

The Stunningly Unique Word of God

- Herm & Knute's Toolkit – Tools 2 thru 5
- Case study: a spectacular fulfilled prophecy
by the **greatest Prophet** of all.



Herm & Knute's Toolkit

(Five Hermeneutical Tools)

1. What does the Bible say?

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Act 17:11



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2. Context, Context, Context

“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”

Colossians 2:21

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?

Colossians 2:20-21

2. Context, Context, Context



a. Scripture Interprets Scripture



b. Clearer passages interpret less clear passages



c. The NT interprets the OT

2a. Scripture Interprets Scripture

2b. Clearer passages interpret less clear passages

2c. The NT interprets the OT

“See, **I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes**. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; **or else** I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5-6

The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, **Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him**, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that **he was talking to them about John the Baptist**.

Matthew 17:10-13

[Jesus] came to that which was his own, but his own **did not receive him**. **John 1:11**



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3. One meaning; Many possible applications

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you all things** and will **remind you of everything I have said to you**. ...And when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will **guide you into all truth**.” **John 14:26, 16:13**

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4. A Biblically-literal interpretation
is perfectly
Normal and Natural

Classic: The sense and meaning *as intended by the author*.

Modern: The simplest, nonfigurative meaning.

4a. Figures of Comparison

- **Metaphor**

I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in
the shelter **of your wings**. **Psalms 61:4**

(aka **Personification** or **Anthropomorphism**)

4a. Figures of Comparison

- **Metaphor**

I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter **of your wings**. **Psalm 61:4**

- **Simile**

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were **like** sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:34

With the Lord a day is **like** a 1000 years, and a 1000 years is **like** a day... He is **patient** with you. **2 Peter 3:8-10**

4b. Figures of Association

- **Metonymy**

For it is we who are **the circumcision**, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh... **Philippians 3:3**

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- **Synecdoche**

And I saw the souls of **those who had been beheaded** because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. **Revelation 20:4**

4c. Rhetorical Over Statement

- **Hyperbole**

This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed **to every creature under heaven**, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. **Colossians 1:23**

(aka **Exaggeration**)

4d. Rhetorical Opposite Statement

- **Irony**

Go to Bethel **and sin**; go to Gilgal **and sin yet more...**”
declares the Sovereign LORD. **Amos 4:4**

When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel **has distinguished himself today**, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!” **2 Samuel 6:20**

(aka **Sarcasm**)

4e. Substitution

- **Euphemism**

And Adam **knew** his wife Eve; and she conceived...

Genesis 4:1 KJV

(mild/indirect/vague *for* offensive/harsh/blunt)



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5. Look for the Time Clues

(Special Prophecy Tool)

Dear children, **this is** the last hour; and as **you** have heard that antichrist is coming, even **now** many antichrists **have** come. This is how **we** know it **is** the last hour [of what?]. 1 John 2:18

WHEN does a prophetic event take place?

Case Study:

Who in the Bible is the
Greatest Prophet of all?

Jesus' Greatest Prophecy:

His own death & resurrection

[After cleansing the temple] Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

The Jews replied, “It has taken 46 years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. **John 2:19-22**

What was Jesus' 2nd greatest prophecy?

Another Temple Prophecy

- At the **beginning** of Jesus' ministry:

[In Nazareth in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.] Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, **to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**" ...and he said to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." **Luke 4:16-21**

- **Why did Jesus stop there?** (Isaiah 61:1-2a)

Another Temple Prophecy

- The rest of the prophetic couplet:

He has sent me... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor **and the day of vengeance of our God.** ” Isaiah 61:2a & b

- Now, at the **end** of Jesus' ministry:

“When **you** see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, **you** will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. **For these are the days of vengeance** in fulfillment of all that has been written” Luke 21:20-22

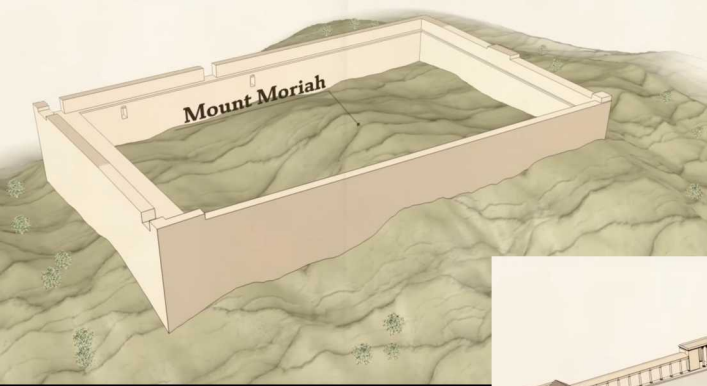
- **What did Jesus prophesy only hours before?**

“my Father’s house” – John 2:16

“At sunrise it shimmered with the utmost brilliance and dazzled the eye like rays of the sun” – Josephus

“magnificence beyond compare”

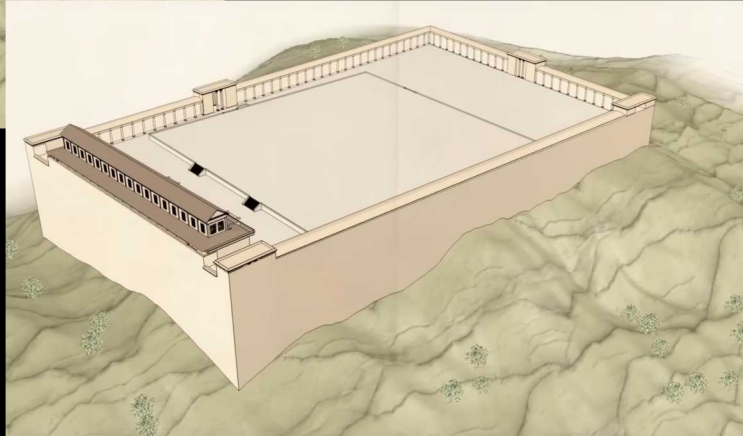


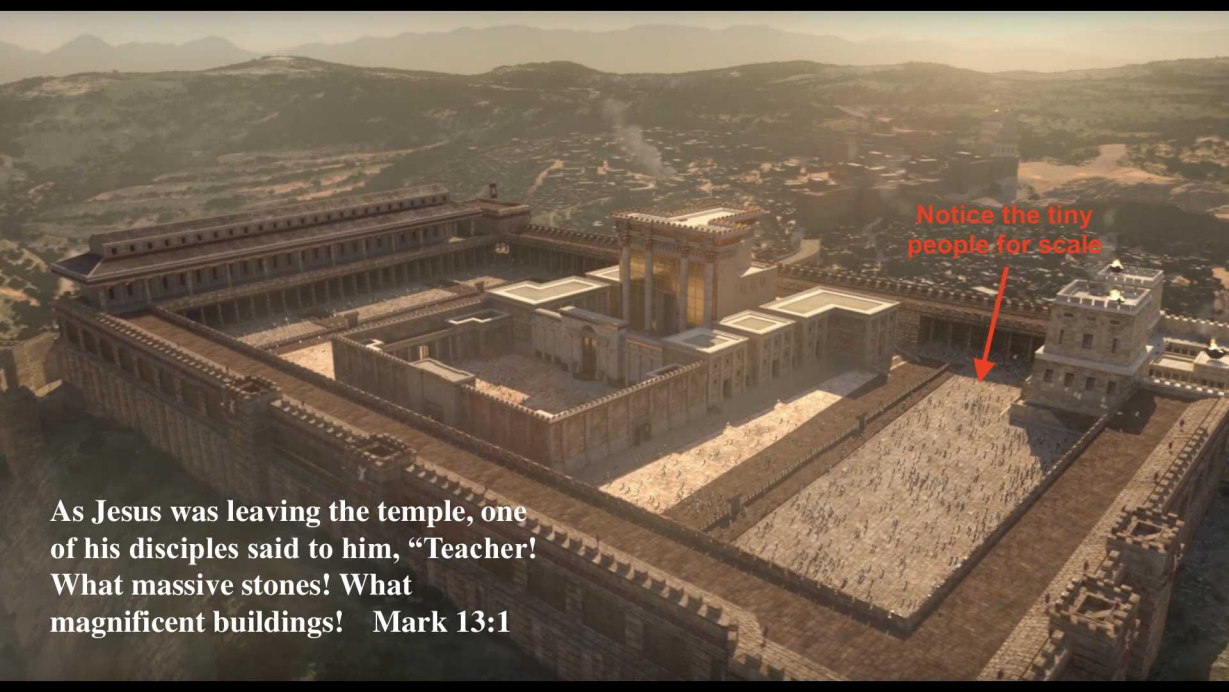


Herod the Great

- One of greatest architects
- Razed the old temple
- Built new temple in 18 months
- 82 years to finish in AD 63

- Walls almost 1/3 mile long
- Enclosing 33 football fields
- 90 meters high at street level
- 40' x 80' limestone blocks weighing 100s of tons
- Many rows of arches to support the courtyard pavement



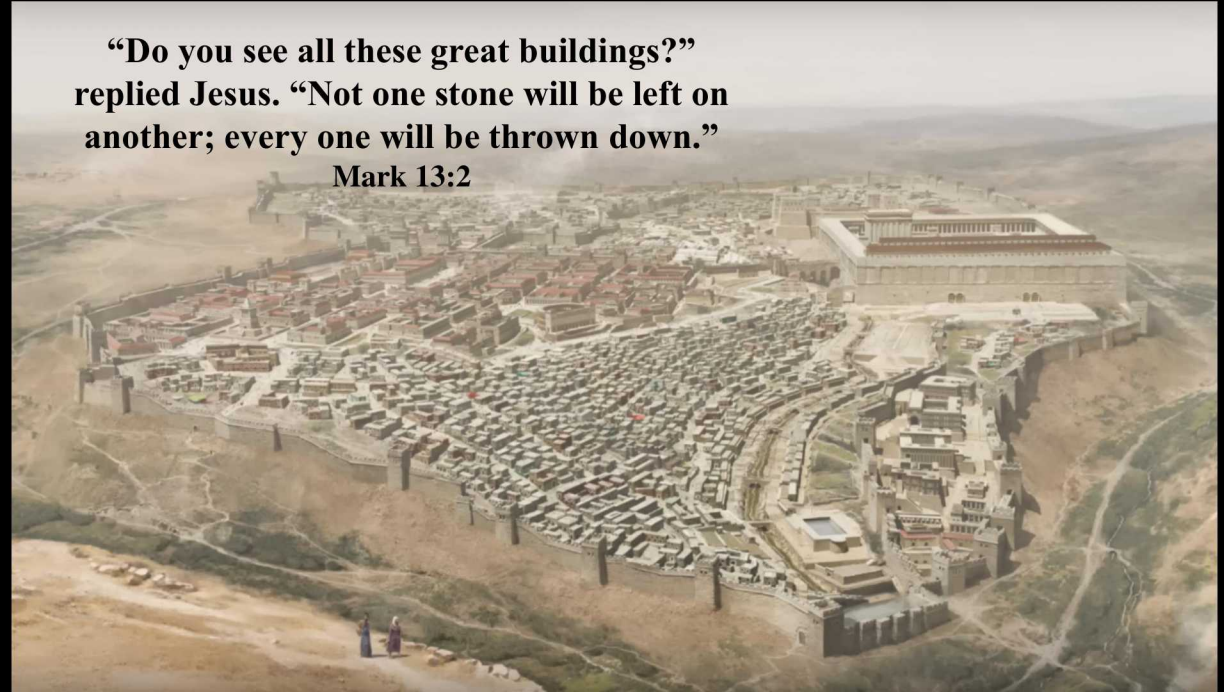


Notice the tiny
people for scale

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one
of his disciples said to him, "Teacher!
What massive stones! What
magnificent buildings! Mark 13:1

**“Do you see all these great buildings?”
replied Jesus. “Not one stone will be left on
another; every one will be thrown down.”**

Mark 13:2



“Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem” by Francesco Hayez



Why don't we read about the actual destruction of Jerusalem in the Bible?

- **Who was Josephus?**
- **Titus wanted to save the temple**
- **What actually happened**
- **Even Micah 3:12 fulfilled**
- **Julian the Apostate fails again**

Case Study continued:

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, **when** will these things happen? And what will be **the sign** that they are about to be fulfilled?” **Mark 13:3-4**

- **And so Jesus does.** See Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

I tell **you** the truth, **this generation** will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. **Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32**

What do you think?

Future:

- (1) How did we get the 66 books of the Bible?
(aka, “canonicity”)
- (2) How do I use the Bible effectively?