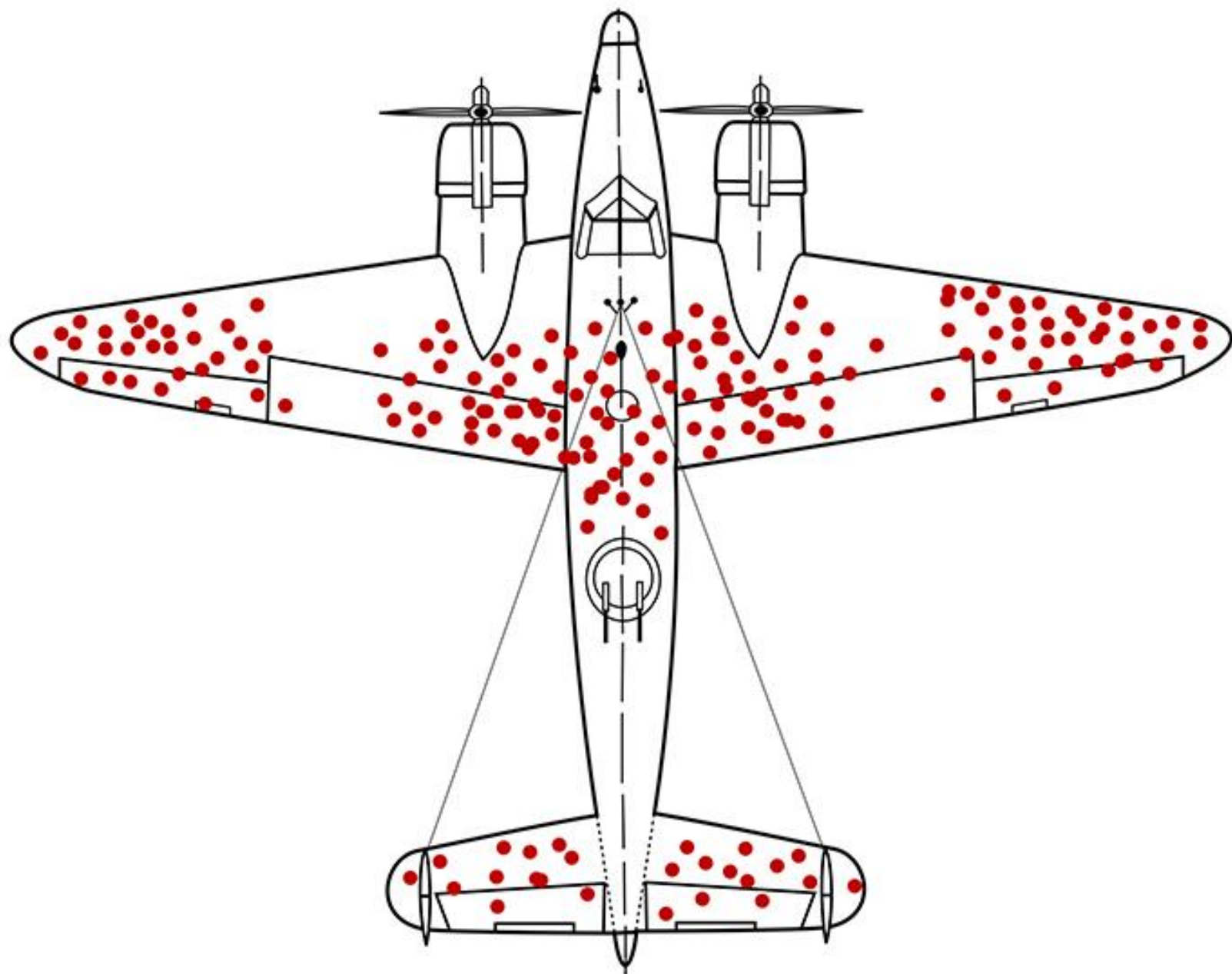


Christ The Rock

Church De Pere

Wednesday Night Bible Study

May 24, 2023



During World War II, fighter planes often returned from battle riddled with bullet holes. The Allies analyzed the vast data and mapped the areas that were most commonly struck by enemy fire. In an effort to strengthen planes for flying combat missions, engineers sought to reinforce the most commonly damaged areas of the planes to reduce the number that were shot down.

Dr. Abraham Wald (1902–1950)—a mathematician whose work contributed to the disciplines of decision theory, geometry, and econometrics, as well as to the foundation of the field of statistical sequential analysis—noted that an alternate perspective could perhaps make more sense of the data.

Contrary to prior opinion, he recognized that the reason certain areas of the planes weren't damaged was that the planes that were damaged in those areas didn't return. This insight led to the armor being reinforced on the areas of the plane with no bullet holes.

In this example, the context surrounding the data was highly important for its interpretation. It was necessary to consider that context in order to find and apply the proper solution to the problem of fighter aircraft survivability. Likewise, to interpret the Bible, the context surrounding biblical data is of vital importance to understand the intended meaning.

Last Week – What is the Bible

A seamless message delivered through human-beings but of supernatural origin – outside of time. It is validated by prophecy – God writing history before it happens.

First of All

Pray:

This is a supernatural Word
working in a supernatural way in
the souls of God's people.

First of All

Pray brings revelation
(understanding) – and application
(apply the Word to our individual
lives.)

Psalm 119:18

Open *my eyes*, that I may
behold wondrous things out of
your law.

Ephesians 1:17-18

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having *the eyes of your hearts* enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Why – Colossians 1:9^(b) -10

that (conj. -‘hina’) you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to (p-2ap) walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

the accusative case: answers the question what, who, or to whom.

The Command - 2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself
approved to God as a worker
who does not need to be ashamed,
accurately handling the
word of truth.

The Correct Question

Should we be asking,

“what does that text mean to you, or

“what does that text mean?”

The Clue – 2 Peter 1:20-21

But know this first *of all*, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes *a matter of someone's own interpretation* *for* no prophecy (prophetes) was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Method - Hermeneutics

Biblical hermeneutics is the science of the principles and methods (rules) for interpreting the text of scripture.

The Goal - Exegesis

Exegesis comes from two Greek roots. “Ek” or “ex” means “out of.” The other part of the word comes from the Greek word, ago, which means to lead. Exegesis is a process of leading out of the text a valid understanding. An opposite word is “eisegesis” which means to read into the text.

Reading Versus Study

Study: pause, ask questions, use tools

Read: steady flow through the text

Tools

Software: Logos, e-sword.net, B.L.B.

Treasury Scripture Knowledge

Concordance (Strong's)

Dictionary (Unger's)

Hebrew/Greek Language Tools

Study Bibles/Different Versions

Language

“the means by which we can express our deepest heart

Division of: language at Babel

Differences of : ‘Pop’ of ‘soda’

Regional/Cultural/Era’s: ‘Bubbler’ or ‘water fountain’

THE Word

The Incarnate Word (logos)

The written Word

The Spoken (preached) Word

The Holy Spirit reveals the Word (John 16:13), the Word reveals Jesus (John 5:39-40), Jesus reveals the Father (John 14:9)

Exegesis is Biblical

John 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time; God the only *Son*, who is in the arms of the Father, He has *explained Him*.

exegeomai = *exegeted Him* - to lead the way, make known by expounding.

Exegesis is Biblical

Nehemiah 8:1-4

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

Exegesis is Biblical

Nehemiah 8:1-4

And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose.

Exegesis is Biblical

Nehemiah 8:5-6

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Exegesis is Biblical

Nehemiah 8:7-8

the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

Historical Context

The Holy Spirit is the Author

1. Who wrote the book?
2. When was the book written?
3. What group was the book addressing?
4. What is the purpose or theme of the book?

Local Context

Context includes the verses immediately preceding and following, the chapter, the book, and, most broadly, the entire Bible.

Historical-Grammatical Method

We must seek to understand the culture, background, and situation that prompted the text.

Grammatical

Follow the rules of grammar and recognize the nuances of Hebrew and Greek. The Bible was written in human language, and language has a certain structure and follows certain rules. Therefore, we must interpret the Bible in a manner consistent with the basic rules of language.

Figures of Speech

Parables - comparison

Allegory - representations

Idioms: “on eagles wings”

Exodus 19:4

Allegory – Galatians 4:24-26

Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar.

Simile – Hosea 12:10 (kjv)

I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used *similitudes*, by the ministry of the prophets.

Simile, Metaphor, Comparison, Allegory, Parable

Figures of Speech

Walk with God

"walk" with someone is to live in fellowship and harmony with him.

Genesis 5:22; 6:9; Deuteronomy 10:12; Joshua 22:5; 1 Kings 8:23; Micah 6:8

Figures of Speech

Dust, stars, sand: these metaphors represent the number of descendants God promised to Abraham - Abraham's *physical* descendants (Jews and Arabs) as well as Abraham's *spiritual* progeny (those who live by faith, Galatians 3:7). Genesis 13:16; 15:5; 26:4; 28:14; 32:12; Exodus 32:13; Isaiah 48:19; Jeremiah 33:22; Hebrews 11:12

Figures of Speech

Hearts of stone or flesh: A heart of stone represents a spiritually dead heart that will not/cannot respond to God's grace. God promises to remove our heart of stone and replace it with a living, loving heart that can follow Him.

Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26

Figures of Speech

Animals

Serpents: sin, Satan

Lions: of the tribe of Judah

Dogs: Gentiles, unclean persons

Sheep: we like sheep . . .

Types of Literature

History: 1 Chronicles/Acts

Poetry: Song Solomon

Wisdom: Proverbs/Job

Prophecy: Major/Minor/ Rev.

Gospels: Jesus words/works

Epistles: how then shall we live

The Synthesis Principle

The best interpreter of scripture is scripture itself. We must examine a passage in relation to its immediate context (the verses surrounding it), its wider context (the book it's found in), and its overall context (the complete Bible)

The Synthesis Principle

The Bible does not contradict itself. Any theological statement in one verse can and should be harmonized with theological statements in other parts of scripture. Good Bible interpretation relates any one passage to the total content of scripture. (proof-text)

Then Application

What does this text mean for me.
How shall we, therefore live”.

Law of first mention

to understand a particular word or doctrine, we must find the first place in Scripture that word or doctrine is revealed and study that passage. The reasoning is that the Bible's first mention of a concept is the simplest and clearest presentation; doctrines are then more fully developed on that foundation.

Law of first mention – Blood

Gen. 4:10 - Abel's Blood Cries (life)

Gen. 9:6 – God's justice requires blood

Exodus 12:1-13 – blood substitute (Passover)

Lev. 17:11 – the life is in the blood

Isaiah 53:5 – the substitute prophecy

1 John 1:7 – purifies us from all sin

Types

1 Cor. 10:4 – that Rock was Christ

Daniel 2:34 – a stone cut without
hands crushed all other Kingdoms

Rule #1 - Literal

The most important law of biblical hermeneutics is that the Bible should be interpreted literally. We are to understand the Bible in its normal or plain meaning, unless the passage is obviously intended to be symbolic or if figures of speech are employed.

Allegorical Versus Literal

An allegory is a story in which the characters and/or events are symbols representing other events, ideas, or people.

- George Orwell's *Animal Farm*
- John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*
- Hannah Hurnard's *Hinds' Feet on High Places*)

Allegorical Versus Literal

the Parable of the Sower -- Matthew 13:3-9,
The Prodigal Son -- Luke 15:11-32,

Gal. 4:22-26 – Hagar & Sarah

Allegorical Themes:

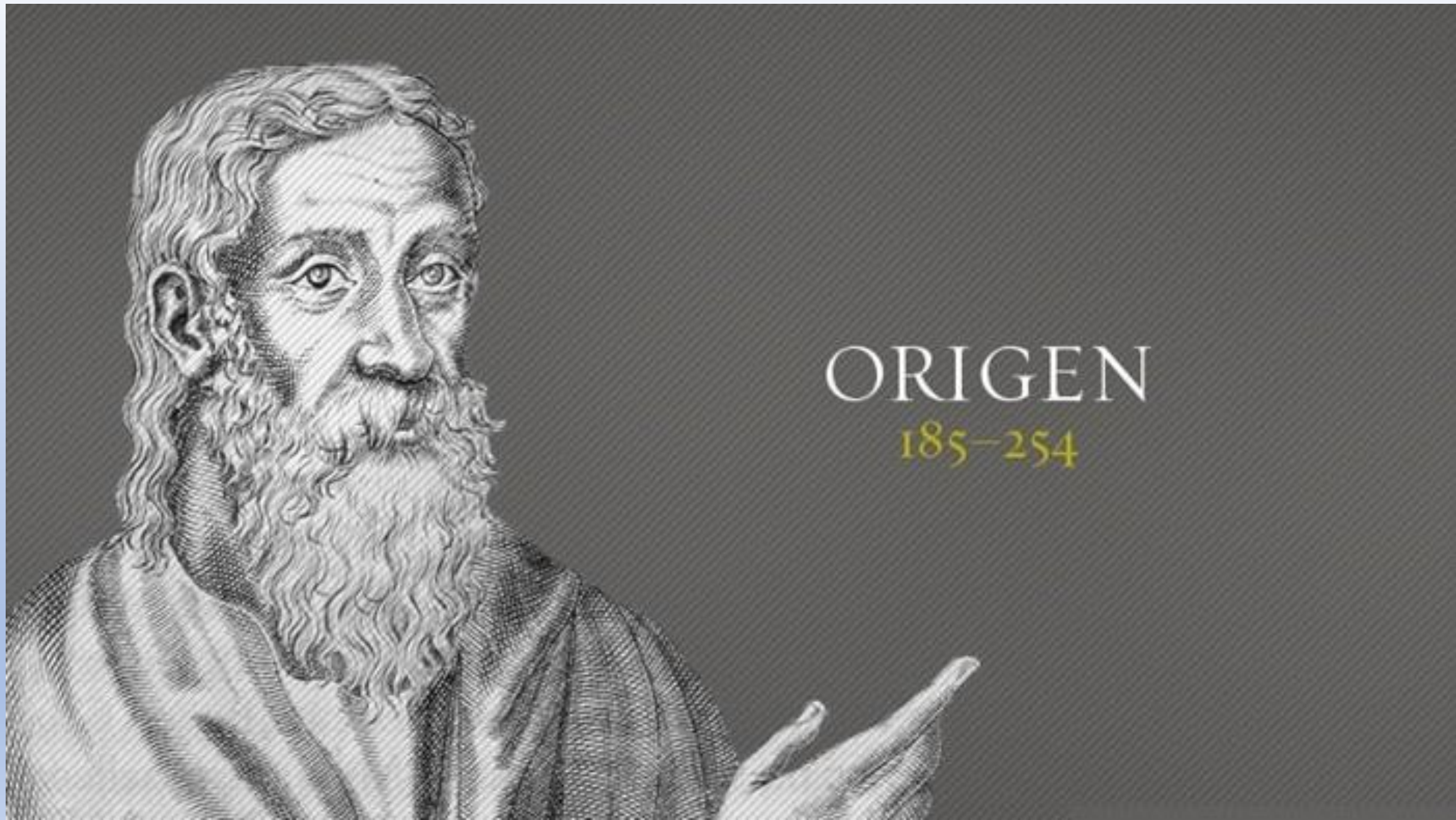
animal sacrifice, marriage

Apostles to Early Church Fathers

Polycarp: John's disciple

ante-Nicene: after apostles/before the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325: Irenaeus, Ignatius, Justin Martyr.

Post-Nicene: Augustine (father of Catholic Church), Chrysostom, Eusebius (church history), Jerome (translated Greek N.T. into Latin)



ORIGEN

185-254

Origen's Allegory

Origen (185 – 254 A.D.)

The “Father of Allegorical Interpretation”

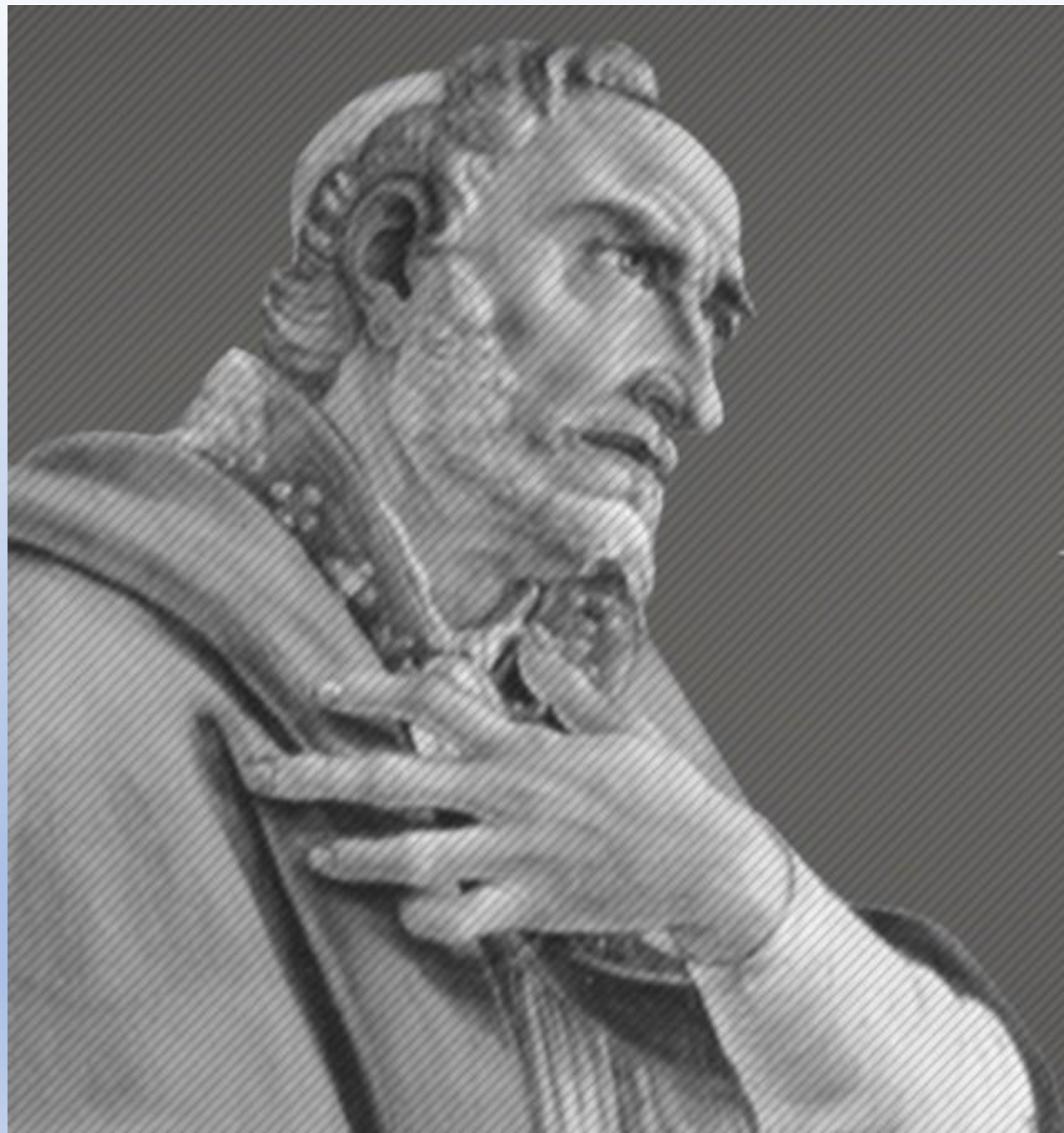
“School of Alexandria”

Augustine Followed Origen's Method

Alexandria vs. Antioch

Alexandria, Egypt: Allegorical Method - the physical world as a shadow of the spiritual - non-literally to deeper spiritual (or allegorical) truths.

Antioch, Syria: Opposite, spiritual reading of the text, they believed, must come from the literal reading.



AUGUSTINE
OF HIPPO

354-430

Medieval Era

On Christian Teaching (late 4th Century)

- Interpret obscure texts in light of clear ones
- Apply secular knowledge to biblical interpretation when possible
- Determine the literal and figurative senses of the passage

Reformation Era

In reference to the approach to the Bible. The,

- Focus of Scripture was on Christ, not the church/man
- Purpose of the Bible was salvation, not knowledge
- Basis for Christian doctrine and practice was the Bible.
- Authority for interpreting the Bible was in the individual.

Modern hermeneutics (roughly 1800 to today)

Conservative vs. Liberal

Princeton School/Westminster

vs.

Fundamentalism/Dispensationalism

There is a vast difference between coming to Jesus for salvation and coming after Jesus for service. Coming to Jesus makes one a believer, while coming after Jesus makes one a disciple. All believers are not disciples.

To become a believer one accepts the invitation of the gospel; to be a disciple one obeys the challenge to a life of dedicated service and separation. Salvation comes through the sacrifice of Christ, discipleship comes only by sacrifice of self and surrender to His call for dedicated service.

Salvation is free but discipleship involves paying the price of a separated walk. Salvation cannot be lost because it depends on God's faithfulness, but discipleship can be lost because it depends on our faithfulness.