

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE (AS IT'S MEANT TO BE READ)

BASIS FOR BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION:

- The Bible is Inspired and arranged by the Holy Spirit written through human authors (Arrangement of Books themselves, not the order of books)
- The central messages of the Bible (Salvation and Christian living) is clear and understandable (Perspicuity)
- The unifying center of the whole Bible is Jesus
- Scripture powerful to transform, especially when properly understood

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

THE KEY PRINCIPLE FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE:

If the Bible is written and arranged with authorial intent (divine and human), then we can read it with that assumption and look for that intent. Therefore, every passage has an objective meaning that we can begin to uncover by using the proper tools.

GENERAL TOOLS FOR READING:

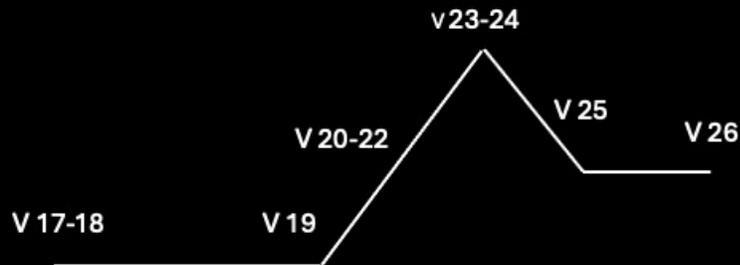
- Identify the Genre of text (Narrative, Poetry, Discourse, Prophecy)
- Structure of a passage reveals its emphasis
- Repetition and word usage
- Grammatical flow and argumentation
- Statements that directly reveal the writer's purpose
- Amounts of text dedicated to an idea

GENRE SPECIFIC TOOLS FOR READING:

Narrative	Poetry	Prophecy	Discourse
Story Arc	Parallelism	Dual Focus	Argumentation
Passage of time	Metaphor	Metaphor	Flow of Ideas
Narrator Comments	Hyperbole	Symbolism	Transitional Words

EXERCISE IN LUKE 5:17-26:

Story Arc



Amount of Text

¹⁷ On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

Purpose Statements

²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

Luke 5:17-26 (ESV)

Synthesis of Luke 5:17-26

Main Point: **Jesus Has All Authority, Even to Forgive Your Sin**

Implications:

- Jesus can perform miracles in your life, but the greatest miracle is the redemption of your soul.
- Your greatest need is not physical, it is spiritual.
- Jesus came to do much more than fix momentary suffering, but he cares about your momentary suffering AND has more to offer you.
- True friends recognize their complete lack and ability to help you but bring you to the feet of the one who can help you.

CLOSING ENCOURAGEMENTS:

- Just read the Bible (read a passage 20x before trying to understand)
- Don't neglect the role of prayer in understanding the Word of God.
- Learn to enjoy reading the Bible before trying to understand every part of it.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- 40 questions about interpreting the Bible – *Robert L. Plummer*
- How to read the Bible for all its worth - *Gordon Fee*
- How can I begin to teach the Bible? - *David R Helm*
- The Bible Project (YouTube)
- Chicago statement on biblical inerrancy
- Charles Simeon Trust (organization)