**Strong in Him**

**How to stay strong in God through scriptures.**

**Coastal Region**

My assignment from Brian: Encourage the disciples on how to be strong in their relationship with God in the long term.

A quick “thing” from Ephesians, then we will jump into Matthew.

Overview: How do I get deep, inspirational understanding of God from the Bible?

Love God with all your heart, soul, **mind** and strength.

Ask great questions:

For example: What is the theme passage? How does this book fit in the Bible?

How is he using this argument? Who is the audience? What book is similar?

Is this passage command, principle or example?

Example of one that helped me with Ephesians:

Which is it:

1. Paul is giving some cool theology, but the theology is there to support his real purpose, which is to admonish them in Christian living.

Or

2. Paul is giving a deep treatise on the theology of Christ, and throws in a few useful applications at the end to illustrate what he just taught.

My answer: Neither. Paul states his theology of Christ and then illustrates his theology of Christ with many practical examples, specifically about life in the Church. They are both examples of and applications of….

A couple of examples:

Eph 4:17-24 You cannot live that way. Why not? V. 20-21a because it is not consistent with what you know about Christ.

Eph 4:29 No unwholesome talk. Why? v. 30 Because it will grieve the Holy Spirit which is in you as a deposit (Eph 1:13-14)

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate. Why? because God in Christ forgave you (Eph 1:7, 2:8-10)

Eph 5:1 Love one another. Why? Because he loved you. (Eph 3:14-19)

Eph 5:3-7 Avoid sexual sin. Why? Because God brought you out of darkness. (Eph 2:1-8)

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk. Why? Because the HS lives in you (Eph 2:22)

**Now, let’s do a little study of Matthew.**

Theme of Matthew: Jesus the [Jewish] Messiah is the culmination of salvation history and brings salvation from sin to all people.

Theme verse Matthew 5:17

5:17 Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets. Jesus does this in a wide variety of ways.

a. In that he, unlike any other human before him, literally fulfilled all the requirements of the Law of Moses.

Leviticus 18:5: “For the man who obeys them will live by them.”

b. In that through his actions he satisfied the penalty for all of us who did not fully obey the Law of Moses.

c. In that his life fulfilled all the Messianic expectations in the OT. the foreshadows and prefigures contained in the entire Law of Moses (the sacrifices, the festivals, the laws, the items in the tabernacle, etc.) John 5:39

Everything the Old Testament anticipated finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

d. Jesus completes/rounds out/explains more fully what was only implied by the Law of Moses. Progressive Revelation. This is the sense in which the term is used most directly in the Sermon on the Mount. Ex: not just avoiding adultery

 Ex: not just murder Ex: not just loving your neighbor.

A. In Luke Jesus is the Messiah because his life and ministry meet the messianic expectation.

B. In John Jesus is the Messiah because of who he says he is and because of his miracles.

C. In Matthew he is the Messiah because he fulfills “all the Law and the Prophets”

Prophecy fulfillment:

1. Matthew 1:20-23 (Isaiah 7:14) The virgin will be with child and willgivebirth to a son and will call him Immanuel” (which means God-with-us).

This tells us that:

Jesus is the son of man

Jesus is the son of God

Jesus is God-with us. He is God, and he is with us. .

“all this” (v.22) was to fulfill this expectation

from his birth (1:22) to his ascension,

and even beyond (Matthew 28:20) Jesus is God with us.

2. Matthew 2:15 (Hosea 11:1) tells us that Jesus is Saviour, as he goes down into Egypt in order to call us out of Egypt and slavery to sin.

Out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1. Note that critics accuse

Matthew here of taking Hosea 11:1 out of context, but this is a shallow understanding of the OT and the principle of foreshadowing.

1. Out of Egypt God called Moses, the prefigure of Christ.
2. Out of Egypt God called his people Israel, a foreshadow of our own being called out of Egypt.
3. Out of Egypt God called Jesus as the savior of his people out of Egypt.
4. Out of Egypt God calls every one of us, all of who are slaves to sin (John 8:31f)

**"What [he has not] assumed has not been healed;
Gregory of Nazianzus, Epistle 101**

3. Matthew 2:23 (Isaiah 11:1-2, Jeremiah 23:5, Zech 3:8, 6:12)

Hebrew: *nazer* = shoot, branch.

Isaiah 11:1-2 Messiah is the branch of Jesse

Jeremiah 23:5 A king who will rule wisely. A branch of David.

Jesus is both the Branch of Jesse/David and a Nazarene.

Jesus is King of Kings. That he is royalty. 2:23 He will be called a Nazarene

4. Matthew 12:15-21 Isaiah 42:1-4. Jesus a humble and gentle servant.

Jesus was the most powerful man who ever lived, yet he dealt gently with us sinners. That is a great comfort to me.

1. Matthew 21:4-5 (Zechariah 9:9-10) Riding on a colt. Jesus is King “your king”, but not the kind of king the world expects. He is a gentle and humble king. Ex:Matt 11:30 My yoke is easy and my burden light.

Zech 9:10 Our king will rule from the River to the ends of the earth.

Is Jesus the king of your life? Are you a citizen of his kingdom? Then you will obey the constitution of that kingdom which is in Matthew 5-7.

6. Matthew 27:6-10 (Zech 11:10-13) Jesus valued as a slave (approximate price for a slave was $30) Jesus' blood money was used to take care of Gentiles. (v. 7)

All of us rejected Jesus

All of us sold him out for the price of a slave.

Zech 11:13“the price at which they priced me.” Jesus is God

Jesus in Matthew:

God made four covenants with Israel. Jesus fulfilled all four (and Matthew takes the time to point out all four)..

1. The covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:8-17) Matt 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

2. The covenant with Abraham Through you all nations will be blessed Matthew 1:1-17 (Genesis 12:1-3 for example)

3. The covenant with Moses Matthew 5

4. The covenant with David. .(2 Sam 7:11-16)

Jesus is:

a. Son of Abraham (Matthew 1:2)

b. Son of Moses/Second Moses Parallels

Moses like Jesus,

1. A jealous king wanted to hill him as a baby. (2:13)

2. Children die at the hands of that jealous king (2:20)

3. Both came out of Egypt (v. 15)

4. Both returned home when the jealous king died. (v. 19)

5. Both were in the desert for forty days.

c. Jesus called the “Son of David” Matthew 1:1 (9 times on Matthew, only 3 times in Mark, Luke)

It stresses David taking the throne and, 14 generations later, Israel losing the throne in the exile, which is a (messianic) expectation of Jesus taking the throne back again.

Enters Jerusalem as David did on Palm Sunday Matt 21:9 2 Sam 6:12-16 was a preenactment, etc.)

d. Jesus is king as the son of Solomon as well.

The visit of the Magi was foreshadowed in the OT in the visit of the Queen of Sheba to visit Solomon to bring gifts, acknowledging his kingship

Matthew 2:11 Gentiles are the first to acknowledge Jesus as King, and to worship him.

(amplified in Matthew 12:42). Here we see Jesus as the second Solomon.

(Matthew 12:42)

This points out that Jesus is king, not just of the Jews, but of the Gentiles.

e. Jesus is the second Jonah as well Matthew 12:39-41. (offers life to save Gentiles, gambling over his clothes, raised from dead on 3rd day, Comes from Gath Hepher (3 km from Nazareth)

But Jesus fulfills all the Old Testament messianic prefigures. He is

Son of God (at his baptism Matt 3:17 and transfiguration Matt 17:5) Psalm 2:7

Son of Man Daniel 7:13.

The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 Matt 16:21 The Messiah must suffer Matthew 20:24-28 The greatest is the servant of all.

One last example Matthew 4: The temptation of Jesus.

While in the desert, as Israel was, Jesus had to be tempted in every way as we are.

In this case, whereas Israel failed miserably, Jesus was triumphant. Again we see the theme here that Jesus is the true Israel who was called out of Egypt and tested in the desert.

Allusions to Israel’s temptation

v. 4 rely on human-produced things rather than God Deut 8:10-18

v. 7 testing God Rely on God to get you out of messes of your own creation (as did Israel at Massah in Deut 6:16 Exodus 17:7 *massah* = testing).

v. 10 Worship things other than God. To give non-exclusive loyalty to God. (Deut 5:6-10, 8:19-20)

Q: How are you doing in these areas?