

LITERAL INTERPRETATION MT. 19:27-30

The weather is really bad – it’s raining cats and dogs!

We don’t have much time, so let’s shake a leg!

Walk into McDonald’s / Culvers:

I would like a concrete!

I would like a blizzard!

Pinapadugo mo ang ilong ko!

You are giving me a nose bleed!

We believe in literal interpretation – what can we say about it?

1. Literal hermeneutics – no one likes the name / term!

Song of Solomon 4:1 Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; Thou hast doves’ eyes within thy locks: **Thy hair is as a flock of goats**, that appear from mount Gilead. **Song of Solomon 4:2** Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; Whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them. **Song of Solomon 4:3** Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: **Thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks.** **Song of Solomon 4:4** Thy neck is like the tower of David Buildded for an armoury, Whereon there hang a **thousand** bucklers, all shields of mighty men.

This is obvious because:

➤ **LH is so easy to mock / make fun of**

➤ **LH has been misused by its proponents**

Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? **till seven times?** **Matthew 18:22** Jesus saith unto him, I say **not** unto thee, Until seven times: **but, Until seventy times seven.**

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: But the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Proverbs 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, And let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: **Proverbs 24:18** Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, And he turn away his wrath from him. **Proverbs 24:19** Fret not thyself because of evil men, Neither be thou envious at the wicked;

➤ **Dispensationalists themselves have constantly used other words to help define LH**

Words such as plain, normal, clear, direct, basic, face value, everyday use of language...

➤ **LH allows for all literary expressions: similes, metaphors, and a host of others. We just believe those literary expressions mean s**

Psalms 18:1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. **Psalms 18:2** The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep.**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white **like** wool, as white **as** snow; and his eyes were **as** a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 And his feet **like** unto fine brass, **as** if they burned in a furnace; and his voice **as** the sound of many

waters. **Revelation 1:16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. **Revelation 1:17** And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Song of Solomon 1:6 Look not upon me, because I am black, Because the sun hath looked upon me: My mother's children were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards (הַכְּרָמִים); But mine own vineyard (כְּרָמִי שְׁלִי) have I not kept.

Song of Solomon 2:15 Take us the foxes, The little foxes, that spoil the vines (כְּרָמִים): For our vines (וְכַרְמֵינוּ) have tender grapes.

Song of Solomon 7:11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; Let us lodge in the villages.

Song of Solomon 7:12 Let us get up early to the vineyards (לְכַרְמֵינוּ); Let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, And the pomegranates bud forth: **There** will I give thee my loves.

Song of Solomon 8:11 Solomon had a vineyard (כְּרָם) at Baal-hamon (בְּבַעַל הַמֶּזֶן); He let out the vineyard (אֶת־הַכְּרָם) unto keepers; Every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver. **Song of Solomon 8:12** My vineyard (כְּרָמִי), which is mine (שְׁלִי), is before me (לְפָנַי): Thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, And those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.

Song of Solomon 6:8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, And virgins without number. **1 Kings 11:3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

2. Literal hermeneutics – everyone uses the method!

Everyone =

It's funny for all the abuse that I've heard about LH, I actually learned it from the broad Reformation.

“If the plain sense of Scripture makes sense, seek no other sense lest it becomes nonsense!”

John 2:6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

John 21:11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

I learned from all the Reformed to avoid the Quadriga:

Literal = what you think

Allegorical = what you connect to the rest of the Bible

Moral / Tropological = a moral to the story

Analogical = tie to future events

Literal hermeneutics / interpretation: The author's **intent &/ understanding** as expressed **in** the text and **then** understood by the reader / hearer.

Grammatical – historical – literary hermeneutics!

3. Literal hermeneutics - dispensationalists use this method **consistently** (and **only** dispensationalists).

Literal hermeneutics / interpretation: The author's **intent** &/ **understanding** as expressed in the text and then understood by the reader / hearer.

Grammatical – historical – literary hermeneutics!

Revelation 7:4-8 The 144,000

Revelation 7:9-17 The Number no man can count

Revelation 11:3-8 The Two Witnesses

Non-dispensationalists:

- Use the literal method
- Require others to use that method
- Always use that method
- **Except** for unfulfilled prophecy → which would cause them to rethink other commitments
- And allow, or even demand, a national, ethnic Israel back in the door!

Dispensationalists interpret unfulfilled prophecy the **same** as we do fulfilled prophecy – and the **same** as we do the rest of the Bible!

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, **That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. Matthew 19:30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

4. Literal hermeneutics – dispensationalists use this method as the **only** verifiable method.

Verifiable → falsifiable, checkable, testability, safeguards, controls, checks and balances....

Math Teachers: Show me your **work** and not just your **answer!!!**

The Millennium:

- After Christ returns 19:11-21
- When Satan is bound 20:1-3
- And is unable to deceive people
- Preceded by the first resurrection 20:4-6
- Believers reign with Christ 20:4,6
- For 1000 years 20:2,3,4,5,6,7
- Followed by Satan's release, rebellion, and final judgement 20:7-9

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

- Followed by the Great White Throne Judgement
- Concluding with the New Heaven and the New Earth

What can we say about the numbers of Revelation 20?

| | |
|---|---|
| 1,000: | A large, definite / specific number 20:2,3,4,5,6,7 τὰ χίλια |
| A little season: | A small, indefinite number 20:3 μικρὸν χρόνον |
| <u>Number</u> of whom is as the sand of the sea: | A very large, indefinite number expressed figuratively 20:8 ὁ ἀριθμὸς ὡς ἡ ἄμμος τῆς θαλάσσης |
| Four quarters of the earth: | A small, definite, figurative expression <u>and</u> number ! 20:8 ταῖς τέσσαρσιν γωνίαις 4 is a cardinal number. The 4 cardinal directions are found in most cultures: north, south, east, west |
| Day and night: | A definite, figurate expression 20:10 ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτὸς Meaning day, the wh day, 24 hours... |
| For ever and ever: | The largest, figurative expression 20:10 εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων |
| First resurrection & second death: | Exact, ordinal numbers An ordinal number gives order 20:5, 6; 20:14 20:10 & 19:19-20 ἡ ἀνάστασις ἡ πρώτη ὁ δεύτερος θάνατος Does 2 nd ever mean 4 th ? Does 3 rd ever mean 1 st ? Are these numbers ever |

| | |
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| Figurative <u>unless</u> you can demonstrate / prove it is literal (concerning numbers). This is the position for Amil, Postmil, preterist, idealist, and historicist position. | Literal <u>unless</u> you can demonstrate / prove it is figurative (concerning numbers). Premil position |
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