

**The Attackers: Certitude of Biblical Prophecies; the Immutability of Scripture: Allegorical vis-à-vis Literal Hermeneutics; GDC Subscribes to the Literal-Grammatical-Historical Method & Verbal-Plenary Inspiration**

NOTE: We have studied the precision of the heavenly bodies. Their movements are so exact that as they travel along in their circuits, their configurations can be replicated by modern computer programs.

The Davidic Covenant was a prophecy that was fixed in the divine decree and thus impossible to negate. At the time the prophecies in 2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 89 were recorded they spoke of future events. Remember this principle related to prophecy:

**Biblical prophecy is not a look *into* the future and *predicting* what *will* occur, but rather a look back *from* the future and *reporting* what *does* occur.<sup>1</sup>**

Retrospectively, we are able to consult events recorded in Scripture and determine that the prophecies concerning the arrival of the Messiah as the Scion of the Davidic line have indeed come to past.

As the sun continues to provide light as the source of physical sustenance on this planet then we are reminded of the eternal Light of Christ who will reign forever, temporally on David's throne in the Millennium and in the eternal state of the new heavens and the new earth.

The moon obeys the route it is designed to follow and is so precise that its movements can be tracked with clockwork accuracy. It reflects the light of the sun as witness to its continued presence. Scripture provides us the written testimony of the faithfulness of God in all that He says. So it is written, so it shall be done!

43. We are not to worship the heavenly bodies we are to interpret them. We are not to worship the constellations, the stars, the sun, the planets, the moon, and God knows, we are not to worship this fallen earth. We are to observe the messages they each transmit and those messages contain knowledge of God's faithfulness, immutability, veracity, omnipotence, unfailing love, and integrity.
44. Because of these attributes, God was not willing to allow the Davidic line to be severed at the hands of Athaliah or the Assyrian army. Joash, son of Ahaziah, and Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, continued the royal line by divine decree.
45. God did not lie to David. God does not lie to us.

**The Immutability of Scripture:**

1. Hermeneutics is the science of interpreting the Bible but unfortunately there are many schools of hermeneutics. Two of the more prominent ones today are (1) allegorical and (2) literal. Allegory is defined as:

<sup>1</sup> Joe Griffin, *Ride with the Devil* (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2010), 9.

A story or visual image with a second distinct meaning partially hidden behind its literal or visible meaning. An allegory may be conceived as a metaphor that is extended into a structured system. In written narrative, allegory involves a continuous parallel between two (or more) levels of meaning in a story, so that its persons and events correspond to their equivalents in a system of ideas or a chain of events external to the tale: each character and episode in John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), for example, embodies an idea within a pre-existing Puritan doctrine of salvation. Allegorical thinking permeated the Christian literature of the Middle Ages, flourishing in the morality plays and in the dream visions of Dante and Langland. Some later allegorists like Dryden and Orwell used allegory as a method of satire; their hidden meanings are political rather than religious. In the medieval discipline of biblical exegesis, allegory became an important method of interpretation, a habit of seeking correspondences between different realms of meaning (e.g. physical and spiritual) or between the Old Testament and the New. It can be argued that modern critical interpretation continues this allegorizing tradition.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century rejected the allegorical method and returned to the literal interpretation of Scripture.
3. The allegorical method attempts to overcome difficulties allegedly caused by so-called "morally perplexing" passages. Its trend is to harmonize them with traditions and teachings of the denomination.
4. The general objective of allegorical interpretation is to make the text more comprehensible, acceptable, and relevant to the present-day.
5. This method allows the interpreter great latitude for subjective speculation while ignoring critical evaluation of the literal text.
6. Consequently, the allegorist does not draw out the legitimate meaning of the author's language. On the contrary, he foists into it whatever whim or fancy he may desire. This is called eisegesis: the interpretation of a text by reading into it one's own ideas.
7. Thus the interpretation may be twisted by the cleric's doctrinal position, the authority of the denomination to which he belongs, and by his social and educational background.
8. For the interpreter, the beauty of the allegorical method is that those who hear his message are left without any means to test his conclusions.
9. On the other hand, the literal method gives to each word the same basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary, and customary usage.
10. In as much as God gave His Word as a revelation to men, we would expect it to have been conveyed in such a manner that His thoughts may be accurately understood when interpreted from the laws of grammar and speech.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Baldick, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), 5.

11. Messages at Grace Doctrine Church are developed by the literal-grammatical-historical method of interpretation which recognizes two categories: (1) verbal: The Bible in its original words from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:20 is the exact record of the mind and will of God as He intended it to be, and (2) plenary: The entire text is equally from God but not necessarily equally important or equally indispensable, e.g., the Bible quotes human and satanic lies and erroneous views of the false prophets.
12. Therefore, verbal-plenary inspiration guarantees the accuracy of what is written, but it does not condone or sponsor error, evil, or falsehood; it merely explains them in detail.