

# THE FORGE

SHAPED FOR SERVICE. STRENGTHENED IN CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 4:12-16



**“How to Study the  
Bible”**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. What is the Bible?****A. Overview and Purpose**

1. A collection of writings as one \_\_\_\_\_ book, with 66 smaller books
2. Divided into two testaments
3. The Bible itself speaks of the God who is the creator and sustainer of the universe, who chooses to reveal Himself to creatures (humans).
4. The biblical revelation \_\_\_\_\_ in the eternal Son. (Hebrews 1:1-2)
5. The Purpose of the Bible is “to make a person wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.” (2 Timothy 3:15)
6. The Scriptures, therefore, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ as the Savior to whom men are drawn for Salvation.

**B. Basic Story Line**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Universe- (Genesis 1-2)
2. Why Sin, Disease, and Death \_\_\_\_\_ - (Genesis 3)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ and Fulfillment of the Messiah to defeat all Sin, Disease, Death, and Satan- (Genesis 3:15; Revelation 22:1-5)
  - a) God at work through Biblical History
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ is chosen (Genesis 12:3)
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ descends from Abraham
    - (3) Jesus was born a \_\_\_\_\_, of the house of David
    - (4) Man is given the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:36)
  - b) God’s Work that is Yet to be Accomplished
    - (1) The consummation of God’s salvation has yet to be revealed.
    - (2) Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
    - (3) All people will live forever in one of two places:
      - (a) In \_\_\_\_\_ with their Savior
      - (b) In eternal \_\_\_\_\_ (hell) from God for their unconfessed sin and rebellion

**C. Functions of the Bible**

1. Conviction of \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:22-25; Hebrews 4:12-13)
2. Correction and \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 1:8; Matthew 7:24-27; 2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 4:1-20; James 1:22-25)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:28-29; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 3:1-5; 1 John 2:14)
5. Joy and Delight (Psalm 19:9-10)
6. Ultimate Authority in Doctrine and \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 10:26; John 10:35; 2 Peter 3:16)

**D. Chronology of the Bible’s Composition-**

1. Old Testament 1400 BC- 430 BC
  - a) Written in \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) The Torah
    - (1) Author- Moses
    - (2) Date- 1400 BC
    - (3) Describes events from a span of a few \_\_\_\_\_ years

- c) The Minor Prophets
  - (1) Malachi- 430 BC
  - (2) Ezra/Nehemiah- mid 400's BC
  - (3) Ends God's \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation for 400 years
- 2. New Testament AD 45-90
  - a) Written in \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) James or Galatians were written in AD 45
  - c) Revelation by John concludes N.T. at AD 90

EVENT	Year
Adam and Eve	Long Time Ago
Noah	Long Time Ago
The Calling of Abraham	2000 B.C
The Exodus	1146 B.C. (First book written by Moses)
The Monarchy Begins	1050 B.C.
King David	1010-970 B.C
King Solomon	970-930 B.C.
The Kingdom Divided	931 B.C.
The Assyrian Exile	722 B.C
The Babylonian Exile	586 B.C.
The Persian Period	537 B.C
Second Temple Finished	515 B.C.
Ezra/Nehemiah	Mid-400s B.C
Malachi	430 B.C.
Intertestamental Period (Silence from God)	430 B.C- 45 A.D
Jesus's Birth	7-4 B.C
Jesus's Ministry	A.D. 27-30
Jesus's Crucifixion	A.D. 30
First New Testament Books Written	A.D. 45
Revelation Written (Cannon Closed)	A.D. 90







**IV. English Translations**

**A. Original Languages**

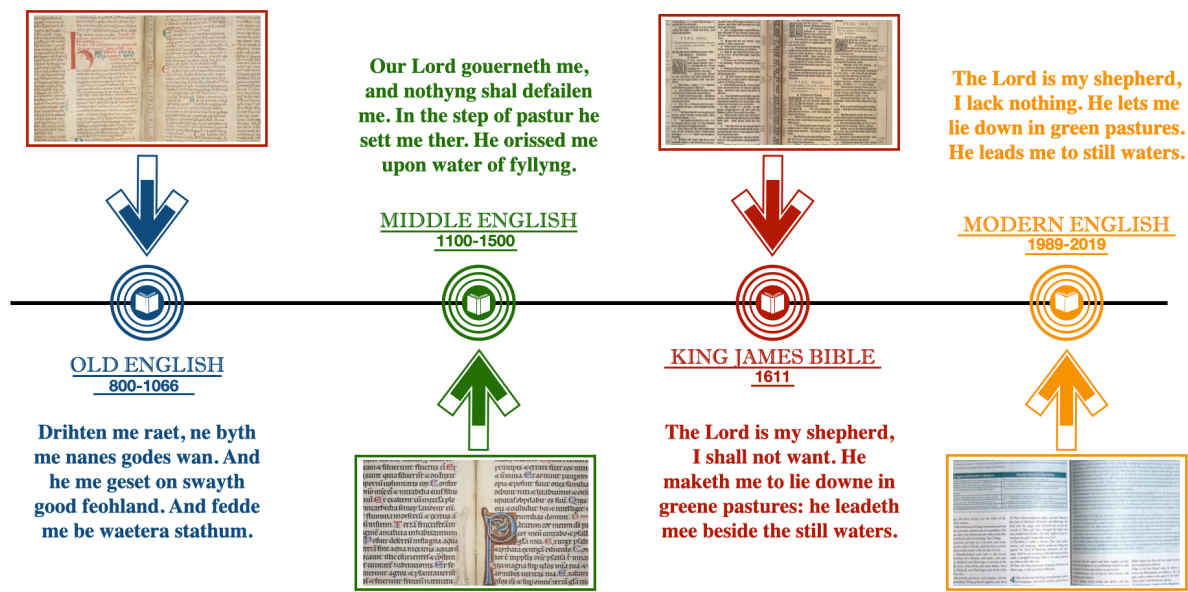
1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Most of the Old Testament
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Select portions of Old Testament (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11; Daniel 2:4b-7:28)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - All of the New Testament
4. The Old Testament was translated from Hebrew to Greek in the third century BC

**B. History of the English Language**

1. Modern English is a relatively new language
2. Old English is the ‘\_\_\_\_\_’ language.’

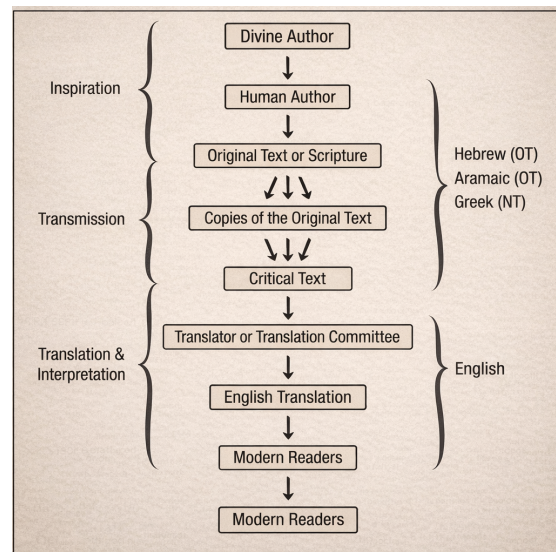


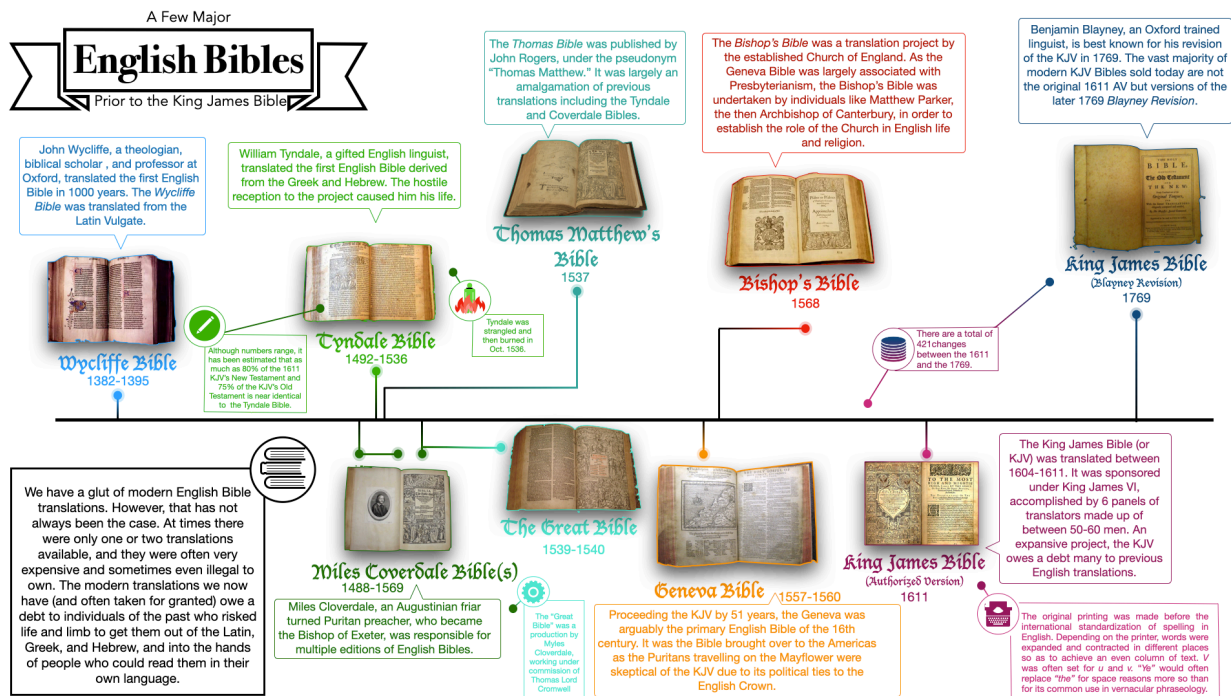
**HOW ENGLISH HAS CHANGED OVER THE LAST 1000 YEARS:  
THE 23rd PSALM**



**C. History of the English Bible**

1. How did we get the English Bible?
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ do not exist.
  - b) We possess nearly \_\_\_\_\_ handwritten manuscripts of all or parts of the entire New Testament.





## 2. Modern English Translations

a) Many good, \_\_\_\_\_ translations have been produced over the last 100 years.

b) Approaches to Translations

(1) \_\_\_\_\_-for-\_\_\_\_\_ translations from Greek/Hebrew to English

- Example: Matthew 17:18

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Equivalence/More Formal

(a) This type of translation is very concerned to preserve, as much as possible, the number of words and grammatical constructions from the original.

(b) Examples: NASB, KJV, ESV

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ Equivalence/More Functional

(a) This is a type of translation that seeks to accurately convey the same meaning of the original languages but is not so concerned about preserving the same number of words or equivalent grammatical constructions.

(b) "Thought for Thought"

(c) Examples: NLT

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Not a translation from the original languages at all, but merely a restatement or explanation of a particular English translation using different English words.

(b) Examples: *The Word on the Street*, *The Message*, *Original Living Bible*









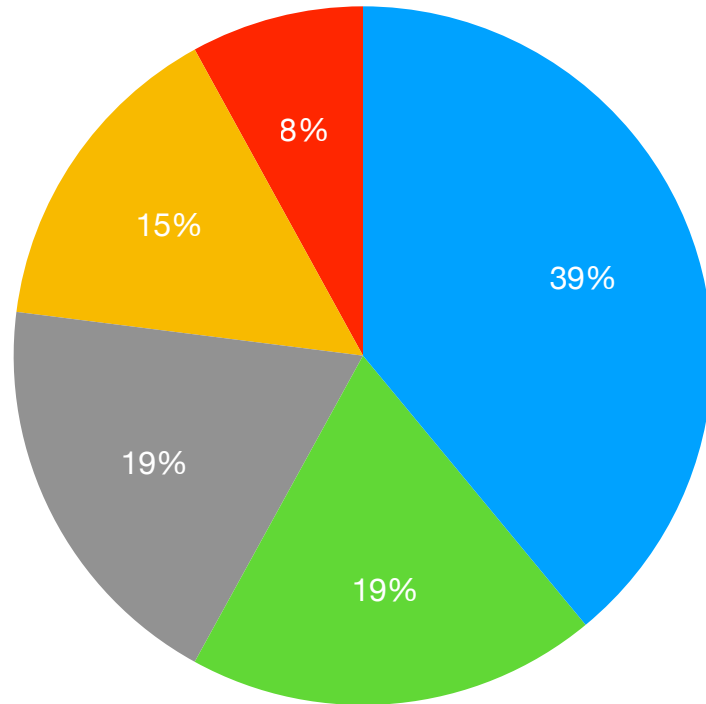
**VIII. Understanding Biblical Genre**

**A. What is Genre**

1. What does the word Genre mean to you when you hear that term?
2. Identifying genre is an \_\_\_\_\_ we make, consciously or unconsciously, when we approach \_\_\_\_\_ in everyday life.

**B. Different Forms of Biblical Genre**

- Historical Narrative
- Poetry/Wisdom
- Prophecy
- Law
- Epistles



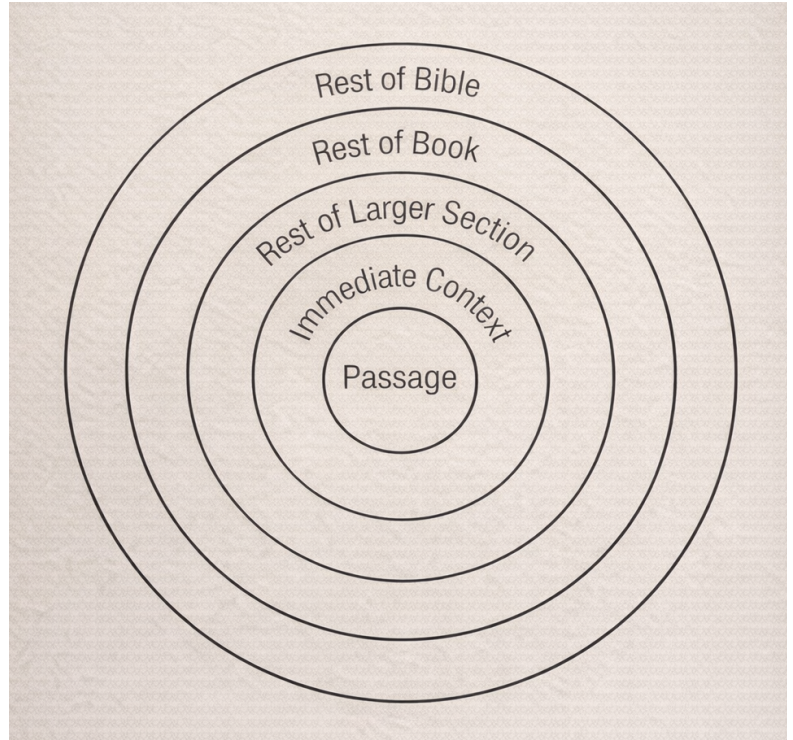
1. Historical \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) It is the most common genre in the Bible
    - (1) Old Testament Example: \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) New Testament Example: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Historical narratives recount \_\_\_\_\_ events in story format. (Plummer, 209)
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) One of the most misunderstood genres in the Bible.
  - b) Consists primarily of the books of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) To interpret prophecy, it is particularly helpful to know the prophet's era. (Dorani, 175)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Literature
  - a) This would consist of some of the most well-known passages.
  - b) This genre primarily finds its home from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.



**IX. Understanding the Contexts**

**A. Literary Context**

- 1. The words, sentences, paragraphs, or chapters \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the text. (Doriani, 30)
- 2. Having at least a summary of what is around the text will give greater \_\_\_\_\_ into what the text says and doesn't say.
- 3. General Principles for Grasping Literary Context (Doriani, 32)
  - a) Interpret single verses in light of their



- \_\_\_\_\_ contexts
- (1) This will be the immediate verses before and after the passage in which you are studying.
- (2) The closer the circle of influence, the greater weight it holds on the meaning of your passage.
- (3) Example- 1 Peter 5:7

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- b) Interpret paragraphs and episodes in light of the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ that surround them.
  - (1) Groups of paragraphs, even groups of chapters, can build on one another.
  - (2) Example- Matthew 19:28-30

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- c) Try to determine why your text belongs \_\_\_\_\_ where it is, and \_\_\_\_\_ else.
  - (1) The location of a text in a greater passage helps determine meaning.
  - (2) Example- Luke 15:1

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**B. Historical Context**

1. This relates to all matters \_\_\_\_\_ of the text, such as culture, customs, languages, beliefs, and history of the author and the original audience.
2. Historical context, in essence, aims to capture the big picture —the entire \_\_\_\_\_ in and around the passage and book.
3. Such questions to ask:
  - a) Who is the \_\_\_\_\_?
  - b) Why is he writing?
  - c) What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hour?
  - d) What does he hope to accomplish?
  - e) Who is the \_\_\_\_\_?
  - f) How does the audience live and think on a day-to-day basis?
4. The Worlds of the Bible and knowledge of it illuminate hundreds of passages that may not make sense in the present-day world.
  - a) Religious
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Geography
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Economics
  - f) \_\_\_\_\_
  - g) Methods of warfare
  - h) Family \_\_\_\_\_
  - i) Gender roles
  - j) Example- Luke 15:1-2
    - (1) Social Custom-\_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) Religious Custom-\_\_\_\_\_
    - (3) Result-\_\_\_\_\_
5. Goals of Studying Historical Context
  - a) To retrieve, as best we can, a reconstruction of the \_\_\_\_\_ world.
  - b) To discover the \_\_\_\_\_ of the writings and reading of particular books.
  - c) To investigate the individuals and groups who play roles in the text.
6. Application of Studying Historical Context
  - a) A valid interpretation MUST be \_\_\_\_\_ with the historical context.
  - b) Avoid inaccurate background information and resist the temptation to place background \_\_\_\_\_ the text.

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**X. Observe What is There**

**A. Beware of preconceptions.**

1. Observe what the biblical text \_\_\_\_\_ says.
2. Example- Matthew 11:1-6

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**B. Observe the text first, then explain it.**

1. Let the \_\_\_\_\_ fit the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Example- Matthew 11:1-6

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**C. Resist reshaping your observations so that they support your \_\_\_\_\_ theology.**

**D. Make note of especially striking details.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of words- Did not have bold font.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Look for ideas, individuals, and/or items contrasted with each other
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - Look for ideas, individuals, and/or items compared to each other.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - Whenever the text mentions more than two items, identify it as a list.
5. Actions/roles of \_\_\_\_\_ - Identify actions or roles that the text ascribes to God.
6. Action/roles of \_\_\_\_\_ - Identify actions or roles that the text ascribes to people or encourages people to do/be.
7. Other items to look out for: Figures of speech, conjunctions, verbs, pronouns, questions and answers, dialogue, and tone of the passage.

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**XI. How to Read Narrative- Narrative Arc**

**A. Understand the Context**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Context- The words, sentences, paragraphs, or chapters surrounding and relating to the text. (IX.A.)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Context- The culture, customs, languages, beliefs, and history of the author and the original audience. (IX.B.)
3. What is the Setting?
  - a) What comes immediately before and after the text?
  - b) Identify the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story.
  - c) Does it \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the text, or is it stationary?
  - d) Are there any significant \_\_\_\_\_ aspects to consider?
  - e) What is the timing of this text?
4. Determine the \_\_\_\_\_ involved.
  - a) Who are the people involved with the particular story?
  - b) Can they be identified within the text, or do you need to look before or after it to decide?
  - c) What are they saying, thinking, or doing?
5. Example: Mark 6:45-52
  - a) *Before the Text*

\_\_\_\_\_

- b) *After the text*

\_\_\_\_\_

- c) *Setting*

\_\_\_\_\_

- d) *Characters*

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Plot \_\_\_\_\_**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) This is where the story's tension begins to build or conflict arises.
  - b) Look for the different characters and events that begin to take shape, leading to the climax.
  - c) When reading the text, you must focus on the things that are said.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Stories become more intense as \_\_\_\_\_ mount up or as the \_\_\_\_\_ looms. (Doriani, 69)
  - b) This is where the story could go either way.
3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) How is the problem solved?







### XIII. Studying Epistles

#### A. Overview and Purpose

1. \_\_\_ of the \_\_\_ books of the New Testament are letters or epistles.
  - a) Letters were written to \_\_\_\_\_, but most were written to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) The authors include: Paul, John, Peter, James, Jude, and the unknown writer of Hebrews.
2. These letters were generally \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) They were written to address specific situations or problems related to the author or the readers.
  - b) These letters were a substitute for the apostle being in their presence to address such occasions.
  - c) Examples: 1 & 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (Paul was correcting their behavior), 1 & 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (Peter was challenging and comforting the dispersed persecuted Christians)
3. The New Testament Letters all have a general format when written.
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - encompasses the first chapter or less.
    - (1) The writer of the letter
    - (2) The name of the recipients
    - (3) A greeting
    - (4) Introductory prayer
    - (5) Examples:
      - (a) Philippians 1
      - (b) Galatians 1
      - (c) James 1
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - makes up the largest part of the letter.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ - makes up the final chapter or less, and vary in content.
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ plans (Titus 3:12; Philemon 22)
    - (2) Commendation of coworkers (Romans 16:1-2)
    - (3) Prayer (2 Thessalonians 3:16; Hebrews 13:20-21)
    - (4) \_\_\_\_\_ requests (1 Thessalonians 5:25; Hebrews 13:18-19)
    - (5) Greetings (Romans 16:3-16, 21-23; Hebrews 13:24; 2 John 13)
    - (6) Final \_\_\_\_\_ and exhortations (Colossians 4:16-17; 1 Timothy 6:20-21a)
    - (7) Holy kiss (1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14)
    - (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:17)
    - (9) Benediction (1 Corinthians 16:23-24; Ephesians 6:23-24)
    - (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 3:18; Jude 24-25)

#### B. Interpreting the Epistles

1. General Guidelines
  - a) Read the letter in one \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)
2. Specific to the Epistles

- a) Identify the literary unit
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Identify any words that you may not know
- c) What are the theological principles in this passage? (Refer to questions to ask, VII)
  - (1) The principle should be \_\_\_\_\_ in the biblical text.
  - (2) The principle should be \_\_\_\_\_ and not tied to a specific situation.
  - (3) The principle should not be \_\_\_\_\_ bound!
  - (4) The principle should be \_\_\_\_\_ with the teaching of the rest of Scripture.
  - (5) The principle should be relevant to \_\_\_\_\_ the biblical and the contemporary audience.
- d) How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?
- e) How should I live out this theological principle?

3. Example

**a) Philippians 1:12-18**

**(1) Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**

(a) Literary Context

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(b) Historical Context

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**(2) Specific to the Epistles**

(a) Identify the literary unit

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(b) Identify any words that you may not know

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**(3) Ask the Interpretive Journey Questions**

(a) What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

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(b) What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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(c) What are the theological principles in this text?

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(d) How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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(e) How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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b) 1 Peter 2:21-25

**(1) Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**

(a) Literary Context

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(b) Historical Context

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**(2) Specific to the Epistles**

(a) Identify the literary unit

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**XIV. Studying Poetry****A. Overview and Purpose**

1. Depending on how you break it down, poetry comprises between \_\_\_ - \_\_\_% of the Bible
  - a) Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and Lamentations are composed almost entirely with poetry.
  - b) Poetry is not confined to these books; prophetic books and other narratives contain poetry within their structure.
2. The poetry genre contains some of the most \_\_\_\_\_ passages for Christians since the early church.
3. Moving from the NT Epistles to the OT Poetry is an extreme contrast, which is why one must understand the differences when studying
  - a) Paul and NT Epistles
    - (1) Appeals to \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) Rational \_\_\_\_\_ are central
    - (3) Syntax/grammar are critical to analyze
  - b) OT Poets
    - (1) Appeals to \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ are central
    - (3) Figures of speech are critical to analyze

**B. Elements of OT Poetry**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Poetry uses a minimum of words to convey the point.
  - b) Example-Psalm 25:4
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ -structured around poetic lines of verse rather than sentences and paragraphs
    - (1) Dominant structural characteristics of OT Poetry
    - (2) Lines are usually grouped in lines of two or three
    - (3) Example-Psalm 3:1-2
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - A poem in which each successive line of poetry starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet
    - (1) There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet.
    - (2) Psalm 25, 34, 145, the acrostic begins with the letter of each verse
    - (3) Psalm 111 and 112, the acrostic is the first letter of each line
    - (4) Psalm 119, the acrostic begins with the first word of the first verse in every eight-verse sections.
    - (5) Can be found in other places in the poetry books, often times your Bible will footnote it.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
    - (1) Think of the poets as \_\_\_\_\_ pictures and not writing essays.
    - (2) In a book like Psalms, \_\_\_\_\_ every verse contains a figure of speech.

(3) Using figures of speech in no way \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ reality behind the figure of speech.

**C. Interpreting Poetry**

1. General Guidelines

- a) Read multiple times in multiple versions
- b) Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)
- c) Specific to Poetry Identifications
- d) Ask the Interpretive questions (Refer to VII)

2. Specific to Poetry

- a) Identify the \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ and visualize the figures of speech
- c) Enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ world of the image

3. Example-Psalm 116:1-4

**a) Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**

(1) Literary Context

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(2) Historical Context

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**b) Identify parallelism**

(1) Thought 1

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(2) Thought 2

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(3) Thought 3

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(4) Thought 4

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**c) Locate and visualize figures of speech**

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**d) Enter into the emotional world of the image**

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**e) Ask the Interpretive Journey Questions**

(1) What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

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(2) What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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(3) What are the theological principles in this text? (XIII.B.1.c)

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(4) How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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(5) How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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## XV. Interpreting the OT Prophets

### A. Overview of OT Prophecy

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Prophets- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Prophets- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi
3. Definitions
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - someone who is sent by God with a prophecy (Jeremiah 1:4-10)
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - A message from the prophet who received it from God, a divine message.
4. Content
  - a) These books contain primarily numerous short spoken or preached \_\_\_\_\_, spoken by a prophet primarily to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) There are some visions from God, as well as some short narratives.
  - c) The vast majority addresses the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel/Judah and the consequential impending judgment.
  - d) The prophets indict Israel and Judah on the charges of Idolatry, social injustice, and religious ritualism.
  - e) Only a small percentage of the Old Testament prophetic literature deals with \_\_\_\_\_ events.
  - f) "Less than 2 percent of Old Testament prophecy is messianic. Less than 5 percent specifically describes the new-covenant age. Less than 1 percent concerns events yet to come in our time."-How to Read the Bible for all it is Worth- Gordon and Fee
  - g) The prophets express the deep, deep \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord for His people and the intense pain he feels as a result of their rejection of Him.
  - h) All of the OT Prophets can be placed inside of 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, Ezra, and Nehemiah.
5. Figures of Speech
  - a) This is one of the main weapons employed by the OT prophets, in part, which makes them so colorful in reading and study.
  - b) Examples
    - (1) Amos 3:8- \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) Isaiah 1:18- \_\_\_\_\_
    - (3) Jeremiah 3:1- \_\_\_\_\_
6. Basic Message of the OT Prophets
  - a) You have \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant; you had better \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) No repentance? Then \_\_\_\_\_ will come!
  - c) Yet, there is \_\_\_\_\_ beyond the judgment for a glorious, future restoration.

### B. Interpreting OT Prophecy

1. General Guidelines
  - a) Read multiple times in multiple versions

- b) Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)
- c) Ask the Interpretive questions (Refer to VII)
- 2. Specific to OT Prophecy
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ the book's background, date, and author.
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ Figurative Language
    - (1) Most modern Americans tend to read all language literally.
    - (2) Undoubtedly, the Hebrew language of the Scriptures is much more likely to contain hyperbole and figurative language than the type of literature most modern Americans read regularly.
  - c) Distinguish between conditional and unconditional prophecy
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ - can be given as conditional promises or warnings (Jonah 3:4)
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ - unalterable purposes of God
  - d) Determine whether the prophetic predictions are fulfilled or unfulfilled
    - (1) Does this speak of something that was to come in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the author?
    - (2) Allow the NT to be the guide on the fulfillment of \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy.
  - e) Seek to understand what the inspired author is trying to convey to his \_\_\_\_\_ audience before seeking to determine the \_\_\_\_\_ for us today.

### C. Applying OT Prophecy

- 1. We apply prophecy best when we restate the prophets' agenda.
  - a) The prophets ultimately were calling the people to the two great commandments
    - (1) Love \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) Love your \_\_\_\_\_
    - (3) Oftentimes, these require repentance and returning to God, or even faithfulness in adversity.
  - b) Prophets also called the people to the Bible, emphasizing orthodoxy and orthopraxy:
    - (1) The Right \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) The Right \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Connecting the OT to 2020's
  - a) We are God's people now; they were God's people then.
  - b) 3 summary applications
    - (1) Call out \_\_\_\_\_ hypocrisy
    - (2) Call for real \_\_\_\_\_
    - (3) They point us to God's ultimate \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Example- Jeremiah 7:1-7
  - a) Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)
    - (1) Literary Context

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(2) Historical Context

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**b) Specific to OT Prophets**

(1) Identify Figurative Language

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(2) Distinguish between conditional and unconditional prophecy

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(3) Determine whether the prophetic predictions are fulfilled or unfulfilled

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(4) Seek to understand what the inspired author is trying to convey to his original audience before seeking to determine the implications for us today.

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**c) Applying OT Prophecy**

(1) Does Jeremiah call the people to either of the two great commandments?

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(2) Does he emphasize orthodoxy and orthopraxy?

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(3) Which of the 3 summary applications applies to us today?

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(4) How does your application line up with the rest of Scripture?

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# MAJOR & MINOR PROPHETS

## MAJOR PROPHETS

**ISAIAH** 740–680 BC

**Theme:** Condemnation and Consolation

**Jesus in Isaiah:** Virgin Birth (7:14); Jesus' Suffering (53:1–12)

**JEREMIAH** 627–586 BC

**Theme:** Impending Judgement on Israel and Jerusalem

**Jesus in Jeremiah:** The Hope of Israel (14:8); Potter (18:6)

**LAMENTATIONS** 586–516 BC

**Theme:** Lament over the Fall of Jerusalem

**Jesus in Lamentations:** "My Portion" (3:24)

**EZEKIEL** 593–571 BC

**Theme:** God's Faithfulness; God Is Lord

**Jesus in Ezekiel:** Caring Shepherd (34:16)

**DANIEL** 605–536 BC

**Theme:** Encouragement of God's Power and His Plans for Israel's Future

**Jesus in Daniel:** "Son of Man" (7:13)

## MINOR PROPHETS

**HOSEA** 753–715 BC

**Theme:** Spiritual Adultery; God Loves Israel Despite her Sin

**JOEL** 835–796 BC

**Theme:** The Day of Judgement

**AMOS** 760–750 BC

**Theme:** God Is Perfectly Just

**OBADIAH** c. 853–840 BC

**Theme:** God Will Punish the Unrighteous

**JONAH** 850–780 BC

**Theme:** God Loves All People

**MICAH** 740–690 BC

**Theme:** God Hates Sin, but Will Rescue Those Who Repent

**NAHUM** 630–612 BC

**Theme:** God Is Good, but He Will Judge the Wicked

**HABAKKUK** 606–604 BC

**Theme:** God Is Just and in Control

**ZEPHANIAH** 625 BC

**Theme:** God Will Judge and Then Bless

**HAGGAI** c. 520 BC

**Theme:** God Must Have Preeminence

**ZECHARIAH** c. 515 BC

**Theme:** God Is in Control and Will Remember His People

**MALACHI** c. 430 BC

**Theme:** The Wicked Will Be Punished, but God's People Will Be Blessed

**18 • The Prophets of the Old Testament (870 BC – 465 BC)**

Prophet*	Propheesied	Kings Who Ruled During Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (BC)	Prophet's Place of Birth
Elijah	To Israel	Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram	870-845	Tishbe
Elisha	To Israel	Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz	845-800	Abel Meholah
Isaiah	To Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	760-673	Jerusalem
Jeremiah	To Judah	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	650-582	Anathoth
Ezekiel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-570	Jerusalem
Daniel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-540	Judah (Jerusalem?)
Hosea	To Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	758-725	Israel
Joel	To Judah	Governor Ezra	450	Jerusalem
Amos	To Israel	Jeroboam II	765-754	Tekoa**
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	Zedekiah	590	Jerusalem
Jonah	To Nineveh	Jeroboam II	781	Gath Hepher**
Micah	To Judah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	738-698	Moresheth-gath**
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	658-615	Elkosh**
Habakkuk	To Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	608-598	Unknown
Zephaniah	To Judah	Amon, Josiah	640-626	Unknown
Haggai	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	520	Jerusalem
Zechariah	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	522-509	Jerusalem
Malachi	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	465	Jerusalem

\* Prophets are listed in the order they are found in the Bible.

\*\* Exact location unknown.

**XVI. Conclusion-Reading the Bible****A. Why should you read the Bible daily?**

1. You are blessed with \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Scripture, but that has not always been the case.
2. The Bible lays out the path for both those who read it and those who do not.
  - a) Psalms 1: \_\_\_ - \_\_\_
  - b) Matthew 7: \_\_\_
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ habit builds upon itself.

**B. How much should I read?**

1. Start \_\_\_\_\_: A paragraph or one chapter.
2. Naturally, you will want to take in larger chunks.
3. Focus on smaller sections to \_\_\_\_\_. (Note the difference)
4. Do not let a Bible reading plan deter you.

**C. How do I read the Bible?**

1. OIA Method
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - what does the text say?
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - what does the text mean?
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ - How can I apply this to my life?
2. Further questions to ask
  - a) What does this passage teach me about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - b) What does this passage teach me about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - c) How does the biblical author want me to \_\_\_\_\_ to his teaching about God and humanity? (That is, what specific expressions of repentance, faith, and obedience are expected?)

**D. Should I use a Devotional Book?**

1. Generally, the answer is \_\_\_\_\_!
  - a) If you must choose between one or the other, the Bible is always the best and only choice.
  - b) Use it as a \_\_\_\_\_, not your only reading.
2. Use books that help explain the text, not just pick random passages and tell a story that connects.
3. Most devotional books do not have you read through Scripture as a unit or by a book.
  - a) Everyday Gospel- Paul David Tripp
  - b) For the Love of God- D. A. Carson

**E. How to use \_\_\_\_\_ for Bible Reading/Study**

1. Screen reading is better than not reading at all, but the distraction level multiplies by 1000%
2. To study the Bible as outlined above, it is recommended to always use a \_\_\_\_\_ copy of Scripture.
3. Bible programs exist that make studying easier and are highly recommended.

**F. Should you use a Study Bible or Commentary?**

1. These resources can be helpful as long as they do not replace your \_\_\_\_\_ with Scripture on your own.





# Homework

Home Work- Each section of questions is tied to the corresponding Roman Numeral

**I. What is the Bible**

1. How would you rank your knowledge of the Bible on a scale of 1 to 10? How did you learn about the Bible?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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2. What is the basic storyline of the Bible, and what are your thoughts on it being broken down to 3 sentences?

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3. What are the years covered in the writing of the OT? Does that change your perspective?

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4. What are the years covered in the writing of the NT? Does that change your perspective?

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5. What is one new fact that you learned about the Bible in the section above?

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**II. How is the Bible Organized?**

1. What does the word “testament” mean?
  - a.) Testimony b.) History c.) Covenant d.) Canon
2. How many books are in the Old Testament?
  - a.) 39 b.) 36 c.) 27 d.) 63
3. Which of the following are considered part of the “Law”?
  - a.) Genesis b.) Joshua c.) Numbers d.) Both a and c
4. Which of the following are considered “Major Prophets”?
  - a.) Isaiah b.) Ezekiel c.) Lamentations d.) All of the above

5. In its basic division, the Bible is divided into what two covenants?

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6. What language(s) was the Old Testament written in?

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7. What is the Ben Asher family credited with doing around 900 A.D.?

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8. What is Robert “Stephanus” Estienne credited with doing in 155

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### III. The Bible’s Authorship

1. **True or False** Luke explicitly claims that God brought to his mind the stories he was to write in his books.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Theory of Inspiration holds that there is dual authorship to the scriptures.
3. Is anything lost in ignoring or denying the human element in the writing of the Bible? Is it too simplistic to just say, “God wrote it”?

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### IV. English Translations

1. The Bible was originally written in which three languages?  
a.) Hebrew, Chaldean, Latin b.) Aramaic, Middle English, Greek c.) Coptic, Hebrew, Greek d.) Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first to translate the entire Bible into English.  
a.) William Tyndale b.) Martin Luther c.) John Calvin d.) John Wycliffe
3. If you were to obtain additional Bible translations to supplement your study, which ones would you get?

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4. What translation of the Bible would you use for (a) careful, verse-by-verse study, (b) a gift to an international student, (c) reading through the Bible in one year with a group of college students?

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## V. The Importance of Biblical Interpretation

1. How is interpreting the Bible different from interpreting any other piece of literature?

- 
- 
2. What would make you a more faithful biblical interpreter?

- 
- 
3. “\_\_\_\_\_ is the best interpreter of Scripture”—meaning the context of the whole Bible is important to understand any individual part.  
a.) The Pastor b.) Scripture c.) Hermeneutics d.) Holy Spirit

## VI. General Guidelines to Interpreting the Bible

1. What steps can you take to make prayer and meditation a regular part of your Bible reading?

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- 
2. What does it mean to “let Scripture interpret Scripture”?

- 
- 
3. When you read the Bible, do you, either consciously or unconsciously, take into account the genre of the book you are reading?

- 
- 
4. Do you approach all portions of the Bible as pointing to Jesus? Which parts seem the most difficult to view in this way? Why?
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-

**VII. Questions to Ask while studying the Bible**

1. Write out the 5 questions that apply to interpreting the Bible.

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**VIII. Understanding Biblical Genre**

1. Look through the table of contents in the front of the Bible. Can you identify the literary genres that are contained in the various books?

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2. Of the different literary genres included in the Bible, in your opinion, which is most unfamiliar to modern readers?

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3. “A category of artistic, musical, or literary composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content” is the definition of:
  - a.) Narrative b.) Genre c.) Hermeneutic

4. This biblical book would be identified as a Letter:
  - a.) Matthew b.) Hosea c.) Ephesians

**IX. Understanding Contexts**

**A. Literary Contexts**

1. What is the definition of Literary Contexts?

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2. Interpret James 2:23 in light of its immediate context

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3. How does Genesis 6:1-8 form a bridge from Genesis 5 to the flood narrative?

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- 4. What repeated words can you find in Matthew 5 and 6? How do they explain their sections?

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**B. Historical Context**

- 1. What is the definition of Historical Contexts?

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- 2. Identify the Historical context of the book of Hosea (Answer the questions from IX.B.3)

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**X. Observe What is There**

- 1. Read Luke 15:11-32.
- 2. What do the details of the father's behavior in verses 20-24 contribute to the parable and to the parable's description of the father, who represents the Lord in certain ways?

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- 3. Evaluate the wording of the interchange between the father and the older son in verses 28-32. What else does this contribute to your appreciation of the father?

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**XI. How to Read Narrative**

- 1. Read John 2:13-22 at least 2 times
- 2. Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)
  - 1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Narrative Arc Analysis

1. What is the Setting? (XI.A.3-4)

1. Before the text

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. After the text-

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Characters-

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Plot Development (XI.B)

1. Identify the Conflict-

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Identify the Climax

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Identify the Resolution

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Identify the Following Action/Interpretation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

XII. Deeper Narrative Reading

1. Read Numbers 21:6-20 at least 2 times

2. Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)

1. Literary Context

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Historical Context

\_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Narrative Arc Analysis**

**1. What is the Setting? (XI.A.3-4)**

- 1. Before the text

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- 2. After the text-

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- 3. Characters-

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**2. Plot Development (XI.B)**

- 1. Identify the Conflict-

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- 2. Identify the Climax

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- 3. Identify the Resolution

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- 4. Identify the Following Action/Interpretation

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**2. Textual Horizon (XII. A)**

- 1. What does the author write about:

- 1. Characters

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- 2. Setting (Physical Location)

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- 3. Events

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- 4. Themes

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2. These elements will give the text its foundation and carry it through the rest of Scripture.

**3. Covenantal Horizon (XII. B)**

1. Greater Covenantal Era- \_\_\_\_\_
2. What has led to this narrative (stay in the historical era)
3. How do we interpret the key elements of the story within the greater covenantal story? (Use these questions to help further interoperate the text)
4. Some of the elements will not be used, or all of them may be used.
  1. Characters  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Setting (Physical Location)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Events  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Themes  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Canonical Horizon (XII. C)**

1. How does this connect to the rest of the story of the Bible?
2. Use the same elements that you used in the Covenantal Horizon
  1. Characters  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Setting (Physical Location)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Events  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Themes  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**XIII. Studying Epistles**

1. Read Colossians in its entirety
2. Read Colossians 3:1-4 3to 4 times (use different translations)
3. **Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**

1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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**4. Specific to the Epistles**

1. Identify the literary unit

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2. Identify any words that you may not know

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**5. Ask the Interpretive Journey Questions**

1. What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

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2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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3. What are the theological principles in this text?

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4. How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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5. How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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**XIV. Studying Poetry**

- 1. Read Psalm 134 to 5 times (use different translations)
- 2. **Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**
  - 1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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3. **Identify parallelism**

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4. **Locate and visualize figures of speech**

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**5. Enter into the emotional world of the image**

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**6. Ask the Interpretive Journey Questions**

1. What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience

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2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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3. What are the theological principles in this text? (XIII.B.1.c)

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4. How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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5. How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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**XV. Studying the OT Prophets**

- 1. Read Obadiah in its entirety
- 2. Read Obadiah 15-21 2 to 3 times more (use different translations)
- 3. **Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)**

- 1. Literary Context

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- 2. Historical Context

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**4. Specific to OT Prophets**

- 1. Identify Figurative Language

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- 2. Distinguish between conditional and unconditional prophecy

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---

- 3. Determine whether the prophetic predictions are fulfilled or unfulfilled

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- 4. Seek to understand what the inspired author is trying to convey to his original audience before seeking to determine the implications for us today.

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**5. Applying OT Prophecy**

- 1. Does the author call the people to either of the two great commandments?

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2. Does he emphasize orthodoxy and orthopraxy?

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3. Which of the 3 summary applications applies to us today?

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4. How does your application line up with the rest of Scripture?

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**6. Ask the Interpretive questions (Refer to VII)**

1. What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

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2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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3. What are the theological principles in this text? (XIII.B.1.c)

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4. How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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5. How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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# Appendix

## Resources to Better Study the Bible

### Study Bible

- Crossway ESV Study Bible
- Grace and Truth Study Bible-NASB/NIV
- Baker Illustrated Study Bible- CSB
- Scofield Study Bible- KJV

### Bible Dictionary

- Ultimate Bible Dictionary-B&H Publishing
- Ultimate Bible Guide- B&H Publishing

### Old Testament Survey

- Old Testament Survey- House and Mitchell

### New Testament Survey

- Reading the New Testament as Christian Scripture -Pennington

### Commentary

- Christ Centered Exposition- Almost all Books of the Bible
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary OT and NT
- The MacArthur Bible Commentary

### Bible Software

- Logos Bible Software
- Olive Tree Bible Software

### How to Study the Bible- Further Study(Also Works Cited)

- Getting the Message- Doriani
- Bible Study- Students' Guide- Nielson
- 40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible- Plummer
- Grasping God's Word-Duvall/Hays

## Glossary

**Acrostics-** A poem in which each successive line of poetry starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

**Biblical Genre-** The different types of literature found in the Bible (Narrative, Poetry, etc.).

**Biblical Revelation-** God's direct communication of previously unknown truths to humanity.

**Canonical Horizon-**The connection is the greater thread of the Bible; the goal, though, is to be specific in that connection, not a broad overview.

**Conditional Prophecy-** Can be given as conditional promises or warnings.

**Conflict-** This is where the story's tension begins to build or conflict arises.

**Covenantal Horizon-** What led to this narrative; stay in the historical era in which the story fits.

**Crisis and Climax-** Stories become more intense as obstacles mount up or as the test looms.

**Dynamic Equivalence-** This is a type of translation that seeks to accurately convey the same meaning of the original languages but is not so concerned about preserving the same number of words or equivalent grammatical constructions.

**Following Action-** One can generally find this in an action or a comment made right after the climax, which often points to its place in redemptive history.

**Formal Equivalence-** This type of translation is very concerned to preserve, as much as possible, the number of words and grammatical constructions from the original.

**Historical Context-** This relates to all matters outside of the text, such as culture, customs, languages, beliefs, and history of the author and the original audience.

**Interpretation (Biblical)-** To properly interpret a text is to faithfully convey the inspired human author's meaning of the text, while not neglecting divine intent.

**Interpretation (General)-** To interpret a document is to express its meaning through speaking or writing.

**Literary Context-** The words, sentences, paragraphs, or chapters surrounding and relating to the text.

**Orthodoxy-** The Right Doctrine.

**Orthopraxy-**The Right Practice.

**Parallelism-** Structured around poetic lines of verse rather than sentences and paragraphs.

**Prophecy-** A message from the prophet who received it from God, a divine message.

**Prophet-** Someone who is sent by God with a prophecy.

**Terseness-** Poetry uses a minimum of words to convey the point.

**Textual Horizon-** Looking for what the author has written, not any preconceived ideas.

**Translation-** Involves moving the meaning of the text in one language (source language) to another language (receptor language).

**Resolution-** How is the problem solved in the account?

**Unconditional Prophecy-** Unalterable purposes of God.

**How to Read Narrative- Worksheet**

**1. Read the Passage at least 2 times**

**2. Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)**

1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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**3. Narrative Arc Analysis**

**1. What is the Setting? (XI.A.3-4)**

1. Before the text

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---

2. After the text-

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---

3. Characters-

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**2. Plot Development (XI.B)**

1. Identify the Conflict-

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2. Identify the Climax

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3. Identify the Resolution

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4. Identify the Following Action/Interpretation

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**Deeper Narrative Reading- Worksheet**

- 1. Read the Passage at least 2 times**
- 2. Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)**

1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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---

**3. Narrative Arc Analysis**

- 1. What is the Setting? (XI.A.3-4)**

1. Before the text

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---

2. After the text-

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---

3. Characters-

---

---

**2. Plot Development (XI.B)**

1. Identify the Conflict-

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2. Identify the Climax

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3. Identify the Resolution

---

---

4. Identify the Following Action/Interpretation

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**4. Textual Horizon (XII. A)**

1. What does the author write about:

1. Characters

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2. Setting (Physical Location)

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3. Events

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4. Themes

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---

2. These elements will give the text its foundation and carry it through the rest of Scripture.

**5. Covenantal Horizon (XII. B)**

1. Greater Covenantal Era-\_\_\_\_\_
2. What has led to this narrative (stay in the historical era)
3. How do we interpret the key elements of the story within the greater covenantal story? (Use these questions to help further interoperate the text)
4. Some of the elements will not be used, or all of them may be used.

1. Characters

---



---

2. Setting (Physical Location)

---



---

3. Events

---



---

4. Themes

---



---

**6. Canonical Horizon (XII. C)**

1. How does this connect to the rest of the story of the Bible?
2. Use the same elements that you used in the Covenantal Horizon

1. Characters

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2. Setting (Physical Location)

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---

3. Events

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4. Themes

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**Studying Epistles- Worksheet**

- 1. Read the whole book in its entirety
- 2. Read the passage 3 to 4 times (use different translations)
- 3. **Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**

- 1. Literary Context

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- 2. Historical Context

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- 4. **Specific to the Epistles**

- 1. Identify the literary unit

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- 2. Identify any words that you may not know

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- 5. **Ask the Interpretive Journey Questions**

- 1. What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

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- 2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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3. What are the theological principles in this text?

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4. How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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5. How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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**Studying Poetry- Worksheet**

1. Read the Psalm 4 to 5 times (use different translations)
2. **Ask the literary and historical questions (refer to IX)**

1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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3. **Identify parallelism**

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4. **Locate and visualize figures of speech**

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5. **Enter into the emotional world of the image**

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**6. Ask the Interpretive Journey Questions**

1. What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience

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2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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3. What are the theological principles in this text? (XIII.B.1.c)

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4. How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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5. How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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**Studying the OT Prophets- Worksheet**

1. Read the surrounding passages
2. Read the Passage 2 to 3 times more (use different translations)
3. **Ask the Literal and Historical questions (Refer to IX)**

1. Literary Context

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2. Historical Context

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4. **Specific to OT Prophets**

1. Identify Figurative Language

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2. Distinguish between conditional and unconditional prophecy

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3. Determine whether the prophetic predictions are fulfilled or unfulfilled

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4. Seek to understand what the inspired author is trying to convey to his original audience before seeking to determine the implications for us today.

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5. **Applying OT Prophecy**

1. Does the author call the people to either of the two great commandments?

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2. Does he emphasize orthodoxy and orthopraxy?

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3. Which of the 3 summary applications applies to us today?

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4. How does your application line up with the rest of Scripture?

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**6. Ask the Interpretive questions (Refer to VII)**

1. What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

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2. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

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3. What are the theological principles in this text? (XIII.B.1.c)

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4. How does the theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

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5. How should I, today, live out the theological principle?

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