

Dr. David Mathewson, Hermeneutics, Session 24, Old Testament in the New Testament Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Mathewson, Hermeneutics, Session 24, Old Testament in the New Testament, [Biblicalelearning.org](https://www.biblicalelearning.org), BeL

Dr. Mathewson's lecture discusses how New Testament authors use the Old Testament, categorizing their methods as **direct quotation**, **allusion**, and **echo**. The lecture explores criteria for identifying allusions and echoes, considering authorial intent and the more recent approach of intertextuality, which focuses on the reader's insightful interpretation. Different levels of certainty (certain, probable, possible, unlikely) are assigned to allusions based on established criteria. Finally, the lecture provides examples from Matthew, Galatians, Ephesians, and Hebrews, analyzing how Old Testament references shape the meaning of the New Testament passages.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, Hermeneutics, Session 24 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the [Biblicalelearning.org](https://www.biblicalelearning.org) [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introduction & Languages → Introductory Series → Hermeneutics).



**Mathewson_Herme
n_Session24.mp3**

3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided source, "Mathewson_Herm_EN_Lecture24_OTinNT.pdf," which focuses on the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament:

Briefing Document: Old Testament Usage in the New Testament

Main Theme: The lecture explores how New Testament authors utilize the Old Testament, the different types of usage, criteria for identifying these usages, and the implications of these connections for biblical interpretation. It moves beyond simply identifying direct quotations to examining more subtle forms such as allusions and echoes and also touches on the concept of intertextuality.

Key Ideas and Facts:

1. Rabbinic Techniques and NT Interpretation:

- The lecture begins by acknowledging the influence of rabbinic interpretive techniques (like midrash peshar, arguing from lesser to greater, etc.) on New Testament authors.
- A key question is raised: "Are New Testament authors simply following the standard principles of interpretation and interpretive techniques of their day, and if so, what distinguishes the way a New Testament author utilizes the Old Testament as opposed to the way rabbinic interpreters treated the Old Testament as well?"
- This leads to the broader question of whether contemporary interpreters are permitted to use the Old Testament in the same way as the New Testament authors.

1. Three Categories of Old Testament Usage:

- **Direct Quotation:** Explicitly signaled by a quotation formula (e.g., "just as it is written in Isaiah the prophet," "this took place to fulfill what was spoken of in Hosea").
- "usually what you find is a quotation of the Old Testament text that is kept intact, usually."
- **Allusion:** Implicit reference to an Old Testament text, without a quotation formula.

- "the author does not signal his intent to point you to an Old Testament text. But instead, he usually takes the wording and the structure and the concepts and weaves them into his own discourse."
- The author weaves the language, structure, and concepts of an Old Testament text into the discourse.
- Example: Ephesians 1:20-22, evoking Psalm 110 and 8. "That language of seating him at the right hand, it recalls the vocabulary and language of Psalm 110...And God placed all things under his feet, which reflects vocabulary in Psalm chapter 8."
- **Echo:** A more subtle reflection of the Old Testament, often only a word or two, may not be intended by the author, and is often more of a resonance of the text in the mind of the reader.
- "a more subtle use of the Old Testament that may not, or subtle reflection of the Old Testament, that may not even be intended by the author...often they're almost a whisper of an Old Testament text..."
- Example: Philippians 1:19, which has possible echoes of Job 13:16: "pray will turn out for my deliverance appears to be almost word for word what is found in Job chapter 13 and verse 16."

1. Identifying Allusions and Echoes:

- **Authorial Intent:** Determining whether an author intended an allusion or echo is crucial.
- **Criteria for Identification:****Similar Wording:** Is the vocabulary in the New Testament text similar to an Old Testament text?
- **Similar Structure:** Are the structures of the New and Old Testament texts similar?
- **Cross-Reference:** Does the author refer to the potential Old Testament text elsewhere in their work?
- **Scholarly Consensus:** Have other interpreters noticed the same reference?
- "things like vocab, similar vocabulary, similar structure, similar meaning and function. Does the author refer to the text elsewhere, seem to quote it or allude it elsewhere? Those are the kind of things that have been pointed to."

1. Confidence Levels in Identifying Allusions:

- **Certain:** High confidence due to strong evidence (similarity, authorial awareness, cross-references).
- **Probable:** Good evidence, but certainty is not reached. "we can't arrive at a level of certainty, but there's a high level of probability that the author is indeed intending to refer back to the Old Testament text."
- **Possible:** Some evidence, but the connection is not conclusive.
- **Unlikely:** Insufficient evidence to support an Old Testament connection.

1. **Intertextuality:**

- **Reader-Focused:** Shifts the focus from the author's intent to the reader's interpretation and whether the connection is productive. "the focus in intertextuality and the focus on intertextual studies is not so much on the author...But instead, whether the proposed Old Testament allusion is productive and makes for an insightful or valid reading..."
- **Dialogue between Texts:** Encourages exploring the relationships and transformations that occur when New Testament texts interact with Old Testament texts. "a relationship is set up in which the interpreter is invited to explore a series of correspondences between the two texts and to ask what difference does it make to read the New Testament text in light of the Old Testament text?"

1. **Practical Suggestions for Studying Old Testament Usage:**

- **Consult Commentaries:** Learn from other interpreters' insights, but be aware of the potential for repetition of ideas.
- "a good place to start is with other commentaries and tools that will help point your attention to possible Old Testament allusions."
- **Listen to the New Testament:** Be attentive to potential correspondences.
- "be aware of and listen to the New Testament, listen to the New Testament text, have your ears open to hear possible correspondences between the Old Testament and the New Testament."
- **Know the Old Testament:** Deeper knowledge of the Old Testament will lead to better detection of resonances. "the more you know the Old Testament, the more you are aware of the Old Testament text and their context, the better position you will be to hear resonances in the New Testament text."

- **Identify the type of reference:** Distinguish between quotations, allusions, and echoes.
- **Consider the Textual Form:** Is the New Testament author using the Hebrew text or the Septuagint (Greek translation)?
- **Understand the Old Testament's Original Context:** What was the original meaning and intention of the Old Testament text?
- **Examine Early Jewish Interpretations:** How was the Old Testament text understood in early Jewish and rabbinic literature?
- **Analyze the Function in the New Testament:** How is the Old Testament text being used in the New Testament context? What meaning does it bring? Is it prediction-fulfillment, typological, or illustrative? "what meaning would be missing in the New Testament text if I did not read it in light of its Old Testament subtext, the text that the author appears to be drawing on?"
- **Explore Dialogue:** Investigate interactions between the Old and New Testament texts.
- **Compare Rabbinic Usage:** How does the New Testament author's usage compare to rabbinic interpretations?
- **Determine the Interpretive Difference:** Ultimately, does an understanding of the Old Testament text make a difference in how one interprets the New Testament text? "it's not enough just to recognize possible connections and allusions and echoes and quotations, but ultimately one wants to ask what difference does this actually make in interpreting the New Testament text."

1. **Significance of Old Testament:**

- The Old Testament is essential because it provided the framework and examples for New Testament authors to understand how Christ brought fulfillment.
- "New Testament writers, as they conceptualize how Christ brought fulfillment, they utilized examples from the Old Testament, they utilized Old Testament texts and understood how ultimately the Old Testament was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ."

1. **Examples of Old Testament Usage:**

- **Matthew 2:** Matthew is presented as a text that uses Old Testament texts to explain and justify the early life of Jesus:

- **Hosea 11:1 in Matthew 2:15** is used typologically; not as a prediction of Christ but reflecting God's preservation of the "son" Israel being repeated in Christ.
- The story of the baby Jesus in Matthew 2 parallels the Exodus story of Moses, with Herod's attempt to kill the baby boys mirroring Pharaoh's actions.
- **Exodus 4:19 in Matthew 2:20** The angel's words to Joseph are almost verbatim of the Septuagint from Exodus chapter 4 verse 19, emphasizing Jesus as a new Moses.
- The Magi's visit is a reflection of Isaiah 60, with the nations bringing wealth to the Messiah in Bethlehem, this serves to show that the new creation has been inaugurated through Jesus.
- **Galatians 1:15:** Paul's reference to being "set apart at birth" is an allusion to Jeremiah 1:5 and Isaiah 49:1, portraying him as a prophet called by God, with a prophetic sense of commission.
- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** This section has numerous allusions to Isaiah, which are used to illustrate how Jesus is creating a new people of God through his death. The text uses language from Isaiah to discuss the inclusion of Gentiles, the creation of a new humanity, and peace between Jews and Gentiles. "this is fulfilled in the death of Jesus Christ and creating a new humanity, a new people of God, consisting of Jew and Gentile, the church, and the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile..."

1. **Future Discussion:**

- The lecture will go on to further discuss examples from Hebrews and Revelation, particularly focusing on the warning passage in Hebrews 6:4-6.

Summary: This lecture highlights the importance of recognizing the various ways that New Testament authors engage with the Old Testament. It emphasizes that interpretation should consider not only explicit quotations but also the more nuanced allusions and echoes, as well as the broader idea of intertextuality. These various methods of using the Old Testament are shown to be essential to understanding the message of the New Testament.

4. Mathewson, Hermeneutics, Session 24, Old Testament in the New Testament

Old Testament in the New Testament: A Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the primary question that arises when studying the use of rabbinic techniques in the New Testament?
2. What is a direct quotation, and how is it typically identified?
3. How does an allusion differ from a direct quotation in the New Testament?
4. Describe the concept of an “echo” in the context of Old Testament usage in the New Testament.
5. When trying to determine whether an author intended an allusion or echo, what criteria are typically considered?
6. Explain the categories of "certain," "probable," and "possible" allusions.
7. What is the focus of intertextuality studies regarding Old Testament allusions in the New Testament, and how does it differ from the focus on authorial intent?
8. What is meant by the concept of “dialogue” in the context of intertextuality?
9. What practical steps are suggested for studying the use of the Old Testament in the New?
10. How does understanding the original meaning of an Old Testament text contribute to interpreting the New Testament?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The primary question is whether New Testament authors are simply using the standard interpretive principles of their time, similar to rabbinic interpretations, and if so, what distinguishes their use of the Old Testament. Specifically, is the way they use the OT unique and theologically significant?

2. A direct quotation is when a New Testament author explicitly signals the use of an Old Testament text, usually with a quotation formula such as "as it is written," and the Old Testament text is typically kept intact.
3. An allusion involves a New Testament author weaving the wording, structure, and concepts of an Old Testament text into their own discourse without explicitly signaling it with a quotation formula; it is more implicit.
4. An echo is a subtle reflection of the Old Testament, often involving just a word or two; it's more of an "echo in the mind" and may not even be intended by the author.
5. Criteria include similar wording and structure between the Old and New Testament texts, whether the author refers to the text elsewhere, and whether other commentators have identified the same reference.
6. A "certain" allusion has strong evidence in wording, structure, and authorial use; a "probable" allusion has a good chance of intent but not enough for certainty; a "possible" allusion could be there, but it is less clear and has minimal supporting evidence.
7. Intertextuality focuses on whether the proposed Old Testament allusion is productive and insightful for the reader, not solely on whether the author intended it, and this allows for a greater range of interpretive possibilities.
8. "Dialogue" means the reader explores the connections and interactions between the Old and New Testament texts and the transformations from old to new, considering how reading them together changes the understanding of each.
9. Practical steps include consulting commentaries and other works, being aware of and listening to the New Testament text, identifying the type of reference, considering the form of the text (e.g., Hebrew or Septuagint), and examining the original context of the Old Testament text.
10. Understanding the original meaning of an Old Testament text in its historical and literary context is crucial as it helps illuminate how the New Testament author interprets, transforms, or builds upon the Old Testament.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question in a well-organized essay format.

1. Discuss the differences between quotations, allusions, and echoes in the New Testament use of the Old Testament. How does understanding these differences impact our interpretation?
2. How does the concept of intertextuality change the way scholars approach the relationship between the Old and New Testaments? What are the strengths and weaknesses of focusing on the reader's interpretation rather than the author's intent?
3. Explain how the identification of Old Testament allusions can deepen our understanding of New Testament theology. Use specific examples to illustrate.
4. Describe how the early Jewish and rabbinic interpretations of Old Testament texts might provide crucial context when interpreting their use in the New Testament.
5. Using one of the provided examples from the lecture, show how recognizing the Old Testament subtext or background to a New Testament passage changes its interpretation. What theological and hermeneutical principles are involved?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Allusion:** A subtle, indirect reference to a previous text, where the author weaves the wording, concepts, or structures into their own discourse without explicit signals.
- **Direct Quotation:** An explicit reference to a text, usually signaled with a formula (e.g., "as it is written"), where the author intends for the reader to recognize an Old Testament text.
- **Echo:** A subtle and potentially unintentional use of a word or phrase that resonates with an earlier text; it is a more distant connection than an allusion and may not always be the conscious intention of the author.
- **Hermeneutics:** The study of the principles of interpretation, particularly of the Bible.
- **Intertextuality:** The concept that texts are not created in isolation, but in dialogue with other texts. It emphasizes how a new text can interact with and reshape the understanding of earlier texts and vice versa.
- **Midrash:** A form of rabbinic commentary on biblical texts, often involving expansion, interpretation, or re-application of the text to new contexts.
- **Pesher:** A rabbinic interpretive method used in the Dead Sea Scrolls that explains a biblical text by seeing it fulfilled in the community's present context.
- **Septuagint:** The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, often used by New Testament authors.
- **Subtext:** The underlying, implicit meaning or set of associations within a text that can be revealed by connecting it to other texts.
- **Typology:** A way of reading the Old Testament in which people, events, or institutions prefigure or foreshadow similar things in the New Testament.

5. FAQs on Mathewson, Hermeneutics, Session 2, Old Testament in the New Testament, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Old Testament Use in the New Testament

- **What are some key questions that arise when studying how the New Testament (NT) uses the Old Testament (OT)?**
- Many questions arise when analyzing OT usage in the NT. One is whether NT authors simply adopted interpretive techniques common in their time, such as those found in rabbinic literature (e.g., *midrash pesher*). Another core question is whether modern readers are justified in treating the OT in the same way as NT authors do. Finally, a critical question has emerged regarding how to classify and categorize the various ways NT authors use the OT. These questions underscore the complexity of the topic and its interpretive challenges.
- **What are the primary categories used to classify the ways the NT uses the OT?**
- There are generally three categories: direct quotation, allusion, and echo. A **direct quotation** is when the author explicitly indicates that they are quoting from the OT, often using phrases like, "as it is written." An **allusion** is a less direct reference where the author weaves the language, structure, and concepts of an OT passage into their own text without explicitly stating they are doing so. An **echo** is the most subtle, often involving a single word or phrase that evokes an OT text, though sometimes it may not even be intentional on the part of the author. The three categories exist on a spectrum from more explicit (quotation) to more subtle (echo).
- **How can we determine if a New Testament author is alluding to an Old Testament text?**
- Determining if an allusion is present is not always straightforward and involves several criteria. First, is there similar wording between the NT and OT texts? Second, is there a similar structure? Third, does the author reference the supposed OT text elsewhere in their writing? Fourth, have other scholars recognized this potential connection? Beyond these, the similarity of meaning and function between the two passages can strengthen the identification of an allusion. The level of confidence in identifying an allusion can be classified as certain, probable, possible, or unlikely, depending on how well the criteria are met.

- **What is "intertextuality" and how does it differ from traditional approaches to studying OT use in the NT?**
- Intertextuality is a recent approach that moves beyond authorial intent to focus on the reader's experience and the dynamic relationship between texts. Unlike traditional methods that prioritize the author's historical context and intentions, intertextuality looks at the productivity and insightfulness of possible connections identified by the reader. The focus shifts to how the OT and NT passages engage in a "dialogue," and how the OT context informs and reshapes the meaning of the NT text. This approach also considers the possible influence that a specific text may have, irrespective of authorial intent.
- **What are the key principles to consider when analyzing the use of OT in the NT?**
- Several key principles can guide analysis. Start by consulting commentaries and resources to see what others have observed. Listen attentively to the NT text and be open to potential connections with the OT, requiring a solid knowledge of the OT. Identify the type of reference (quotation, allusion, or echo), and consider the specific form of the OT text being used (e.g., Septuagint vs. Hebrew). Investigate the original meaning of the OT text in its own historical context, as well as any rabbinic or early Jewish interpretations that could provide additional layers of understanding. Finally, analyze how the NT author uses the OT text in its context and what the impact of the OT text is upon the NT text.
- **How does Matthew use the Old Testament in his narrative, particularly in chapter 2?**
- Matthew's use of the OT in chapter 2 is particularly strategic. While he includes direct quotes to explain the geographical movements of Jesus, his use of Hosea 11:1 to describe Jesus's time in Egypt reveals a typological/analogical approach. Matthew sees Jesus's experiences as mirroring and fulfilling events from Israel's history. For instance, the story of the infant Jesus being threatened by Herod and rescued in Egypt alludes to Moses and the Exodus. Additionally, the visit of the Magi with gifts is framed as a fulfillment of Isaiah 60, with foreign dignitaries coming to worship the messianic king, signifying that the new age of salvation has been inaugurated through Christ. Thus Matthew crafts the life of Jesus against the backdrop of the OT.

- **How does Paul use the Old Testament through allusion in Galatians and Ephesians?**
- Paul's use of the OT through allusion is prominent. In Galatians 1:15, he uses the language of being "set apart from birth" to link his calling to prophetic calls in the OT, suggesting a parallel authority. In Ephesians 2, Paul weaves together multiple OT images, including the covenant, law, and circumcision, to describe the unification of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. The peace proclaimed and the creation of a "new humanity" are allusions to themes of restoration found in Isaiah. These allusions illustrate Paul's understanding that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament hopes and promises.
- **What are some of the OT background possibilities for understanding the warning in Hebrews 6:4-6?**
- Hebrews 6:4-6 contains no direct OT quotations, so understanding its meaning through OT allusion is challenging. The text describes people who have been "enlightened," "tasted the heavenly gift," shared in the Holy Spirit," "tasted the goodness of the word of God," and "tasted the powers of the coming age," before then "falling away." Some scholars suggest the language of "tasting" these benefits may have OT roots in imagery of eating from God's provision or being part of God's covenant. Looking at the OT understanding of apostasy and warnings might also provide some interpretive clues. Analyzing the potential OT connections deepens the understanding of the author's purpose in issuing such a stern warning.