

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 3:14-18

Lesson #2

Hints for Bible reading

01/13/2019

How to read the Old Testament



1

Upcoming class topics

- Jan.20 #3 Origin and Overview of the O.T. Heb.1:1-2
- Jan.27 #4 Setting the stage for human life Gen.1-2
- Feb.3 #5 Broken people in a broken world Gen.3-11
- Feb.10 #6 Covenants and stories Gen.12:1-2
- Feb.17 #7 Old and New covenants Jn.1:17
- Feb.24 #8 Life under the Law Acts 7:17-43

2

2 Peter 3

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, (new heaven and earth) be **diligent** (zealous effort) to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable **distort** (twist), as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own **destruction** (ruin)."

- Proper understanding of the Bible is **vital** to Christian peace and holiness, but it will be **challenging**, and can involve **distortion** with destructive **consequences**.

3

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on your guard (heads up)** so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

Bereans must be determined, diligent, and disciplined.

4

How do you read the Bible?

"God gave me a verse"
A spiritual "crystal ball"
An encyclopedia of "proof texts"
"Absolute Inerrancy?"
Hebrew is a "holy language"
Numerology
Law of first occurrence
Bible codes

- Is it enough just to pray that the Spirit will lead?
- Is it enough to just trust and follow the leaders?
- Is it enough to just follow our feelings?
- Is it enough to just read the Bible everyday?
- Is it really all that important?



5

The Point of this lesson

Acquiring wisdom comes from the light of Scripture and calls for *determined, diligent, and disciplined study.*

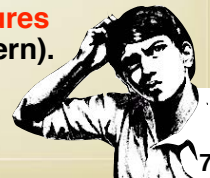
6

Three important issues in understanding the Bible:

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.

Cultural lenses are shaped by:

- The distinctives of **language** (Hebrew, Greek, and English).
- The customs and values of **cultures** (ancient, near eastern, and modern).
- The historical, theological, and literary, **context**.



7

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.



8

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.

Various Biblical genre

Apocalyptic	Parable	Satire
Biographical	Pastoral	Wisdom literature
Praise	Poetry	
Exposition	Prophecy	
Narrative	Proverb	
Oratory	Tragedy	



9

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.

- Hebrew proverbs = a probable prediction, not a promise

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go (**according to his way**), even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

- “the way he should go” could mean -
 1. “the way of the law”,
 2. “with sensitivity to his individual personality”, or
 3. “in the way he would like to go”.



10

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.

- Hebrew poetry = parallelism

Psalm 1:6

“For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.”

Psalm 100:4

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.”

Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the defense of my life;
Whom shall I dread?”



11

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.

- Hebrew prophecy = multiple fulfillments

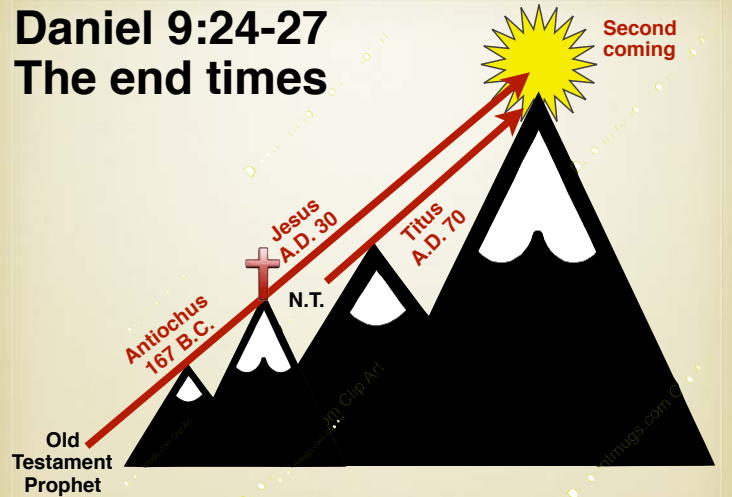
Isaiah 7:14
“Behold a **virgin (maiden)** will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel.”

vs 16
“For before the boy will know to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.”



12

Daniel 9:24-27 The end times



13

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.

- Hebrew verb tenses are action sensitive (perfect, imperfect) not time sensitive (past, present, future).

(Olam = **eternal, long duration**)

- Gen.3:22 “lest he eat and live **forever**”.
- Ex.21:6 “he shall serve him **permanently**”.

(Elohim = **mighty, God**)

- Hebrew language often does not have the same precision as English.

(Lechem = **bread, food**)

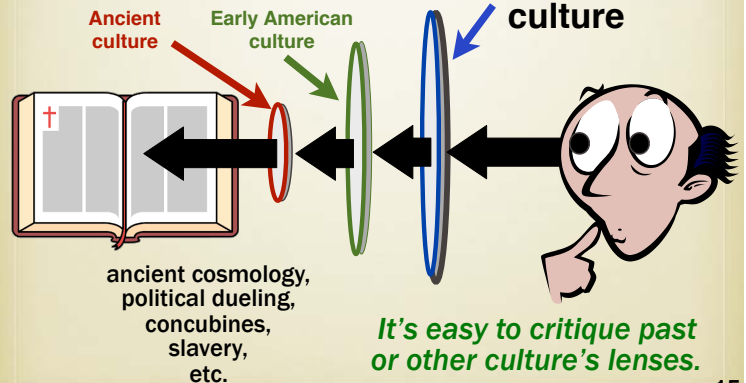


14

We read the Bible through cultural lenses.

Traditional cultures

Modern Western culture

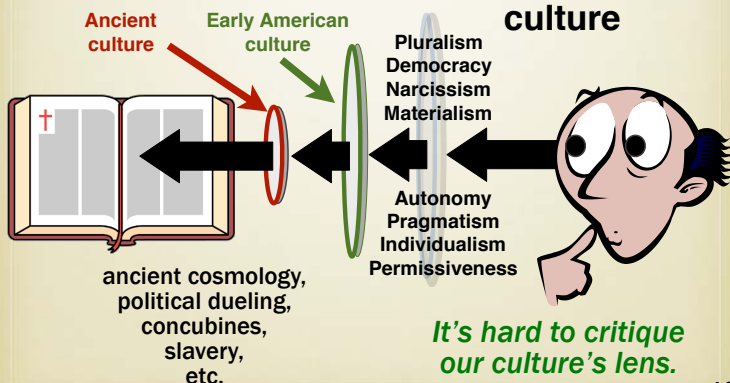


15

We read the Bible through cultural lenses.

Traditional cultures

Modern Western culture



16

THE GOSPEL STORY



17

Three important issues in understanding the Bible:

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.
2. Discerning the relationship and role of Biblical Covenants.

Hebrews 8:13

“When He said, “A new covenant,” (Jer.31) He has made the first **obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to **disappear**.”



18

John 1:17

“For the Law was given through Moses;



O.T.

N.T.



grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”



19

Three important issues in understanding the Bible:

1. Respecting the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.
2. Discerning the relationship and role of Biblical Covenants.
3. Knowing how to unpack the treasures within a Biblical text.



20

What do you think?

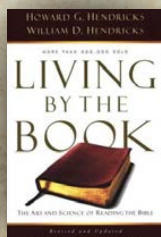
The Protestant Reformation put the responsibility of Biblical interpretation in the hands of every individual.

Was that wise?



21

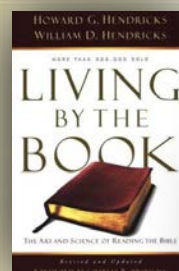
“In early 1960, as I was finishing my first year at Dallas Theological Seminary, I took a course from Dr. Howard Hendricks that would mark my life and ministry forever.”



Chuck Swindoll



22

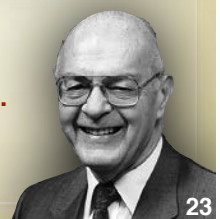


3. Application

2. Interpretation

1. Observation

- Step #1 is the foundation for step #2.
- Step #2 is the scaffolding for step #3.
- Step #3 must be in view from the beginning.



23

The NIKE Christian tends to apply before observing and interpreting.

Don't change the order!

Application

Interpretation

Observation

24

1. Like an Athlete - have the end in mind.

Some inadequate goals:

- Settling for **historical, academic** facts.
- Reading just to “**feel spiritually encouraged**”.
- Viewing Bible reading as a “**sacrament**”.
- Look for verses that “speak to you” **apart from their context**.
- Settling for a **systematic Bible reading program**.

Some good goals:

- To understand **the Gospel of grace**.
- To understand **our calling as a disciple**.
- To learn **how God works**.
- To know **Christ**.

25

2. Like a Miner - Dig out the facts.

- If this text is an answer, **what is the question?**
- **Bombard the text with questions** from heart, mind, and observations of life.
- **Doors to insights:**
 - Things that are **emphasized**.
 - Things that are **repeated**.
 - Things that are **related**.
 - Things that are **alike and unlike**.
 - Things that are **true to life**.
- **Outline** the passage.
- **Make a chart** of the passage.

26

3. Like a Detective - look for clues.

- **Commit to the investigation** - this is hard work.
- Be **persistent, patient, and prayerful**. Don't quit until you find its spiritual treasures.
- Seek out solid help (**teachers, books, classes, etc.**) that guide your study of the Scripture.
- **Prayerfully Meditate** on the text over time.
- Make an **outline** of the text.
- Start a Bible Study **journal**.

27

Genesis 12

- 1 Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go forth
from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land
which I will show you;
- 2 **And I will make you**
a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
- 3 **And I will bless those**
who bless you,
And the one who curses you
I will curse.
And in you
all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

28

Genesis 12

- What is this all about?*
- 1 Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go forth **#1 Present tense!**
from your country, *Where?*
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land *Where?*
which I will show you; *How?*
 - 2 **And I will make you #2 Future tense!**
a great nation, *How?*
And I will bless you, *How?*
And make your *name* great;
And so you shall be a blessing; *How?*
 - 3 **And I will bless those #3 Future tense!**
who bless you, *How?*
And the one who *curses* you
I will curse.
And in you #4 *How? Future tense!*
all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
- How important is “leaving” in order to be blessed?*
- Is this normally how God works?*
- Why the emphasis on family?*

29

PROVERBS

	Prologue to Wise Living The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. (1:7) CHAPTERS 1-9	Principles for Wise Living The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, / And before honor comes humility. (15:33) CHAPTERS 10:1-31:9	Personification of Wise Living Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, / But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. (31:30) CHAPTER 31:10-31
Emphasis	Wisdom especially for youth	Wisdom for all	
Framework	Subjects and statements	People and problems	Counseling and correction
Style	A book filled with short statements that declare a profound truth providing wisdom for life		
Theme	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (9:10)		
Key Verse	9:10		
Christ in Proverbs	Wisdom is incarnate in Christ "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; Colossians 2:3).		

Copyright © 1979, 1996, 2009 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

30

Psalm 23

"¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

31

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

32

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; **He** leads me beside quiet waters.
3 He restores my soul; **He** guides me in the paths of righteousness for **His** name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and **Your** staff, they comfort me.
⁵ **You** prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

33

4. Like a seamstress - tie it together.

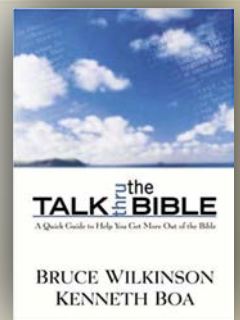
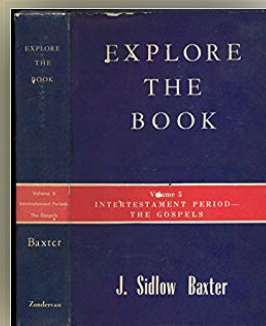
- **Test it** against the whole revelation of Scripture, human experience, and the faith community.
- **Paraphrase it** in your own words.

5. Like a consumer - apply it.

- Answer the big question - **So What?**
- **Have a plan** - practical steps.
- **Share it** - give others an opportunity to be a part of the process.



34



35