Lesson 8: Interpreting prophetic writings

A. Learning from the Bible studies of Jesus

1. Dr. Luke records the story of an amazing Bible study Jesus gave on the Emmaus Road. Luke 24:13-27
2. How did these two disciples respond to the Bible study Jesus presented to them? Luke 24:31-32
3. Later that same day, Jesus met with the disciples in Jerusalem. Luke 24:44-45
4. What important lessons can we learn from these two Bible studies given by Jesus?

B. Principles for interpreting prophetic writings

1. View the Bible as a whole. 2 Timothy 3:14-17
2. Remember that Christ is the central figure in all the Scriptures. John 5:39-40 (Luke 24:27)
3. Look at the context
    a. Daniel 2:31-35 is followed by the interpretation in Daniel 2:36-45.
    b. The parable of Jesus recorded in Matthew 13:1-9 is followed by the interpretation in Matthew 13:18-23
4. Allow other prophets to interpret an earlier prophecy.
    a. Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-23
    b. Isaiah 9:1-2, Matthew 4:12-16
    c. Jeremiah 25:11-13, 2 Chronicles 36:22-23
    d. Other examples?
5. Consider the historical-cultural context
    a. 1 Corinthians 16:20 What was the cultural context for this appeal of the Apostle Paul to Christians in Corinth? How should we apply this saying to our lives today?
    b. 1 Corinthians 14:34 What was the cultural context for this appeal? How should we apply th is saying to our lives today?
6. Compare Scripture with Scripture
    a. How does Genesis 2:16-17 ex pose the lies of Satan in Genesis 3:1-5?
    b. How did Jesus respond to Satan's misuse of Scripture when tempting Him to jump off the pinnacle of the Temple? Matthew 4:5-7 (Deuteronomy 6:16)
    c. What truth is revealed as we compare Matthew 5:48 with Luke 6:36?
    d. How does Jesus answer the question asked by Job in Job 14:14? John 5:28-19, 6:40, 11:25-26

C. Asking for divine guidance

1. Who can help us to rightly interpret the prophetic writings? John 16:13-15, Luke 11:13
2. Share a time you sensed the Holy Spirit helping you to more clearly understand the Word of God.