to. What did the rabbis teach about the transition from one age to the next?			

3.	How does the New	Testament	explain tl	ne fulfillment	of Jeremiah	's hope	for a nev	V
	covenant?							

4. Define what New Testament scholars mean by the phrase "inaugurated eschatology." List and describe the three main stages involved in the fulfillment of the new covenant age.

5.	What are some general guidelines for appropriately connecting the original meaning of Old Testament passages to contemporary audiences? What are the guidelines for New Testament passages?	
5.	Using the Bible's emphasis on warfare, illustrate the general guidelines we should use in modern application.	

#### **Application Questions**

- 1. Should the Old Testament outlooks on the new covenant impact your current ministry? Why or why not?
- 2. What impact has God's grand hope for the future, found in Jeremiah 31, had on your personal calling and purpose?
- 3. What lesson can we learn from Israel when we read of God's decision to postpone the full extent of the new covenant in places like Daniel 9:24?
- 4. How are you living in anticipation of Christ's return and the time of future glory? Give specific examples.
- 5. Is knowledge of the inauguration, continuation, and consummation of the new covenant a useful resource in evangelism? Explain your answer.
- 6. How will the general guidelines for applying Scripture aid you in your current ministry or area of influence?
- 7. When applying Scripture today, what do you consider to be the most challenging aspect of appropriately connecting original meaning to your audience?
- 8. The New Testament was written initially for Christians in the early church. With this in mind, how can you relate your own experiences to the experiences of those in the early church?
- 9. Find a prominent theme in the Bible and illustrate it through the stages of the new covenant using the general guidelines for application.
- 10. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?