

1. Last Sunday, we considered the basis of the way I approach interpreting Scripture.
  - **First Principle:** God has a purpose in Creation. It is spelled out in Revelation 21.
  - That purpose is to have a holy people for Himself who can and will live in His presence eternally. (Hebrews tells us clearly that only the “holy” can live in God’s presence.)
  - When studying any passage in Scripture, ask “what does this passage have to do with God’s purpose in Creation?”
2. I have other principles that I follow.
  - **Second Principle:** God is sovereign and omniscient, declaring the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). He knows all things – past, present, and future.
  - That means that when the OT was written at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the NT was already known to God.
  - Therefore, when studying the OT, consider the NT and how the two are linked. God did! The two testaments belong together and fit together. Recognizing that truth allows questions (especially why) to be answered that otherwise could not be.
3. **One 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle Example:** Revelation 7 mentions a multitude of people in heaven that no one can number, all dressed in “white robes.” Why the “white robes?”
  - You can trace the use of “white” to signify “holiness” or “purity” to God’s command to Moses on how to prepare the clothing for the High Priest (Aaron) and the other priests.
  - Aaron and all priests were to have a white tunic. Aaron’s outfit was to include a number of other items specified by God in detail.
  - For example: Aaron was also to wear a gold medallion attached to his headpiece. The medallion was to be engraved with “HOLY TO GOD.”
  - We thus see how “white” became symbolic for “Holy to God.” But **why** did God prescribe white tunics for priests?
  - That answer is found in the NT. God knew when He told Moses that the priests were to wear a white tunic that a time would come when the second Person of the Trinity would become incarnate on earth, taking to Himself a human nature (without disturbing in any way His divine nature).
  - In His human nature, God’s Christ would take to Himself the sins of all believers, pay the death penalty due those sins, suffer God’s wrath due those sins, thereby washing the sinner as “white as snow” free from sin’s penalty and God’s wrath.
  - So, though God doesn’t tell Moses, “the why of white tunics,” God knows! His Son will die on a cross, shedding His blood to wash believing sinners so that they are “white as snow,” all consistent with His purpose.

- We are privileged to have both the OT and the NT. They form one unit. In interpretation, it is often necessary to consider the NT to understand the “why” of the OT.
- The NT aids the interpretation of the OT (particularly “why” questions) because in the NT, we have the outworking of God’s plan after the incarnate mission of Jesus. His death, resurrection, and ascension. We also have in Revelation 21, God’s description of the “Why” of creation.