

# INTRODUCTION: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND ENCOUNTER

*How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament*

Jason S. DeRouchie, PhD

Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology

Bethlehem College & Seminary

Elder, Bethlehem Baptist Church

Spring 2019

*“The good hand of his God was on him. For Ezra set his heart **to study** the Law of the Lord, and **to do** it and **to teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10)*

## 1. The Interpretive Task

### a. Definition:

- *Exegesis*
- *Theology*

### b. Foundational Presuppositions:

- Biblical interpretation necessitates that we view Scripture as God’s Word.
- Biblical interpretation assumes that Scripture’s truths are knowable.
- Biblical interpretation requires that we respond appropriately.
- Biblical interpretation that culminates in application demands God-dependence.

### **c. Ten Reasons the OT Is Important for Christians**

1. The OT was Jesus's only Scripture and makes up  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our Bible (75.55%).
2. The OT substantially influences our understanding of key biblical teachings.
3. We meet the same God in both Testaments.
4. The OT announces the very "good news/gospel" we enjoy.
5. Both the old and new covenants call for love, and the OT can teach us much about love.
6. Jesus came not to destroy the Law and the Prophets but to fulfill them.
7. Jesus all the OT points to him.
8. Failing to declare "the whole counsel of God" can put us in danger before the Lord.
9. The NT authors stressed that God gave the OT for Christians.
10. Paul commands church leaders to preach the OT.

## **2. Overview of the Interpretive Process: TOCMA**

### **TEXT—"What is the makeup of the passage?"**

1. Genre
2. Literary units
3. Text criticism
4. Translation

### **OBSERVATION—"How is the passage communicated?"**

5. Clause and text grammar
6. Argument-tracing
7. Word and concept studies

### **CONTEXT—"Where does the passage fit?"**

8. Historical context
9. Literary context

### **MEANING—"What does the passage mean?"**

10. Biblical theology
11. Systematic theology

### **APPLICATION—"Why does the passage matter?"**

12. Practical theology