



BIBLE STUDY 101

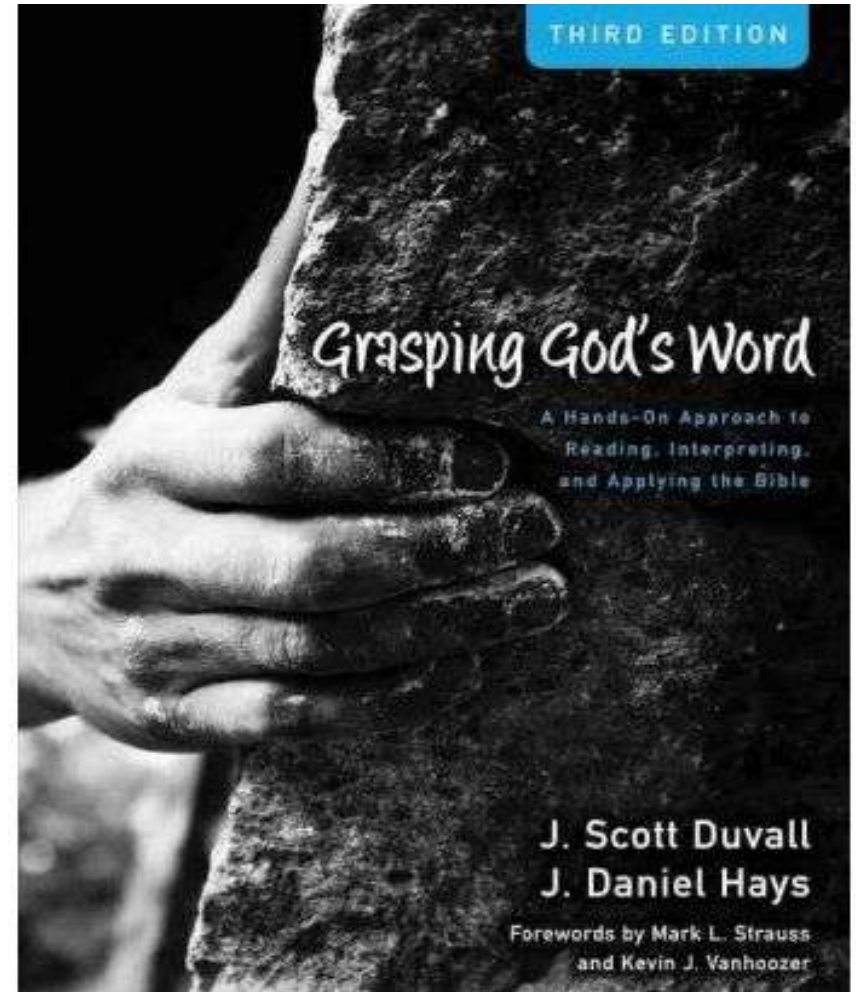
REVIEW FROM WEEK 1

- **2 Timothy 2:15**
- **Why should we be in God's Word?**
- **Five ways to increase your intake of God's Word:**
 - **Hear it**
 - **Read it**
 - **Study it**
 - **Memorize it**
 - **Meditate it**

RECOMMENDED READING

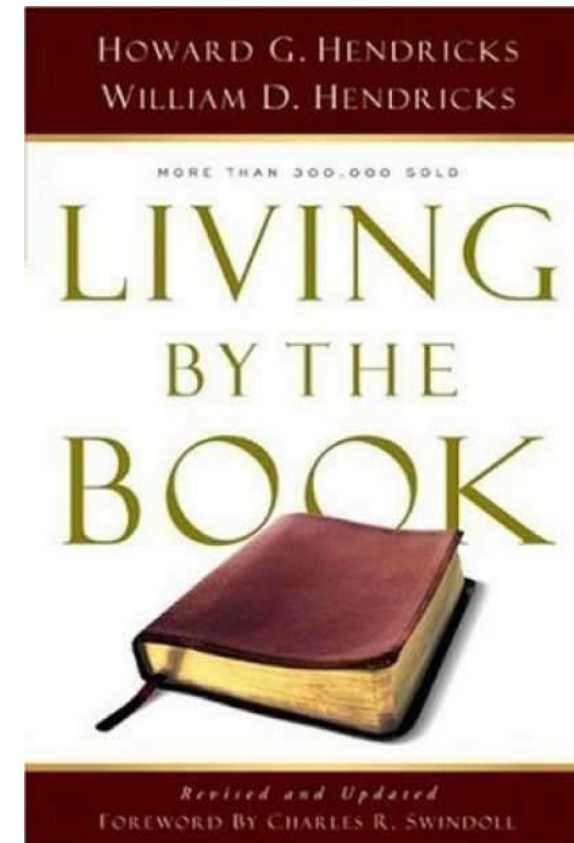
***Grasping God's
Word – J. Scott
Duvall, J. Daniel
Hays***

(MUST READ)



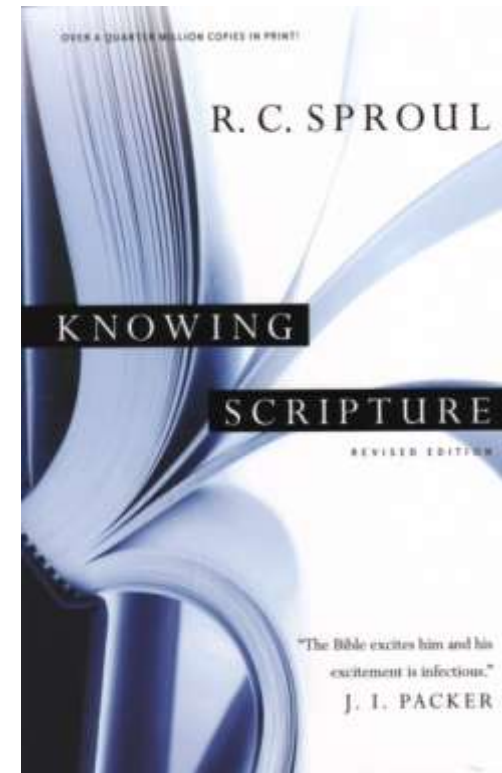
RECOMMENDED READING

Living by the Book **– Howard and William Hendricks**



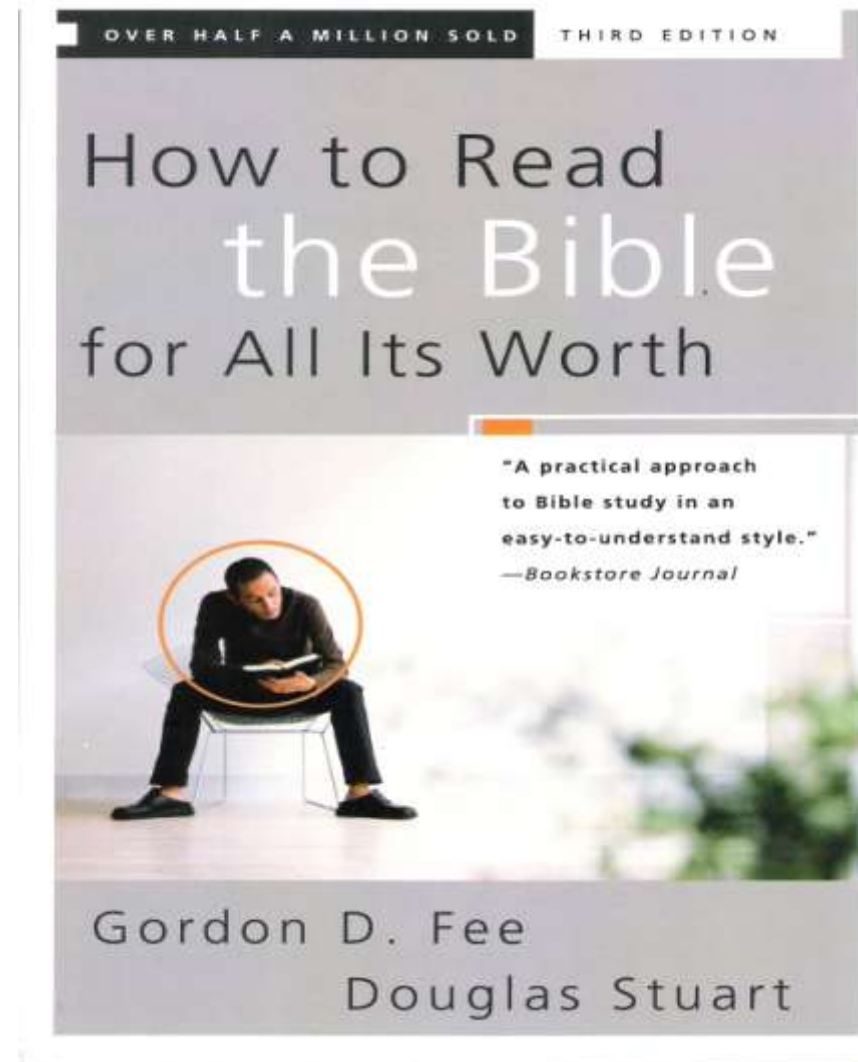
RECOMMENDED READING

Knowing Scripture – R.C. Sproul

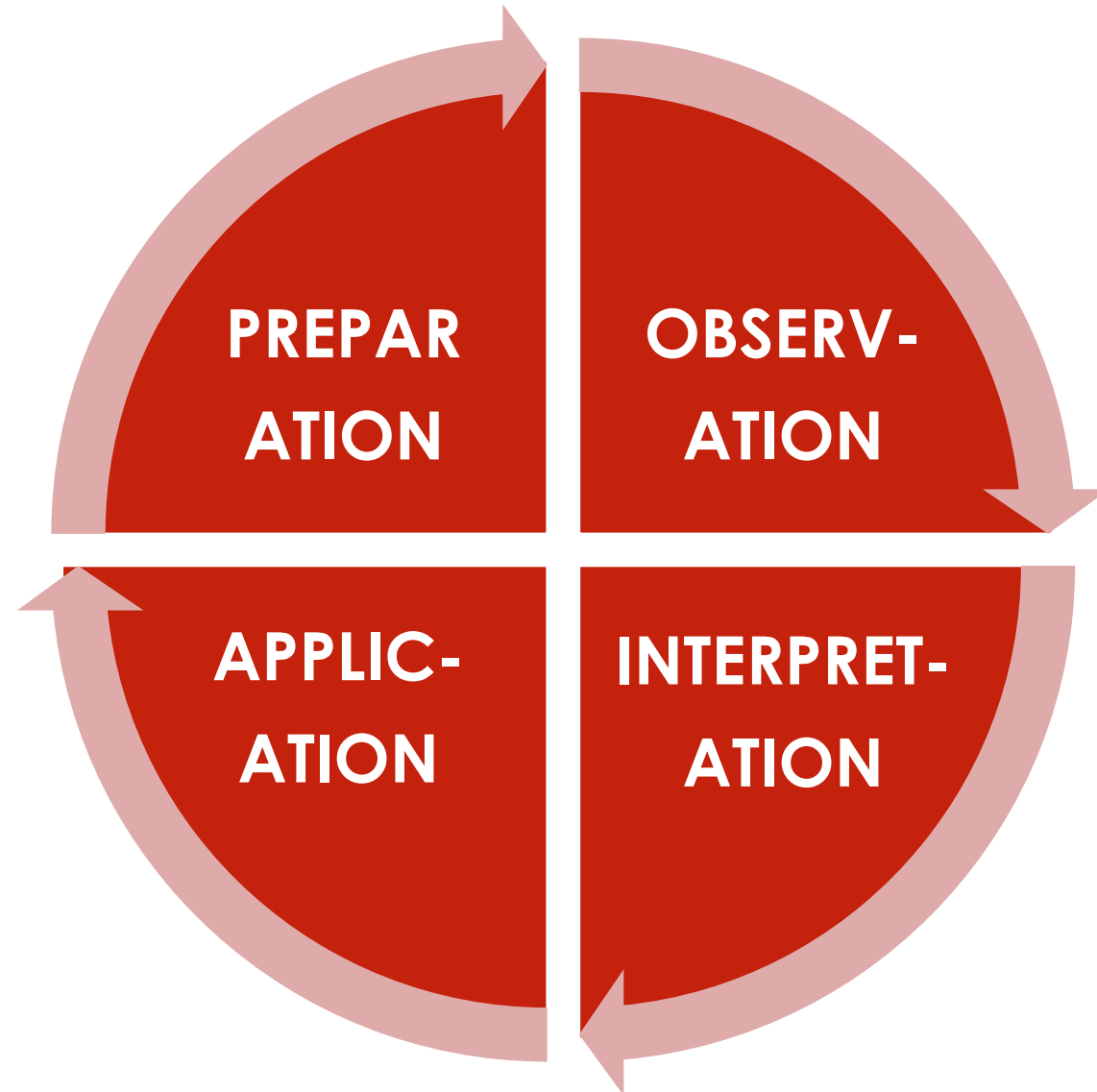


RECOMMENDED READING

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth – Gordon Fee, Douglas Stuart



HOW BIBLE STUDY WORKS





Preparation –
Is my heart ready
for God's Word

PREPARATION

Confession of Sin

1 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV)

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.



PREPARATION

Wisdom and Understanding

Psalm 119:18 (ESV)

Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

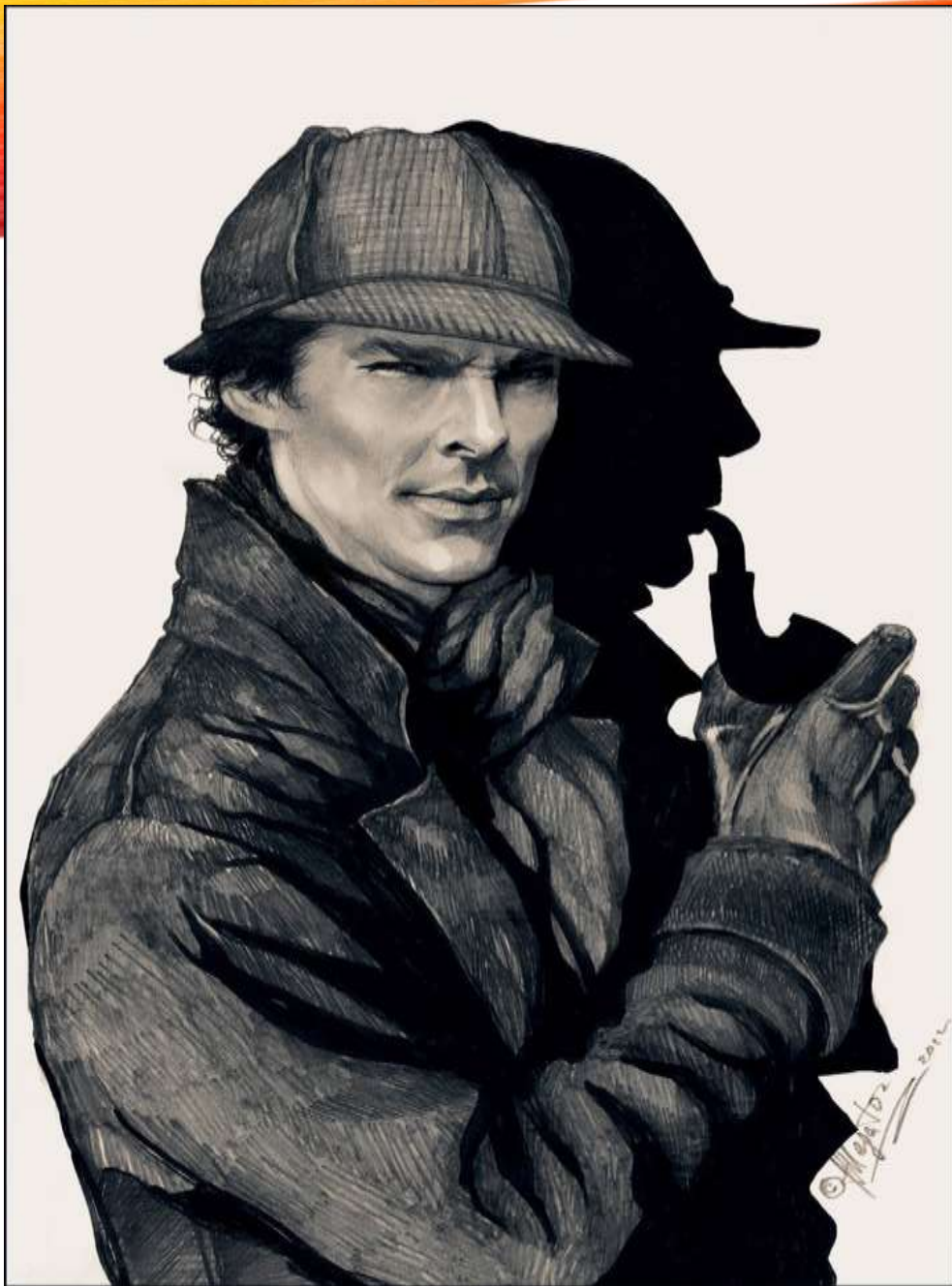


**Observation – *What
is taking place in
the passage?***



OBSERVATION

Observation can be best described as "intelligent looking" - paying attention not just to words on a page but what those words convey.



SHERLOCK HOLMES

**DO YOU OBSERVE
LIKE DR WATSON OR SHERLOCK
HOLMES?**

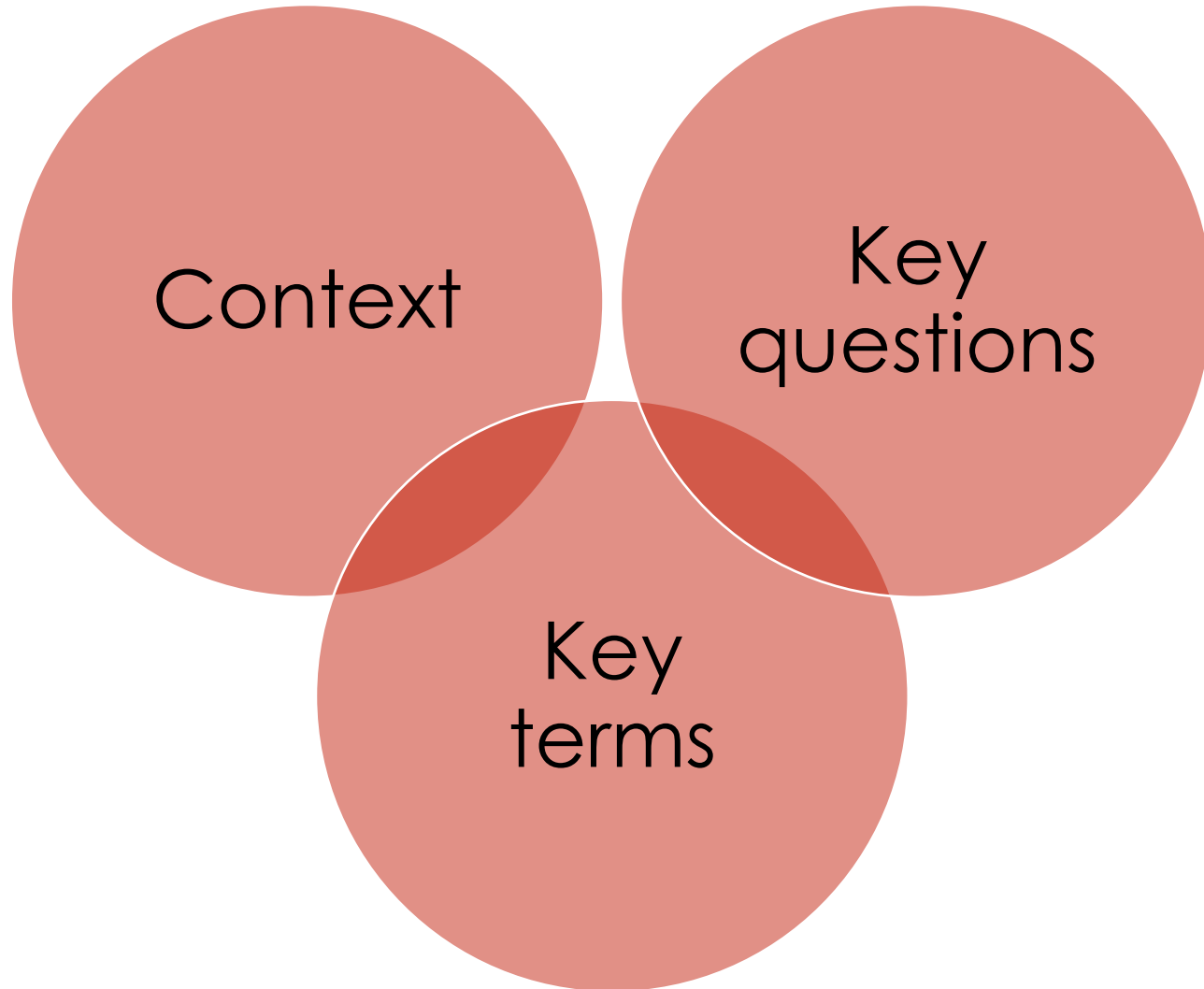
- **Holmes:** “You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.”
- **Watson:** “*Frequently.*”
- **Holmes:** “How often?”
- **Watson:** “*Well, some hundreds of times.*”

**DO YOU OBSERVE
LIKE DR WATSON OR SHERLOCK
HOLMES?**

- **Holmes:** “Then how many are there?”
- **Watson:** “*How many? I don’t know.*”
- **Holmes:** “Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed”

“A Scandal in Bohemia” in *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*
[New York: Doubleday, 1927]

OBSERVATION



Context

Key
questions

Key
terms

CONTEXT

- **Context** is the **environment** in which something **lives**
- **Context** is the text that comes **before** and **after** the Biblical text we are studying.
- Any time we break into the middle of a passage, we always need to examine its **context**
- Always remember that **context** is **king** in the realm of Biblical interpretation.
- A Biblical text taken out of **context** can be a dangerous **pretext** (= an excuse given to hide real reason for doing something).
- Every major **cult** is built upon a violation of this basic principle of interpreting Scripture in **context**.

HOW CULTS BEGIN -- TAKING SCRIPTURE OUT OF CONTEXT

[Colossians 1:15](#) And He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

[Colossians 1:16](#) **For** ([Connective](#)) by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.

SO WHAT?

Jehovah's Witnesses interpretation = Jesus "*was God's first creation, and so he is called the "firstborn" Son of God. (Colossians 1:15) Jesus is the only Son that God created by himself.*" ([Their Official Website](#))

CONTEXT

As well as the text before and after the text, there are several other elements of context:

- **Literary context:** what kind of book am I dealing with?
- **Historical context:** when is this happening? Does the text tell me?
- **Cultural context:** a lot of what we read in the Bible is coloured by the culture of the day - knowing this is to your advantage
- **Theological context:** what does this author know about God? Is it accurate? Where does this fit in the overall plan of Scripture?

ASK QUESTIONS

5 W'S & H

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT?

WHY?

HOW?

KEY TERMS

- Like keys, these help “unlock” the meaning of a passage, paragraph, chapter or book.
- Usually identified by repetition but not always
- Key Words are vital to understanding the passage & cannot be removed w/o affecting meaning
- May include pronouns, synonyms, closely related phrases (e.g., judgment judging.)
- God, Jesus, Spirit – always key .
- Remember to ask the 5W's & H for each key word or phrase
- Mark key words in a distinctive way – using symbols, color, make them easily to remember.

KEY TERMS – CONNECTIVES

Connective = in Grammar any word that connects phrases, clauses, etc.

Contrasts indicate a change of direction in a passage, paragraph, book.

Contrasts depict things that are unlike or dissimilar – but, yet, etc.

But is one of the most important words you'll ever come across in your study of Scripture. Whenever you see it, always stop and ask, what is the contrast being made? (Howard Hendricks)

KEY TERMS – CONNECTIVES

What should the word *but* encourage you to do?

Observe preceding text noting what “change of direction” author is taking

What 5W/H questions can you often ask when you see *but*? what, when, etc.

KEY TERMS - CONNECTIVES (2)

AND is can be just as crucial & clarifying as “but, etc.”

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; **AND** He will give you the desires of your heart

John 15:4 Abide in Me, **AND** I in you

James 4:8 Draw near to God **AND** He will draw near to you

KEY TERMS – CONNECTIVES (3)

Always be alert for these important connecting words for they will introduce an explanation or a conclusion and beg questions like “Why is *therefore*, there for?”, “What is the author explaining?”, etc.

KEY TERMS – CONNECTIVES (4)

Romans is full of therefores, as Paul works his way through a tightly structured argument.

The Old Testament prophets use therefore extensively. Over and over they state their case against the people, and then cry, "Therefore, thus says the Lord."

KEY TERMS – CONNECTIVES (5)

- Look for words like *"then"*, *"after this"*, *"until"*, *"when"*, *"soon"*, *"now"*
- Expressions of time identify timing or sequence of events
- Of the "5W's & H" questions, time expressions answer "When?"
- Observe what you learn "When" something occurs



FINAL THOUGHTS ON OBSERVATION

- Observation is probably the most time-consuming, difficult part of Bible study – slow down and stick at it!
- Get into the habit of writing things down
- FOTO – focus on the obvious!



Interpretation –
What does it mean?



INTERPRETATION

Now you know what the text is saying, you need to make meaning of all that information!

THIS IS WHAT WE CALL HERMENEUTICS – the art and science of Biblical interpretation

INTERPRETATION

We can interpret the Bible because the Author has been given to teach us!

1 John 2:27

But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

INTERPRETATION

Using all the information from observing the text, we can start to ask from interpretive questions:

- 1. What is the importance of the things we have observed – key words, phrases, names and titles, dates, etc.?**
- 2. What is the meaning of a particular word?**
- 3. Why did the writer say this?**
- 4. What is the implication of this word?**



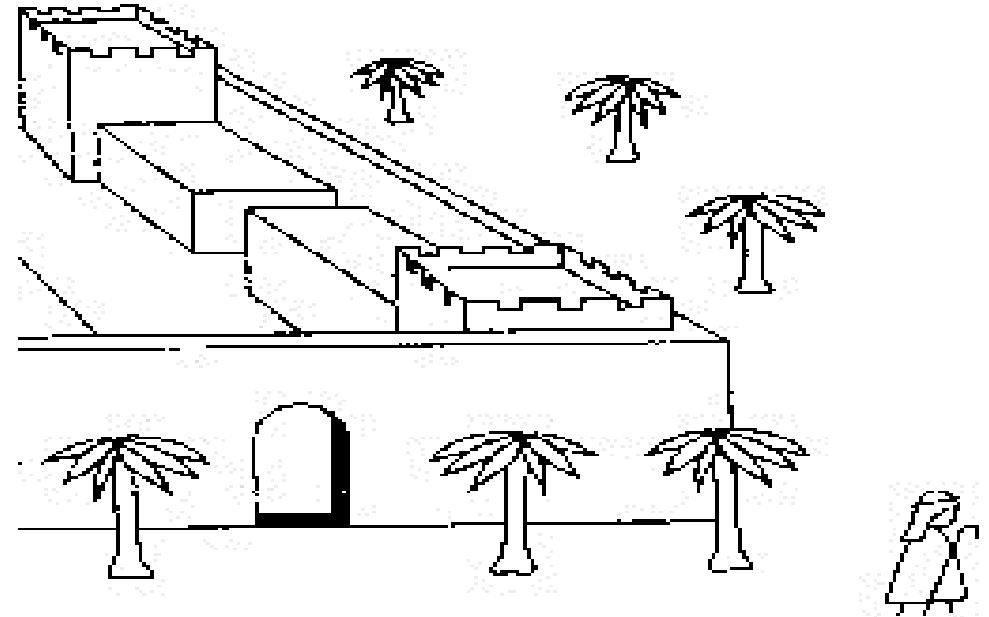
INTERPRETATION AS A JOURNEY

An easy way to remember what you need to consider in interpretation is to think of interpretation as a journey with three steps:

- 1. Grasping the Text in Its Hometown**
- 2. Measuring the Distance Between Us and Them**
- 3. Cross the Bridge of Principle**

1. GRASPING THE TEXT IN THEIR HOMETOWN

*WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE
ORIGINAL AUTHORS?*



1. GRASPING THE TEXT IN ITS HOMETOWN

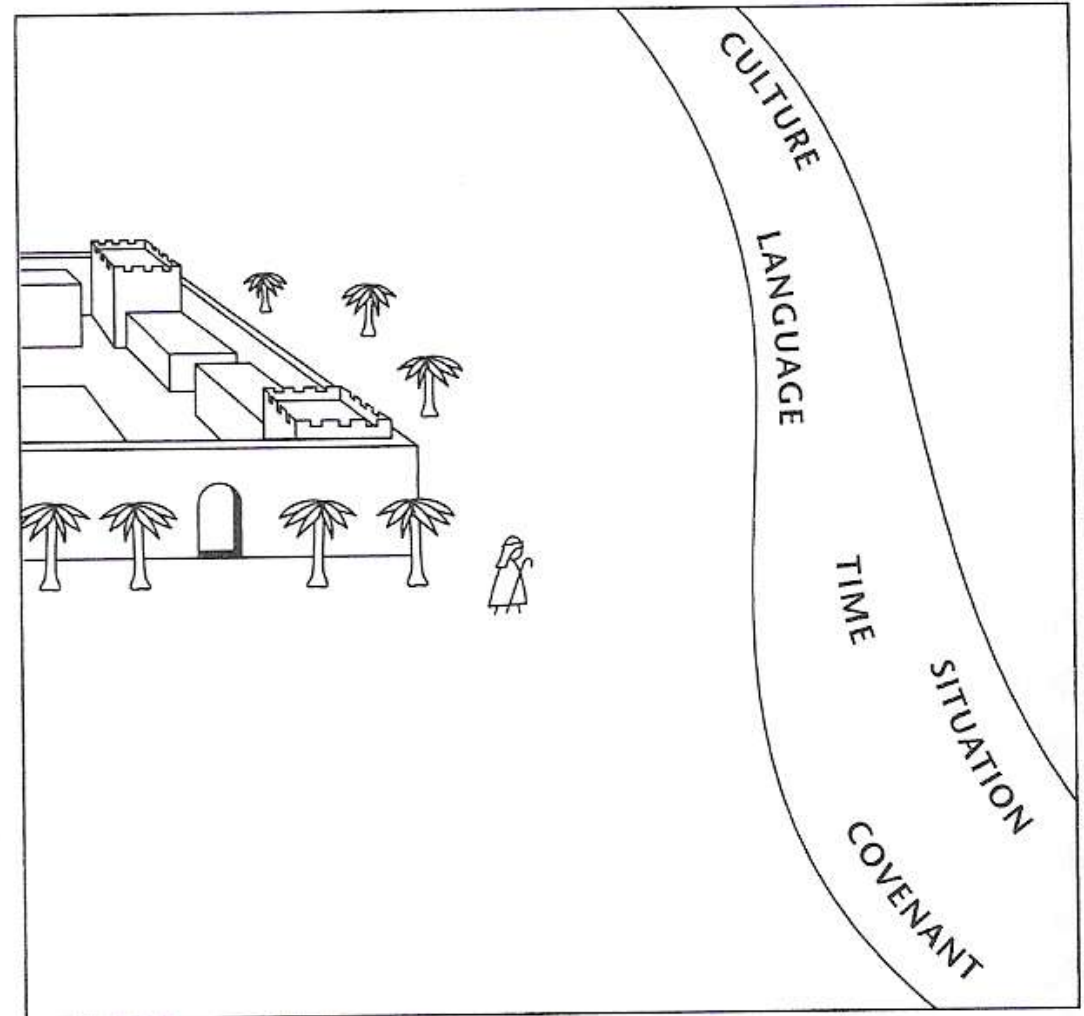
- **Mike Riccardi: [The] goal of Bible interpretation [is] to discover the original, divinely intended meaning of the author who the text...The goal of today's interpreter is to answer the question: *What did the biblical author intend his original readers to understand.***

1. GRASPING THE TEXT IN ITS HOMETOWN

- The aim of Bible study is not to ask, “What does this mean to me” as the main question – because frankly, it is not!
- *This is done by careful observation of the text. Read and reread the text, in order to get as much out of the text as possible. This is also where one will work with any historical, literary, and grammatical context*

2. MEASURING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THEM

What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?



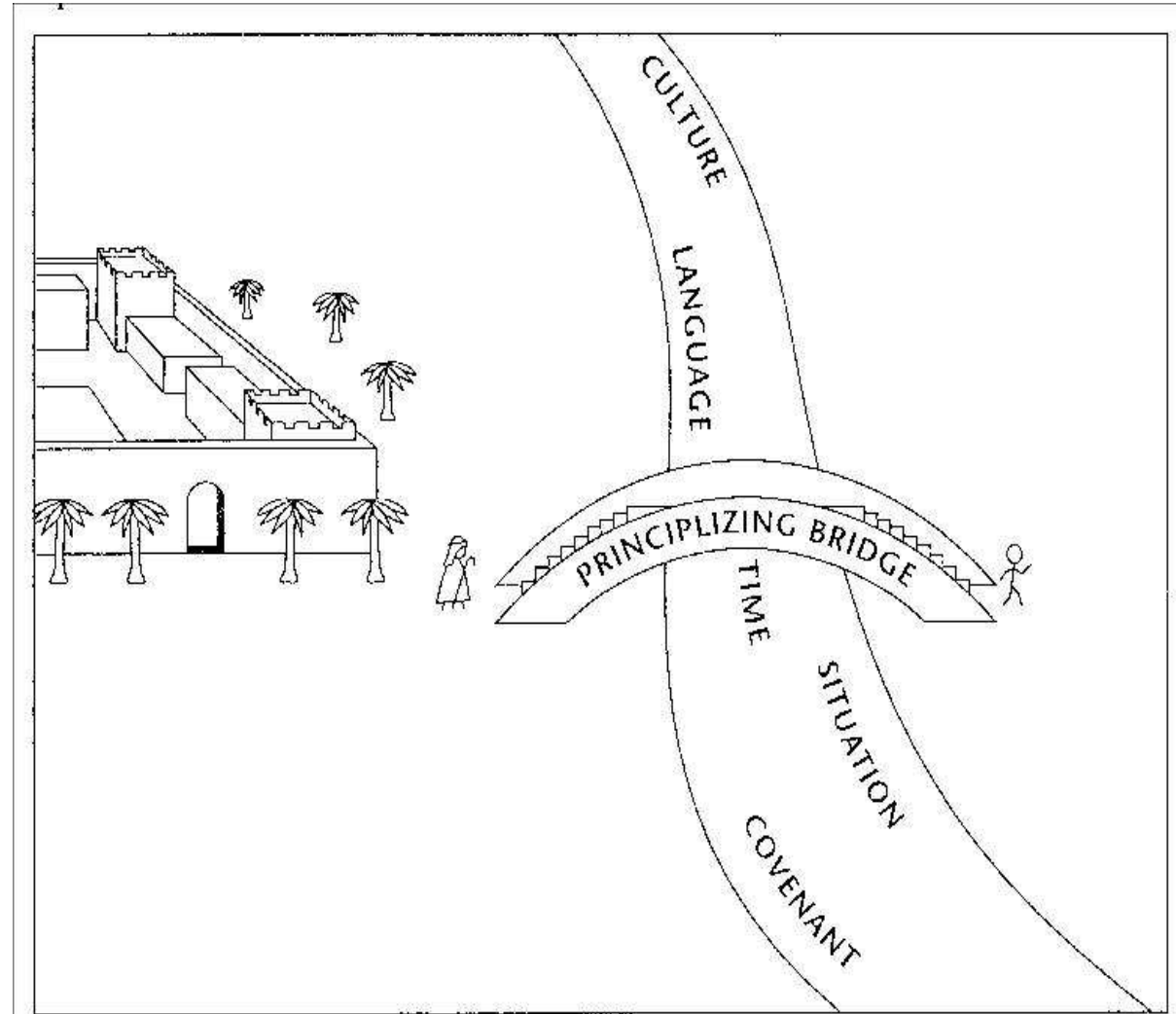


2. MEASURING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THEM

There is much that separates today's audience from the original audiences of Scripture. Today persons are separated from the biblical audience by differences in language, culture, government, situation, covenants, and time. These differences must be addressed if one is to cross this river.

3. CROSS THE BRIDGE OF PRINCIPLE

What is the theological principle in this text?



3. CROSS THE BRIDGE OF PRINCIPLE

- **Crossing the Bridge of Principle is the most challenging and critical step**
- **The theological principle is part of the meaning that you are discovering in the text.**
- **The principle should:**
 - **be reflected in the text**
 - **be timeless and tied to specific situation**
 - **not be culturally bound**
 - **corresponds to the rest of the Scripture**
 - **be relevant to contemporary and biblical audiences**

SOME SAFETY MARKERS

1. **Read the Bible like any other book:** Words have a natural meaning and this is true of the Bible as well as Harry Potter, The Guardian or a cookbook!
2. **Teaching explains history:** History tells us what happened; teaching explains what we are to do.
3. **The Bible is consistent with itself:** All of Scripture agrees with itself – your interpretation should!
4. **Let the text breathe!** Don't put words in the mouth of a text – the author was more than able to make the point they wanted

“A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS...”

At this point, you will often get stuck or have questions – call for help!

- Commentary
- Bible handbook
- Bible dictionary
- Concordance
- Bible encyclopaedia

RULE ONE OF INTERPRETATION!

**THERE IS ONLY ONE –
ONE – ONE(!!!)
CORRECT
INTERPRETATION OF
ANY PASSAGE OF
SCRIPTURE – THE
AUTHOR’S ORIGINALLY
INTENDED MEANING!**

Christopher J.H. Wright:
***Scripture can't mean
now what it didn't mean
then!***



**Application – *How
does this apply to
my life?***



APPLICATION

Everyone wants the benefits of this step of Bible study without the reality that you do not get here without the “grunt work” of seeing what the text is saying (observation) and what it means (application)

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Everyone wants the benefits of this step of Bible study without the reality that you do not get here without the “grunt work” of seeing what the text is saying (observation) and what it means (application)

While there is only one ***interpretation*** of a text, there can be many applications of a text.

PUT ON THE SPECS



S-**Sin** to forsake, confess, avoid
P-**Promise** from God to claim for
yourself and others.

E-**Example** to follow or not to
follow.

C-**Command** to obey.
*(Sometimes the obeying
requires supernatural help.)*

S- **Stumbling block** to avoid.