

Necessary Inference



Definitions

- ▶ Explicit: openly stated as fact
- ▶ Implied: indirectly indicated by other things that are said or done
- ▶ Infer: to draw a conclusion from what is implied
- ▶ Inference: **Premises** \Rightarrow **Rules of Reasoning** \Rightarrow **Conclusions**
- ▶ Conclusions can be necessary or possible
- ▶ Necessary Inference = Unavoidable Conclusion = Necessary Implication = Necessary Consequence

“ ‘The knowledge of God is all-comprehending and is always conscious knowledge. In giving man His word, He was not only perfectly aware of all that was said, but also of **all that this implied**. He knew the inferences that are deduced from Scripture by **unavoidable inference** and more largely still from the comparison of the various Scripture statements among themselves were foreseen by infinite wisdom in the very act of supernaturally inspiring the record from which they are inferred; and **the revealer not only knew that men would deduce such consequences, but designed that they should do so.**’ (Inspiration of the Scriptures, p. 585) Therefore, **not only the express statements of Scripture, but its implications as well, must be regarded as the Word of God.**” – Berkhof, Principles of Biblical Interpretation, p. 159.

Necessary Inference Teaches:

- ▶ That the Old Law said woman is subject to man (1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:11-14)

1 Corinthians 14:34

³⁴ Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

1 Timothy 2:11-14

¹¹Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹²And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

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Matthew 19:3-6

³The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" ⁴And He answered and said to them. "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female', ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

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- ▶ That marriage law has existed from the beginning (Matt. 19:3-6)
- ▶ That the Christ was to be greater than David (Jn. 5:39; Matt. 22:41-46)

John 5:39

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me."

Matthew 22:41-46

⁴¹While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴²saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: ⁴⁴'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?'" ⁴⁵If David then calls Him, 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" ⁴⁶And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

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- ▶ That the Law of Moses was to end (Heb. 7:1-14)

Christ's High Priesthood: Hebrews 7

► Facts

1. **Abraham gave tithes to the priest Melchizedek**
2. Melchizedek blessed Abraham
3. Abraham is superior to his descendant Levi and the Levitical priesthood

► Rules of Inference

1. **If one person pays tithes to another, then the one who receives the tithes is greater**
2. If one person blesses another, then the one who receives the blessing is the lesser
3. If person A is greater than person B, and person B is greater than person C, then person A is greater than person C

► From which we conclude:

1. **Melchizedek was greater than Abraham**
2. Melchizedek was greater than Levi
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Hebrews 7:1-3

¹For this **Melchizedek**, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who **met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him**, ²**to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all**, first being translated, “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning, “king of peace,” ³without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Hebrews 7:4-6

⁴Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. ⁵And indeed, those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham, ⁶but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and bless him who had the promises.

Hebrews 7:7-10

⁷Now beyond all contradiction **the lesser is blessed by the better.** ⁸Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. ⁹even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes, so to speak, ¹⁰for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Hebrews 7:11

¹¹Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

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- 1. The priesthood of Melchizedek is greater than that of Levi**
- 2. The Christ is a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 104:4)**
3. The Christ is from the tribe of Judah
4. The Levitical priesthood was established by the law of Moses
5. The law of Moses said nothing about a person from Judah being a priest

► Rules of Inference

1. If the something that was previously against the law is now permitted, then the law has been changed
2. If the law says nothing about a practice, then that practice is against the law.

► From which we conclude:

- 1. Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood**
2. Christ's priesthood was against the Law of Moses
3. The law of Moses has been changed

Psalm 110:4

⁴The Lord has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

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Hebrews 7:12-14

¹²For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

¹³For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

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The Problem of Faulty Human Reasoning

- ▶ Previous wrong conclusions lead to further wrong conclusions (2 Cor. 3:14-15; Acts 13:27)

2 Corinthians 3:14-15

¹⁴But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

Acts 13:27

²⁷ “For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.”

The Problem of Faulty Human Reasoning

- ▶ Previous wrong conclusions lead to further wrong conclusions (2 Cor. 3:14-15; Acts 13:27)
- ▶ But we are expected to correct our wrong conclusions (Matt. 22:23-33; Matt. 16:5-12; Matt. 15:10-11,15-18)

Matthew 22:23-33

²³The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,
²⁴saying, . . . ²⁹Jesus answered and said to them,
“You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures,
nor the power of God. . . ³¹But concerning the
resurrection of the dead, have you not read what
was spoken to you by God, saying, ³² **‘I am the
God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God
of Jacob’?** God is not the God of the dead, but of
the living.”

Matthew 16:5-18

⁵Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. ⁶Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." ⁷And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." ⁸But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason among yourselves because you have taken no bread?"

Matthew 16:9-12

⁹ “Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of thee five thousand and how many baskets you took up? ¹⁰Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? ¹¹How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?- But to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?” ¹²Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 15:11, 15-18

¹⁰ “Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”
 . . . ¹⁵Then Peter answered and said to Him,
 “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶So Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? ¹⁸But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.”

Types of Necessary Inferences

- ▶ Deriving meaning from the context
- ▶ Deriving meaning from the grammar
- ▶ Using the process of elimination to derive meaning
- ▶ Interpreting difficult passages using more plain passages
- ▶ Deriving meaning from all the Bible has to say on a subject
- ▶ Many other ways

Applications

- ▶ What day of the week was Jesus raised from the dead? (Luke 24)
- ▶ Is baptism in the name of Jesus water baptism or Holy Spirit baptism? (Acts 2:38; 10:47-48)
- ▶ Is the teaching of baptism part of preaching Jesus? Acts 8

Jesus was Raised on the First Day of the Week (Luke 24)

¹Now on the first day of the week ... they ... came to the tomb ...²But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

²⁰ "...the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

²¹ "...Indeed, besides this, today is the third day since these things happened."

⁴⁶ "...it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day."

Baptism in the Name of Jesus is Water Baptism

³⁸Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." – Acts 2:38

⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord... - Acts 10:47-48

Preaching Jesus Includes Teaching Baptism

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

Necessary Inferences

- ▶ A necessary inference reveals information by the authority of God.
- ▶ By making necessary inferences we can understand many things that God wants us to know and do.