

## Seven Basic Rules Of Interpretation (Natural)

### I. Interpret A Passage In Light Of Its Context

- A. CON - text means literally \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. There are two levels of context to look at:
1. Near or \_\_\_\_\_ context
  2. Far or \_\_\_\_\_ context
- C. In examining context, a couple of things to note:
1. Remember that neither the Hebrew or Greek manuscripts had \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ divisions.
  2. The remote context of any passage or book includes \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ is one book in particular that does not lend itself well to contextual study.
  4. "Promises" are frequently taken out of the context of the \_\_\_\_\_ given.
    - a) Example – Read Isaiah 58:11 then its context in verses 9-11.

### II. Interpret According To The Whole Counsel Of God (According To Context Of The Scriptures As A Whole)

- A. God's nature, character, and principles are revealed from Genesis to Revelation. They transcend \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ is needed when we have not looked at the Scripture as a whole.
1. Example: The curse on Ham's descendents in Gen 9 – Some have used this passage to teach that all black people are cursed and inferior. Yet -

2. 1 Timothy 2:12 is sometimes interpreted to mean that, according to the apostle Paul, women should not speak or teach in the Church. Yet –

### III. Interpret According To The Correct Meaning Of The Words

- A. Be aware that the usage of words can be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Example – 1 Cor 11 (head covering) – verse 10 identifies it as “exousia” (authority). The word is used \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Example – Ephesians 6 (“take up the whole armour of God”). The word is used \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Example of words used literally – \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Note: The \_\_\_\_\_ often helps you determine whether word used literally or figuratively.
- B. Be aware that the meaning of words changes with \_\_\_\_\_ (especially words found in the King James Version).
  1. Example – “\_\_\_\_\_ the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me.”
- C. Try to be as thorough as possible – become familiar with and invest in \_\_\_\_\_ resources!

### IV. Interpret According To The Grammar Of The Sentence

- A. Grammar = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Simple Elements of Grammar:
  1. Noun – subject (Ask \_\_\_\_\_?)
  2. Verb - action word (Ask \_\_\_\_\_?)
    - a) Verb tenses - past, present, future & \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Pronouns – He, she, they, etc. (Ask \_\_\_\_\_?)  
\_\_\_\_\_?

4. Conjunctions – the main connecting words in the sentence.

a) Examples: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Can be very important to the meaning!! Check out Romans 8:1.

## V. Interpret According To The Author's Purpose

A. There is an authorship on \_\_\_\_\_ levels: divine and human.

B. Note whether the human author's purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ or not.

1. Example John 20:31

C. Use \_\_\_\_\_ to see if a recognized purpose is identified for the book you are studying.

1. Example: 1 Timothy SFLB –

D. Look for repeated \_\_\_\_\_ which may indicate the author's purpose. His purpose will guide His \_\_\_\_\_ in each passage.

1. Example: Matthew –

2. Example: 1 John –

## VI. Interpret In Light Of The Historical, Geographical And Cultural Background Of The Passage Or Book

A. We can see importance of this as we look at:

1. Nehemiah – Why they needed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in the first place; Why their enemies had access, etc.

2. 1 Kings 18:46 – The real distance involved in Elijah's race with Ahab to Jezreel.

3. Woman at the well in John 4 – The policy and attitude of Jews towards women and Samaritans at that time.
  
4. Use the historical, geographical and cultural background of what you are reading to uncover God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the passage you are studying and how it is \_\_\_\_\_ to us today.

## VII. Interpret Prophecy Keeping In Mind That There Is Often A Multiple Fulfillment

- A. Prophecy in Scripture often fulfilled on \_\_\_\_\_ planes:
1. For \_\_\_\_\_ time / For \_\_\_\_\_ / For \_\_\_\_\_
  
  2. In the \_\_\_\_\_ / In the \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Example: Isaiah 45:2-3
1. \_\_\_\_\_ – says this word is for Cyrus, 100 years before Cyrus came on the scene. He was the king of Persia who conquered Babylon, set the Jewish captives free and sent the Jews back to rebuild Jerusalem under Nehemiah and the temple under Ezra.
  
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ – God has spoken this passage as a personal word to many today whom He desires to use to bring deliverance to His people.
  
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Cyrus is a type of Christ and these words will have another fulfillment when He returns for His Bride.
  
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ – This passage speaks of the literal captivity of Judah in Babylon.
  
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ – It prophetically describes what Jesus came to do in our lives, freeing us from spiritual bondage.