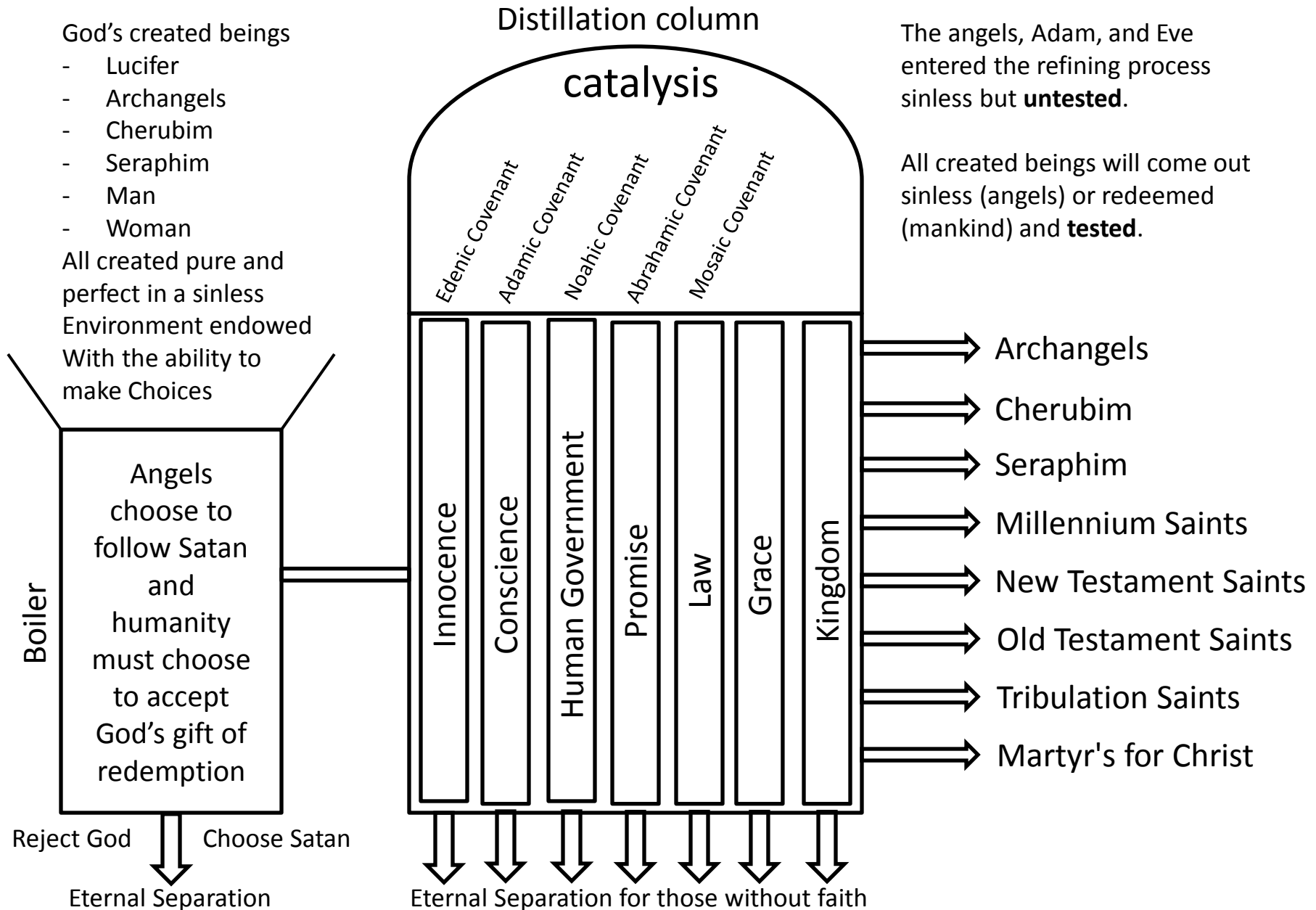


Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Revealed Plan of God from Eternity Past to Eternity Future



God's Refining Process for His Created Beings



Refining a Creation for Eternity

God's Economies for Mankind

Overview



Edenic



Adamic

Innocence



Noahic

Human Government



Abrahamic

Promise



Mosaic

Law



Postponed

Grace



Fulfillment

Kingdom

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture

Revelation

Revelation is of necessity and act of God

1. Theophanies (appearances of God)
2. Dreams and visions
3. Direct
4. Miracles and signs
5. Prophets
6. The revelation of God in Jesus Christ
7. The Scriptures

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture

Inspiration

Revelation is of necessity and act of God

Four ways to regard the Bible:

1. It is only a remarkable human book without divine inspiration.
2. It is partially inspired by God.
3. It is only divine, devoid of any human adjunction.
4. It is at the same time divine and human, God having fully inspired the sacred authors who spoke in His name.

We hold to **verbal** (*the very words, not just thoughts and ideas*) **inspiration** and **plenary** (*equally in every part of the Scriptures*) **inspiration**.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture

Inerrancy

The Extent of Biblical Inerrancy

1. Inerrancy does not mean uniformity in all the details given in analogous accounts written by different authors.
2. Biblical inerrancy does not exclude the use of pictures and symbols.
3. Biblical inerrancy does not imply the use of an exact technical vocabulary, conformed to present scientific terminology.
4. Apropos of inerrancy, the biblical message has to be put back into its own historical setting.
5. Inerrancy has to do with the whole of the biblical message.
6. Inerrancy does not imply omniscience on the part of the biblical authors.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Questions from last week

Inspiration

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Refining a Creation for Eternity

Questions from last week

Inspiration

Theory – The Bible is only partially inspired by God.

1. Inspiration had to do only with the author's thoughts, not with the words used
God suggested the ideas and the general trend of the revelation, then left the man free to express them in his own language, as he liked.
2. Only the moral and spiritual teachings of the Bible were inspired
God did reveal supernatural things, things otherwise beyond the grasp of man; but, performing no useless miracle, He let the sacred writers set down as they chose the material which they already knew, especially matters pertaining to the history and concepts of their time. Thus there were brought into the Bible many inexactitudes, legends and notions considered false from our modern point of view.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Questions from last week

Inspiration

Theory – The Bible is only partially inspired by God.

3. The Bible “contains” but “is not” the Word of God
4. Christ alone is the “Word of God”

We believe without reservation in the Word of God, but it is Jesus Christ alone who is this Word; as for the Bible, it is simply an “echo”.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Questions from last week

Inerrancy

The Extent of Biblical Inerrancy

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Refining a Creation for Eternity

Questions from last week

Inerrancy

The Extent of Biblical Inerrancy

Apropos of inerrancy, the biblical message has to be put back into its own historical setting.

Handout – *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (1 Corinthians 11:1-16)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture

The Canon

The word “canon” (taken from the Greek) means a rule which serves as a measure; and then, by extension, that which is measured.

A book is canonical if the Jewish synagogue or the Christian church recognized it as the bearer of the revelation communicated by the Spirit of God.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture

The Canon

Divine inspiration as the determinant of canonicity

1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 14

but just as it is written,

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ... But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

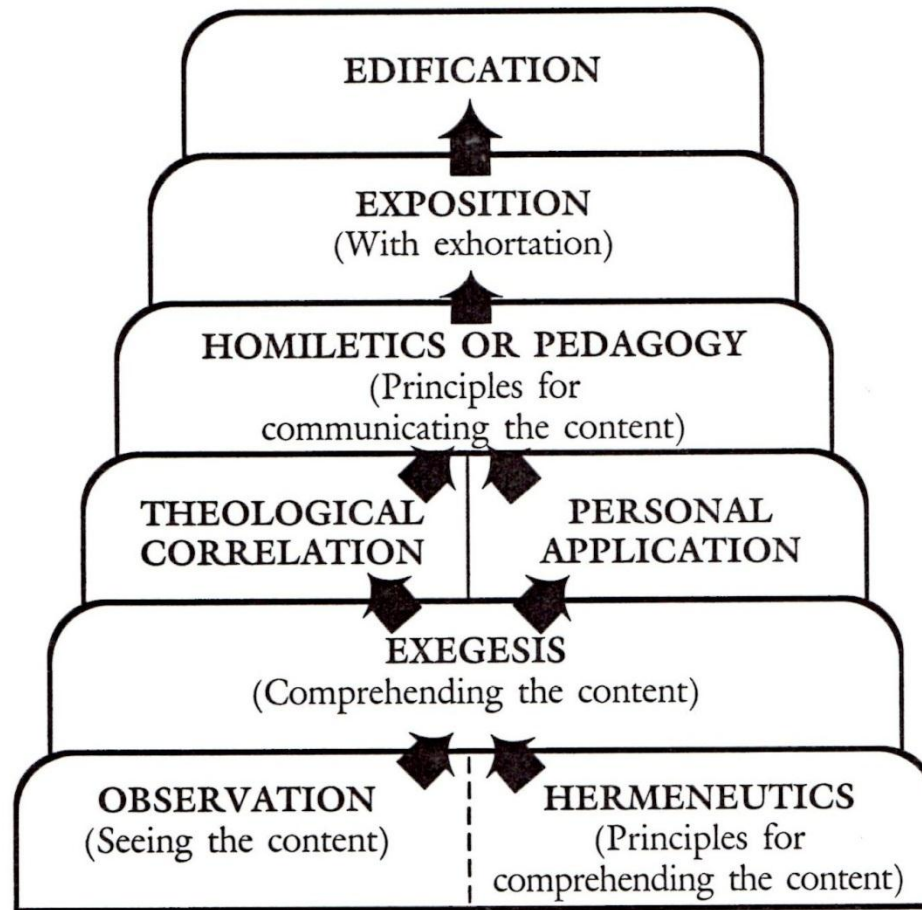
Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

In most theological controversies, differences among competing viewpoints are rooted in different hermeneutical methodologies. This holds true in the dispute between partial preterists and futurists. The futurist applies a consistently literal, or normal, interpretive grid. This method attaches to every word the same meaning that it would have in normal usage, whether in speaking, writing, or thinking. It also entails interpreting the Apocalypse according to the same hermeneutical rules as any other section of Scripture.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Principles

1. Scripture interprets Scripture.
2. The meaning of words is to be established by their usage.
3. Context must be taken into account.
4. A grammatico-historical interpretation must be used.
5. The interpreter must begin assuming literal or normal interpretation in a passage unless otherwise indicated by common linguistic sense.
6. Figurative language such as poetry, figures of speech, metaphors, similes and illustrations attempt to convey very actual, even literal concepts.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Principles (cont.)

7. The “human drama” must be allowed to come forth.
8. As part of the context, factors such as culture, historical background, social setting, and geography all play a part in interpretation.
9. The Bible must be studied dispensationally in order to see how God dealt with people and nations differently at different time periods.
10. Progressive revelation is also important in dispensational hermeneutics.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Observation

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Observation

The context of a *word* is the *sentence* it appears in.

The context of a *sentence* is the *paragraph* it appears in.

The context of a *paragraph* is the *topic* it appears in.

The context of a *topic* is the *section* it appears in.

The context of a *section* is the *division* it appears in.

The context of a *division* is the *book* it appears in.

The context of a *book* is *all that author wrote* in the Bible.

The context of *all that an author wrote* in the Bible is the *part of the Old or New Testament* his works appear in (e.g. historical books, poetic books, prophetic books, gospels, letters, etc.).

The context of *part of the Old or New Testament* is the *entire Old or New Testament*.

The context of the *Old or New Testament* is the *whole Bible*.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

Literal

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, and literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, clearly indicate otherwise.

David L. Cooper

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

Allegory

Allegorizing is searching for a hidden or secret meaning underlying but remote from and unrelated in reality to the more obvious meaning of a text.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

Tradition

The Council of Trent (1545-1563) affirmed that the Bible is not the supreme authority, but the truth is “in written books and in unwritten traditions.” Those traditions include the church fathers of the past and the church leaders of the present.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

Rationalism

Rationalism stressed that the human intellect can decide what is true and false. The Bible, then, is true if it corresponds to man's reason, and what does not correspond can be ignored or rejected.

“Rationalism assumes that the human intelligence is the measure of all truth. This is an insane presumption on the part of such a creature as man. If a child believes with implicit confidence what it cannot understand, on the testimony of a parent, surely man may believe what he cannot understand, on the testimony of God.”

Hodge, C. (1997). Vol. 1: Systematic theology (41). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

Subjectivism

Subjectivism is the view that knowledge comes by one's own experience, or that the supreme good is the realizing of a subjective experience or feeling.

“John Locke (1632–1704) introduced subjectivism by teaching that knowledge comes from experience. Locke taught that man has sensations, in which he becomes aware of his external surroundings, then through reflections, man contemplates the meaning. Thus Locke argued that man has nothing in his mind that is not first in his senses. Although Locke acknowledged some aspect of divine revelation he nonetheless rejected the tenets of the Christian faith that contradicted experimental reason.”

Enns, P. P. (1997). *The Moody handbook of theology* (545–546). Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

The use of Old Testament quotations in the New Testament

In Galatians 4:21-31, Paul gives an allegorical application to the story of Sarah and Hagar, and Isaac and Ishmael, but he does not deny that these were literal people and that the Genesis account of their history literally did happen. The solution to the problem is simply to recognize that the New Testament quotes the Old in four different ways. This was a typical Jewish way of quoting the Old Testament in that period and the writers were Jews.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

The use of Old Testament quotations in the New Testament

1 - Literal Prophecy plus Literal Fulfillment

Matthew 2:5-6

They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’ ”

Micah 5:2

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

The use of Old Testament quotations in the New Testament

2 - Literal plus Typical

Matthew 2:15

He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

The use of Old Testament quotations in the New Testament

3 - Literal plus Application

Matthew 2:17-18

Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “A voice was heard in Ramah, Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; And she refused to be comforted, Because they were no more.”

Jeremiah 31:15

Thus says the Lord, “A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more.”

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Important Assumptions and Prerequisites

Hermeneutics – Biblical Interpretation

Interpretation

The use of Old Testament quotations in the New Testament

4 - Summation

Matthew 2:23

and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”