

How To Study The Bible

Dawson Life Group Participant Book
Spring 2018

March 4

How To Study The Bible

Class 1: What Is the Bible & Is It Reliable?

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

I. What is the Bible?

A. Inspired:

1. Argument for the Old Testament
2. Argument for the New Testament
3. Our own experience

B. What does the Bible say about itself?

- (Psalm 12:6) "The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times."
- (Psalm 18:30) "The word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."
- (Psalm 119:89) "Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens."
- (Matthew 4.4) "...It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

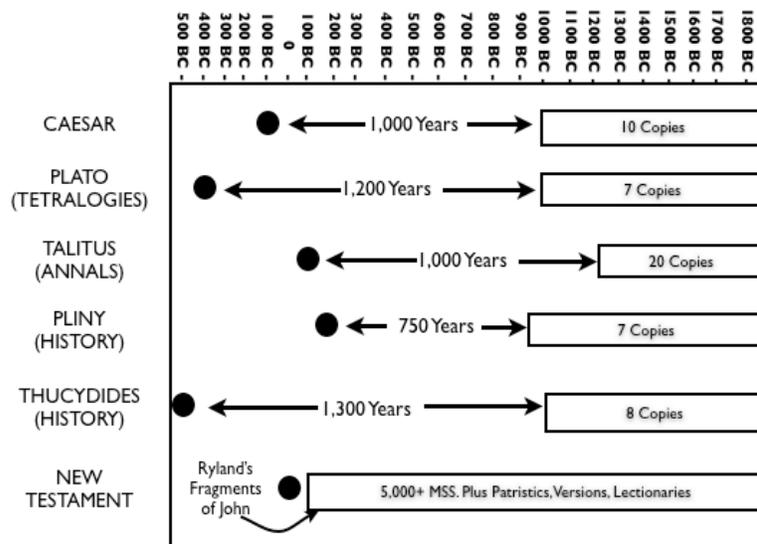
II. Is Our Copy of the Bible Reliable?

A. Three Tests of Reliability

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. The Old Testament

C. The New Testament



III. Translations:

For Next Week

- Read Luke 24:13-35 & 44, Deuteronomy 18:20-22, and 2 Peter 3:16. What do these verses say about the reliability of scripture?
- Read Nehemiah 1:1-3 and write down your initial observations concerning the text.
- Read the *Agassiz and the Fish* article (in your booklet).

March 11
How To Study The Bible
Class 2: Inductive Bible Study, Part 1

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

I. What is the Inductive Bible Study Method?

A. Deductive Study

B. Inductive Study

II. Observation

1. Observe as you write
2. It can help to print out your text
3. Observe patterns in the text (comparisons, contrasts, parallelism)
4. Mark linking words (and, but, etc.)
5. Write down quotations or allusions to other passages
6. Note mention of time or place
7. Mark terms of conclusion (therefore, thus, etc.)
8. Write down questions
9. Memorize

III. Interpretation:

1. Context rules
2. Let Scripture interpret Scripture
3. Never base convictions on an obscure passage
4. Interpret Scripture according to the author's intent
5. Look for the main message of the passage
6. Study the Old Testament in view of Jesus and the New Testament
7. Adopt the New Testament's attitude toward the Old Testament

Example: Nehemiah 1:1-3

¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

For Next Week

- Read Philippians 2:19-30 and begin to study it inductively.
 - Observation (Who? What? When? Where? Why?)
 - Interpretation (what did this text mean to the original audience?)

Agassiz and the Fish

by a Student

It was more than fifteen years ago that I entered the laboratory of Professor Agassiz, and told him I had enrolled my name in the scientific school as a student of natural history. He asked me a few questions about my object in coming, my antecedents generally, the mode in which I afterwards proposed to use the knowledge I might acquire, and finally, whether I wished to study any special branch. To the latter I replied that while I wished to be well grounded in all departments of zoology, I purposed to devote myself specially to insects.

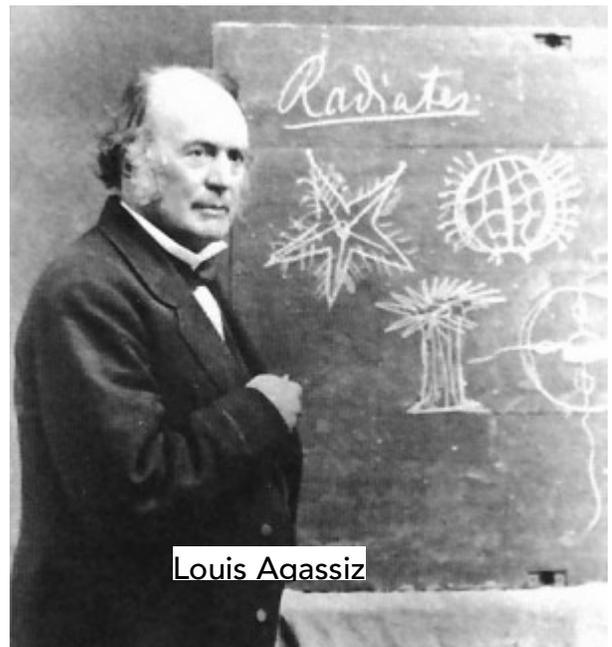
"When do you wish to begin?" he asked.

"Now," I replied.

This seemed to please him, and with an energetic "Very well," he reached from a shelf a huge jar of specimens in yellow alcohol.

"Take this fish," he said, "and look at it; we call it a Haemulon; by and by I will ask what you have seen."

With that he left me. . . . I was conscious of a passing feeling of disappointment, for gazing at a fish did not commend itself to an ardent entomologist. . . .



In ten minutes I had seen all that could be seen in that fish, and started in search of the professor, who had, however, left the museum; and when I returned, after lingering over some of the odd animals stored in the upper apartment, my specimen was dry all over. I dashed the fluid over the fish as if to resuscitate it from a fainting-fit, and looked with anxiety for a return of a normal, sloppy appearance. This little excitement over, nothing was to be done but return to a steadfast gaze at my mute companion. Half an hour passed, an hour, another hour; the fish began to look loathsome. I turned it over and around; looked it in the face—ghastly; from behind, beneath, above, sideways, at a three-quarters view—just as ghastly. I was in despair; at an early hour, I concluded that lunch was necessary; so with infinite relief, the fish was carefully replaced in the jar, and for an hour I was free.

On my return, I learned that Professor Agassiz had been at the museum, but had gone and would not return for several hours. My fellow students were too busy to be disturbed by

continued conversation. Slowly I drew forth that hideous fish, and with a feeling of desperation again looked at it. I might not use a magnifying glass; instruments of all kinds were interdicted. My two hands, my two eyes, and the fish; it seemed a most limited field. I pushed my fingers down its throat to see how sharp its teeth were. I began to count the scales in the different rows until I was convinced that that was nonsense. At last a happy thought struck me—I would draw the fish; and now with surprise I began to discover new features in the creature. Just then the professor returned.

“That is right,” said he, “a pencil is one of the best eyes. I am glad to notice, too, that you keep your specimen wet and your bottle corked.”

With these encouraging words he added—

“Well, what is it like?”

He listened attentively to my brief rehearsal of the structure of parts whose names were still unknown to me; the fringed gill-arches and movable operculum; the pores of the head, fleshly lips, and lidless eyes; the lateral line, the spinous fin, and forked tail; the compressed and arched body. When I had finished, he waited as if expecting more, and then, with an air of disappointment:

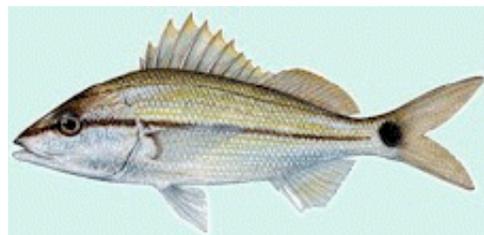
“You have not looked very carefully; why,” he continued, more earnestly, “you haven’t seen one of the most conspicuous features of the animal, which is as plainly before your eyes as the fish itself. Look again; look again!” And he left me to my misery.

I was piqued; I was mortified. Still more of that wretched fish? But now I set myself to the task with a will, and discovered one new thing after another, until I saw how just the professor’s criticism had been. The afternoon passed quickly, and when, towards its close, the professor inquired,

“Do you see it yet?”

“No,” I replied. “I am certain I do not, but I see how little I saw before.”

“That is next best,” said he earnestly, “but I won’t hear you now; put away your fish and go home; perhaps you will be ready with a better answer in the morning. I will examine you before you look at the fish.”



The Tomtate, *Haemulon aurolineatum*.
Illustration by Diana Rome Peebles 1998.
Courtesy of Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission, Division of
Marine Fisheries.

This was disconcerting; not only must I think of my fish all night, studying, without the object before me, what this unknown but most visible feature might be, but also, without reviewing my new discoveries, I must give an exact account of them the next day. I had a bad memory; so I walked home by Charles River in a distracted state, with my two perplexities.

The cordial greeting from the professor the next morning was reassuring; here was a man who seemed to be quite as anxious as I that I should see for myself what he saw.

"Do you perhaps mean," I asked, "that the fish has symmetrical sides with paired organs?"

His thoroughly pleased, "Of course, of course!" repaid the wakeful hours of the previous night. After he had discoursed most happily and enthusiastically—as he always did—upon the importance of this point, I ventured to ask what I should do next.

"Oh, look at your fish!" he said, and left me again to my own devices. In a little more than an hour he returned and heard my new catalogue.

"That is good, that is good!" he repeated, "but that is not all; go on." And so for three long days, he placed that fish before my eyes, forbidding me to look at anything else, or to use any artificial aid. "Look, look, look," was his repeated injunction.

This was the best entomological lesson I ever had—a lesson whose influence was extended to the details of every subsequent study; a legacy the professor has left to me, as he left it to many others, of inestimable value, which we could not buy, with which we cannot part....

The fourth day a second fish of the same group was placed beside the first, and I was bidden to point out the resemblances and differences between the two; another and another followed, until the entire family lay before me, and a whole legion of jars covered the table and surrounding shelves; the odor had become a pleasant perfume; and even now, the sight of an old six-inch worm-eaten cork brings fragrant memories!

The whole group of Haemulons was thus brought into review; and whether engaged upon the dissection of the internal organs, preparation and examination of the bony framework, or the description of the various parts, Agassiz's training in the method of observing facts in their orderly arrangement, was ever accompanied by the urgent exhortation not to be content with them.

"Facts are stupid things," he would say, "until brought into connection with some general law."

At the end of eight months, it was almost with reluctance that I left these friends and turned to insects; but what I gained by this outside experience has been of greater value than years of later investigation in my favorite groups.

Agassiz was the founder of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology and a Harvard professor. The following account was written by one of his students, Samuel H. Scudder, under the title "Agassiz and the Fish, by a Student" (*American Poems*, 3rd ed. [Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co., 1879], pp. 450-54).

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How To Study The Bible

Class 3: Inductive Bible Study, Part 2

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.”

(James 1:22-24)

Application:

Questions to ask of a passage in the Bible:

1. Does it point out sin in my life?
2. What assumptions does it have that I don't share?
3. Is there a command to obey?
4. Is there an encouragement?
5. Is there a promise for me?
6. Does it teach me something about God?
7. Does it teach me something about myself?
8. What evidence for my faith does it give me?
9. What will I do differently today?
10. How can I model/share/teach this truth to encourage others?
11. What application is there for us as a family or as a church?

Guidelines to Follow:

1. Pray
2. Think
3. Write
4. Talk
5. Listen

Practice:

Philippians 2:19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

For Next Week

- Practice the Inductive method on a passage of your choice.
- Read Psalm 90, Luke 24, Luke 4:1-13, and 2 Timothy 3:16.

Two Examples of Unity in Service from 1-2.18

Timothy

- “genuinely concerned for your welfare”
- seeks after the interests of Jesus Christ (cf. 2.4)
- serves as a “son” with Paul “in the gospel” (cf. 2.1-5)

Epaphroditus

- “brother ... fellow worker ... fellow soldier”
- “messenger” and “minister” to Paul
- “longing” for the Philippian Church (cf. Paul’s heart in 1.3-8)
- Concerned over their concern
- worthy of honor because, “he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life” to serve Paul

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church ...” (Colossians 1.24)

In this passage, Paul’s “joy” is tied to the faithful service of others (vss 19, 28, & 29) = hope, joy, cheer, etc.

Paul looks for encouragement from the growth/ blessings of the Philippian Church

False Motivations for Preaching

- not “genuinely concerned for your welfare”
- “seek their own interests”
- motivated by “rivalry or conceit”

Four Roles

- “brother”: fellowship in the Gospel
- “worker”: advancing the Gospel
- “soldier”: defending the Gospel
- “messenger”: sharing the Gospel
- “minister”: living the Gospel

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by

news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your

welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you

know Timothy’s proven worth now as a son with a father he has served with me in the

gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and

I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. Paul genuinely seems to believe he will be released (cf. 1.25)

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier and you messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been

longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed shepherds “long” for the good of their flocks and seek to protect them from worry ... Elder this way he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also,

lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore,

that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive

him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of

Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Epaphroditus’ Christ-like ministry to Paul and the Church

Bottom Line: Timothy and Epaphroditus are living examples of those who preach the gospel “from good will” ... “out of love” (1.15); live “worthy of the gospel” ... stand “firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (1.27); “... In humility count others more significant than [themselves]” (2.3); and who “in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation ... shine as lights in the world” (2.15)

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” (Matt. 16.25)

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How To Study The Bible

Class 4: Interpreting the OT and NT

“And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”
(2 Peter 1:19)

Interpreting the Old Testament: Five Interpretive Lenses

1. Context

2. Covenant

- a. The Adamic covenant (Gen. 1-2; Hosea 6:7),
- b. The Noahic covenant (Gen. 9:8-17),
- c. The Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-14),
- d. The Mosaic covenant (Ex. 19-25),
- e. The Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7),
- f. The New covenant (Jer. 31:27-34; Ezek. 36:24-28; Matt. 26:27-30).

Creation → Fall → Redemption → New Creation

“God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule”

3. Canon

- Use your cross-references!
- Use the handout with Biblical allusions.

4. The Character of God

5. Christ

- a. How does this text point forward to Christ?
- b. How is this text fulfilled by Christ?

Luke 24:25-27, 44

25 "He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself...**44** He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**'")

Interpreting the New Testament: Four Things to Remember

1. In the New Testament, Remember the Basic Genres

- Gospels
- Epistles
- Apocalyptic

2. In the Gospels, Remember to Keep Your Eyes Fixed on Jesus

- When you read any passage in the Gospels, notice:
 - What Jesus did;
 - What Jesus taught;
 - Who Jesus is; and
 - What it means to be His disciple.

3. In the Epistles, Remember the Indicative / Imperative Pattern

- Indicative: "God has done this."
- Imperative: "You need to do that."

"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16)

→ Look at the flow of Romans and Ephesians

4. In Application, Remember What Scripture Is For

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16)

- What is this text teaching me?
- How is this text reproofing or correcting me?
- What is this text training me to do?

For Next Week

- Read Matthew 28: 1-10, 2 Samuel 12:1-6, Matthew 3:13-17, and 1 Samuel 17.

Ro 8:7 Ge 21:12
 Ro 9:9 Ge 18:10
 Ro 9:12 Ge 25:23
 Ro 9:13 Mal 1:23
 Ro 8:15 Ex 33:19
 Ro 9:17 Ex 9:16
 Ro 9:20 Isa 45:9
 Ro 9:25 Ho 2:23
 Ro 9:26 Ho 1:10
 Ro 9:27,28 Isa 10:22,23
 Ro 9:29 Isa 1:9
 Ro 9:33 Isa 8:14
 Ro 9:33 Isa 28:16
 Ro 10:5 Le 16:5
 Ro 10:5 Eze 20:11
 Ro 10:6,7 De 30:12,13
 Ro 10:8 De 30:14
 Ro 10:11 Isa 28:16
 Ro 10:13 Joe 2:32
 Ro 10:15 Isa 62:7
 Ro 10:15 Nu 1:15
 Ro 10:16 Isa 63:1
 Ro 10:18 Ps 19:4
 Ro 10:19 De 32:21
 Ro 10:20,21 Isa 65:1,2
 Ro 11:1 Ps 94:14
 Ro 11:3 1Ki 19:10,14
 Ro 11:4 1Ki 19:18
 Ro 11:8 Isa 28:10
 Ro 11:8 Isa 69
 Ro 11:9,10 Ps 69:22,23
 Ro 11:26,27 Isa 59:20,21
 Ro 11:34 Isa 40:13
 Ro 11:35 Job 41:11
 Ro 12:9 Am 5:15
 Ro 12:16 Isa 5:21
 Ro 12:16 Pr 3:7
 Ro 12:19 De 32:35
 Ro 12:20 Pr 25:21,22
 Ro 13:9 Ex 20:13,17
 Ro 13:9 De 5:16-21
 Ro 13:9 Le 19:18
 Ro 14:11 Isa 45:23
 Ro 15:3 Ps 68:9
 Ro 15:9 Ps 18:49
 Ro 15:10 De 32:43
 Ro 15:11 Ps 117:1
 Ro 15:12 Isa 11:1,10
 Ro 15:21 Isa 62:15
1 Corinthians
 1Co 1:19 Isa 29:14
 1Co 1:20 Isa 44:25
 1Co 1:20 Isa 33:18
 1Co 1:31 Jer 9:24
 1Co 2:9 Isa 64:4
 1Co 3:8 Ps 62:12
 1Co 3:9 Job 5:13
 1Co 5:13 De 17:9
 1Co 5:13 De 19:19
 1Co 5:13 Zec 8:16
 1Co 6:16 Ge 2:24
 1Co 9:9 De 25:4
 1Co 10:1 Ex 13:21
 1Co 10:1 Ex 14:22
 1Co 10:1 Nu 9:18
 1Co 10:3 Ex 16:15
 1Co 10:3 Ex 17:6
 1Co 10:3 Nu 11:4
 1Co 10:3 Nu 20:11
 1Co 10:3 Nu 26:64,65
 1Co 10:7 Ex 32:6
 1Co 10:8,10 Nu 25:1,9
 1Co 10:8,10 Nu 21:4
 1Co 10:8,10 Nu 14:2,36
 1Co 10:8,10 Ps 106:14,19
 1Co 10:20 De 32:17
 1Co 10:26 Ps 24:1
 1Co 14:21 Isa 28:11,12
 1Co 14:34 Ge 3:16
 1Co 15:3 Isa 53:9
 1Co 15:3 Ps 22:1-31
 1Co 15:3 Ps 40:1-17
 1Co 15:4 Ps 16:10
 1Co 15:25 Ps 110:1
 1Co 15:27 Ps 8:6
 1Co 15:32 Isa 22:13
 1Co 15:45 Ge 2:7
 1Co 15:54 Isa 25:8
 1Co 15:55 Ho 13:14
2 Corinthians
 2Co 3:13 Ex 34:33
 2Co 4:13 Ps 116:10
 2Co 5:17 Isa 43:18,19
 2Co 6:2 Isa 49:8
 2Co 6:16 Le 26:11,12
 2Co 6:17,18 Isa 52:11,12
 2Co 6:17,18 Jer 31:9
 2Co 6:17,18 2Sa 7:14
 2Co 8:15 Ex 16:18
 2Co 8:17 Pr 22:8
 2Co 9:9 Ps 112:9
 2Co 10:17 Jer 9:24
 2Co 13:1 De 19:15
Galatians
 Ga 2:6 De 10:17
 Ga 2:16 Ps 143:2
 Ga 3:8 Ge 15:6
 Ga 3:8 Ge 12:3
 Ga 3:8 Ge 22:18
 Ga 3:10 De 27:26
 Ga 3:11 Hab 2:4
 Ga 3:12 Le 18:5
 Ga 3:13 De 21:23
 Ga 3:16 Ge 22:18
 Ga 3:17 Ex 12:40
 Ga 4:22 Ge 21:2,9
 Ga 4:22 Ge 16:15
 Ga 4:27 Isa 54:1
 Ga 4:30 Ge 21:10
 Ga 5:14 Le 19:18
Ephesians
 Eph 2:17 Isa 57:19
 Eph 4:8 Ps 68:18
 Eph 4:25 Zec 8:16
 Eph 4:26 Ps 4:4
 Eph 5:31 Ge 2:4
 Eph 6:12 Ex 25:4
 Eph 6:2,3 Ex 20:12
Colossians
 Col 2:11 Ex 10:16
 Col 3:25 De 10:17
 Col 3:25 Job 34:19
1 Thessalonians
 1Th 5:8 Isa 59:17
 1Th 5:15 Pr 17:13
2 Thessalonians
 2Th 2:4 Da 11:36
 2Th 2:8 Isa 11:4
1 Timothy
 1Ti 2:13 Ge 1:17
 1Ti 2:13 Ge 27:21,22
 1Ti 2:14 Ge 3:6
 1Ti 2:14 Ho 14:2
 1Ti 2:14 Ge 3:12
 1Ti 5:18 De 25:4
 1Ti 6:7 Job 1:21
 1Ti 6:7 Ec 5:14
 1Ti 6:7 Ps 49:18
2 Timothy
 2Ti 2:19 Nu 16:5
 2Ti 3:8 Ex 7:11,22
Hebrews
 Heb 1:5 Ps 2:7
 Heb 1:5 2Sa 7:14
 Heb 1:6 Ps 97:7
 Heb 1:7 Ps 104:4
 Heb 1:8,9 Ps 45:6,7
 Heb 1:10,11,12 Ps 102:25,26,27
 Heb 1:13 Ps 110:1
 Heb 2:8-9 Ps 8:4-6
 Heb 2:12 Ps 22:22
 Heb 2:13 Isa 8:18
 Heb 2:13 Ps 18:2
 Heb 2:13 2Sa 22:2
 Heb 3:12 Nu 12:7
 Heb 3:7-11 Ps 95:7-11
 Heb 3:15 Ps 95:7-11
 Heb 3:17 Nu 14:35,36
 Heb 4:3 Ps 95:11
 Heb 4:4 Ge 2:3
 Heb 4:7 Ps 95:7,8
 Heb 5:4 1Ch 23:13
 Heb 5:5 Ps 27
 Heb 5:6 Ps 110:4
 Heb 6:14 Ge 22:16,17
 Heb 7:1 Ge 14:18
 Heb 7:17,21 Ps 110:4
 Heb 8:5 Ex 25:40
 Heb 8:8-12 Jer 31:31-34
 Heb 9:2 Ex 25:40
 Heb 9:2 Ex 26:36
James
 Jas 1:10 Isa 40:6
 Jas 1:10 Job 14:2
 Jas 1:11 Nu 22:1-41
 Jas 2:1 Le 19:15
 Jas 2:1 Pr 24:23
 Jas 2:8 Le 19:18
 Jas 2:11 Ex 20:13,14,15
 Jas 2:21 Ge 22:9
 Jas 2:23 Ge 15:6
 Jas 2:25 Jos 2:1
 Jas 2:25 Jos 6:17,23
 Jas 4:8 Pr 3:34
 Jas 5:3 Pr 16:27
 Jas 5:11 Job 1:21,22
 Jas 5:11 Job 42:1-17
 Jas 5:17,18 1Ki 17:1
 Jas 5:17,18 1Ki 18:41
1 Peter
 1Pe 1:16 Le 11:44
 1Pe 1:24,25 Isa 40:8
 1Pe 2:3 Ps 34:8,9
 1Pe 2:4 Ps 118:22
 1Pe 2:6 Isa 28:16
 1Pe 2:7 Ps 118:22,23
 1Pe 2:9 Ex 19:6
 1Pe 2:9 Da 10:15
 1Pe 2:9 Ho 1:10
 1Pe 2:10 Ho 2:23
 1Pe 2:17 Pr 24:21
 1Pe 2:22 Isa 53:9
 1Pe 2:24 Isa 53:4,5
 1Pe 3:10,11,12 Ps 34:12-16
 1Pe 3:14,15 Isa 61:2,13
 1Pe 3:20 Ge 6:3,12
 1Pe 4:8 Pr 10:12
 1Pe 4:18 Pr 11:31
 1Pe 5:5 Pr 3:34
 1Pe 5:7 Ps 65:23
2 Peter
 2Pe 2:5 Ge 7:23
 2Pe 2:5 Ge 8:1-22
 2Pe 2:6 Ge 19:1-38
 2Pe 2:15,16 Nu 22:1-41
 2Pe 2:22 Pr 26:11
 2Pe 3:4 Eze 12:22
 2Pe 3:5,6 Ge 1:1,2,6
 2Pe 3:5,6 Ge 7:21
 2Pe 3:8 Ps 90:4
 2Pe 3:10 Ps 102:26,27
 2Pe 3:13 Isa 65:17
 2Pe 3:13 Isa 66:22
1 John
 1Jo 1:8 Pr 20:9
 1Jo 3:5 Isa 63:4
 1Jo 3:12 Ge 4:8
 1Jo 3:12 Nu 22:41
 1Jo 3:12 Nu 16:1,31
Jude
 Jude 1:5 Ex 12:41
 Jude 1:5 Nu 14:32
 Jude 1:7 Ge 19:1-38
 Jude 1:9 De 34:5,6
 Jude 1:11 Ge 4:8
 Jude 1:11 Nu 22:1-41
 Jude 1:11 Nu 16:1-50
 Jude 1:14 Ge 5:18
Revelation
 Re 1:8 Ex 19:6
 Re 1:7 Da 7:13
 Re 1:7 Isa 40:5
 Re 1:7 Zec 12:10-14
 Re 1:8 Isa 41:4
 Re 1:8 Isa 44:6
 Re 1:12 Zec 4:2
 Re 1:14,15 Da 7:9
 Re 1:14,15 Da 10:5,6
 Re 1:14,15 Eze 8:2
 Re 1:14,15 Eze 43:2
 Re 1:16 Isa 49:2
 Re 1:17 Da 8:17
 Re 1:17 Da 10:8
 Re 1:17 Isa 44:6
 Re 2:1 De 23:14
 Re 2:7 Ge 2:9
 Re 2:14 Nu 25:2
 Re 2:14 Nu 31:16
 Re 2:20 1Ki 16:31
 Re 2:20 1Ki 21:23
 Re 2:20 2Ki 9:33
 Re 2:23 Jer 17:10
 Re 2:27 Ps 2:9
 Re 3:7 Isa 22:22
 Re 3:7 Job 12:14
 Re 3:9 Isa 60:14
 Re 3:17 Ho 12:8
 Re 3:19 Pr 3:11,12
 Re 4:2,3 Eze 1:26,28
 Re 4:5 Ex 19:16
 Re 4:5 Eze 1:1-28
 Re 4:5 Eze 11:1-25
 Re 4:5 Isa 61:1-13
 Re 4:6 Eze 1:22
 Re 4:6 Ex 24:10
 Re 4:6 Eze 1:5
 Re 4:6 Eze 10:12
 Re 4:7 Eze 1:10
 Re 4:8 Isa 6:2
 Re 5:1 Eze 2:2
 Re 5:6 Isa 53:7
 Re 5:6 Zec 4:10
 Re 5:6 2Ch 16:9
 Re 5:8 Ps 141:2
 Re 5:10 Ex 19:6
 Re 5:11 Da 7:10
 Re 6:8 Eze 14:21
 Re 6:12,13 Isa 24:16,23
 Re 6:12,13 Isa 13:13
 Re 6:12,13 Hag 2:6
 Re 6:12,13 Joe 2:31
 Re 6:12,13 Isa 34:4

Re 8:14 Ps 102:26
 Re 8:14 Isa 34:4
 Re 8:15,16 Isa 2:9
 Re 8:15,16 Isa 2:19
 Re 8:15,16 Isa 2:19
 Re 8:15,16 Ho 10:8
 Re 8:15,16 Isa 13:13
 Re 8:15,16 Ps 110:5
 Re 8:15,16 Joe 2:11
 Re 8:16 Isa 48:10
 Re 8:16 Isa 48:10
 Re 8:17 Isa 25:6
 Re 8:17 Isa 25:6
 Re 8:3 Le 16:12
 Re 8:3 Ex 30:8
 Re 8:3 Ps 141:2
 Re 8:3 Ps 141:2
 Re 8:5 Eze 10:2
 Re 8:7 Joe 2:30
 Re 8:7 Ex 9:23
 Re 8:8 Ex 7:20
 Re 8:11 Jer 9:15
 Re 8:12 Eze 32:7
 Re 8:4 Eze 9:6
 Re 8:6 Jer 8:3
 Re 8:7,8,9 Joe 2:4
 Re 8:7,8,9 Joe 1:6
 Re 8:7,8,9 Joe 2:5
 Re 8:20 Ps 115:4
 Re 8:20 Ps 135:15
 Re 10:2 Eze 2:9
 Re 10:3 Jer 25:30
 Re 10:4 Da 8:28
 Re 10:5 Da 12:4,7,9
 Re 10:8-11 Eze 2:8
 Re 10:11 Jer 1:9
 Re 11:1 Eze 40:3
 Re 11:1 Eze 41:13
 Re 11:1 Eze 40:47
 Re 11:2 Da 7:25
 Re 11:4 Zec 4:3,11
 Re 11:5 2Ki 1:9-12
 Re 11:6 1Ki 17:1
 Re 11:6 Ex 7:20
 Re 11:7 Da 7:21
 Re 11:10 Es 9:22
 Re 11:15 Da 2:44
 Re 11:15 Da 7:14
 Re 11:18 Ps 21:5
 Re 11:18 Ps 46:6
 Re 11:18 Da 7:10,22
 Re 11:18 Ps 115:13
 Re 11:18 Da 11:44
 Re 12:1,2 Mic 4:9,10
 Re 12:1,2 Isa 66:7
 Re 12:3 Da 7:7
 Re 12:4 Da 8:10
 Re 12:5 Isa 66:7
 Re 12:5 Ps 2:10
 Re 12:6 Da 7:25
 Re 12:7 Da 10:13,21
 Re 12:7 Da 12:1
 Re 12:14 Da 7:25
 Re 12:14 Da 12:7
 Re 13:1 Da 7:37
 Re 13:2 Da 7:3,6
 Re 13:5,6 Da 7:8
 Re 13:5,6 Da 7:25
 Re 13:7 Da 5:19
 Re 13:7 Da 2:37
 Re 13:10 Isa 14:2
 Re 13:10 Ga 8:6
 Re 13:14 Da 3:11-30
 Re 14:1 Ps 2:8
 Re 14:1 Isa 59:20
 Re 14:5 Ps 32:2
 Re 14:8 Isa 2:19
 Re 14:8 Jer 51:8
 Re 14:8 Da 4:27
 Re 14:10 Ps 75:9
 Re 14:10 Isa 51:22
 Re 14:10 Jer 25:15
 Re 14:11 Isa 34:10
 Re 14:14 Da 7:13
 Re 14:14 Isa 19:1
 Re 14:15,20 Joe 3:13
 Re 14:19,20 Isa 68:3
 Re 14:19,20 La 1:15
 Re 15:2 Eze 1:22
 Re 15:3 Ex 15:11
 Re 15:4 Jer 10:6
 Re 15:4 Ps 86:9
 Re 15:7 Eze 10:7
 Re 15:8 Eze 10:4
 Re 15:8 Isa 6:4
 Re 15:8 1Ki 8:11
 Re 16:2 Eze 10:2
 Re 16:2 Ex 9:10
 Re 16:3,4 Ex 7:19,20
 Re 16:6 Ex 7:21
 Re 16:6 Eze 16:38
 Re 16:10 Ex 10:22
 Re 16:12 Isa 11:15,16
 Re 16:12 Jer 50:38
 Re 16:14,16 Zep 3:8
 Re 16:14,16 Joe 3:2
 Re 16:14,16 Zec 14:2
 Re 16:21 Ex 9:24,34
 Re 17:1 Jer 51:13
 Re 17:2 Jer 51:7
 Re 17:3 Da 7:7,8,25
 Re 17:4 Jer 51:7
 Re 17:8 Da 7:11
 Re 17:12 Da 7:20,24
 Re 17:14 Da 8:25
 Re 17:15 Isa 8:7
 Re 17:15 Jer 51:42
 Re 18:2 Isa 21:9
 Re 18:2 Jer 51:8
 Re 18:2 Isa 13:21
 Re 18:3 Jer 51:7
 Re 18:3 Na 3:4
 Re 18:4 Isa 52:11
 Re 18:4 Jer 50:8
 Re 18:4 Jer 51:6,9,45
 Re 18:6 Jer 50:15,29
 Re 18:6 Ps 137:8
 Re 18:7,8 Isa 47:7
 Re 18:7,8 Jer 50:31
 Re 18:11 Isa 25:8
 Re 18:14 Isa 65:19
 Re 18:15 Isa 55:1
 Re 18:15 Eze 40:2
 Re 18:21 Eze 48:31
 Re 18:21 Zec 2:1
 Re 18:22 Eze 40:3
 Re 18:22 Jer 7:34
 Re 18:22 Jer 25:10
 Re 18:23 Isa 60:19
 Re 18:23 Eze 48:35
 Re 18:24,25 Isa 60:3,11,20
 Re 18:27 Isa 52:1
 Re 18:27 Eze 44:9
 Re 18:27 Zec 14:8
 Re 18:27 Eze 47:1,7,12
 Re 22:3 Zec 14:11
 Re 22:5 Isa 24:23
 Re 22:5 Isa 60:19
 Re 22:5 Eze 48:35
 Re 22:10 Da 8:26
 Re 22:10 Da 12:4
 Re 22:12 Isa 40:10
 Re 22:12 Isa 41:4
 Re 22:13 Isa 44:6
 Re 22:16 Isa 11:1,10
 Re 22:17 Isa 55:1
 Re 22:18 Da 4:2
 Re 22:18 Da 12:32
 Re 22:20 Hab 2:3
 Re 21:4 Isa 25:8
 Re 21:4 Isa 65:19
 Re 21:9 Isa 43:19
 Re 21:9 Isa 55:1
 Re 21:10 Eze 40:2
 Re 21:12 Eze 48:31
 Re 21:15 Zec 2:1
 Re 21:15 Eze 40:3
 Re 21:19 Isa 54:11,12
 Re 21:23 Isa 60:19
 Re 21:23 Eze 48:35
 Re 21:24,25 Isa 60:3,11,20
 Re 21:27 Isa 52:1
 Re 21:27 Eze 44:9
 Re 22:1,2 Zec 14:8
 Re 22:3 Eze 47:1,7,12
 Re 22:5 Isa 24:23
 Re 22:5 Isa 60:19
 Re 22:5 Eze 48:35
 Re 22:10 Da 12:4
 Re 22:12 Isa 40:10
 Re 22:13 Isa 41:4
 Re 22:13 Isa 44:6
 Re 22:16 Isa 11:1,10
 Re 22:17 Isa 55:1
 Re 22:18 Da 4:2
 Re 22:20 Hab 2:3
 Re 21:1 Eze 40:1-49
 Re 21:2 Eze 40:1-49
 Re 21:3 Eze 37:27

April 1
 How To Study The Bible
 Class 5: Narratives & Histories

*“And the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”
 (Exodus 34:27)*

I. What are Biblical Genres?

Biblical Genres	
Genre	Book
Historical/Law Narrative	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah
Wisdom	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
Poetry	Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations
Prophecy	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
Apocalyptic	Daniel, Revelation of John
Gospel	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
Epistle	Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude

II. Studying Histories and Narratives

A. Reflect on the reality of these events.

- Recognize that not everything recorded in a history should be understood as historical.

B. Remember that not everything in a history or narrative should be emulated or affirmed.

C. Not everything in a history or narrative is explained.

D. All histories and narratives are incomplete; and yet, fully reliable.

E. Histories and narratives often illustrate, but do not directly teach, doctrine.

F. The meaning of the text is likely linked to what it says about God.

For Next Week

- Read Isaiah 53:5-7, Psalm 1, and Psalm 119.

April 8

How To Study The Bible

Class 6: Biblical Genres—Poetic & Wisdom Literature

*“My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.”
(Psalm 45:1)*

A. What is Wisdom Literature?

- i. Proverbial Wisdom

- ii. Speculative Wisdom

B. Main Features of Wisdom Literature

- i. Comparison (Pr 17:1)
- ii. Numerical Sequences (Pr 6:16-19)
- iii. Alliteration and Acrostic Patterns (Ps 37; Pr 31:10-31)
- iv. Riddles (Jdg 14:12ff)
- v. Fables (Ezek 17:3ff)
- vi. Parables (2 Sam 12:1-4)
- vii. Allegories (Is 5:1-7)

C. What is Poetic Literature?

D. Main Features of Poetic Literature

- i. Figures, metaphors, & hyperbole
- ii. Couplets
- iii. Meter is absent
- iv. Parallelism
 - a. Synonymous (Ps 19:1)
 - b. Antithetic (Pr 13:9)
 - c. Synthetic (Ps 3:5,6)
- v. Acrostic (Ps 119)

E. Why poetry?

Practical Exercise: Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the
wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of
the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and
night.
3 He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he
 prospers.
4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives
away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not
stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the
righteous;
6 for the LORD knows the way
of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

For Next Week

- Read Isaiah 5, Habakuk 3, Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, and Revelation 5:5-6.

April 15

How To Study The Bible

Class 7: Biblical Genres—Gospels, Epistles, Prophetic & Apocalyptic Literature

*“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”
(Colossians 3:4)*

The Gospels (and Acts)

- Genre
- Chronology
- Harmony
- Distinctives

Matthew

Central Concerns

- How Jesus fulfills the Messianic prophecies given to Israel
- Israel’s rejection of Jesus as the Messiah

Mark

- Action and authority

Luke

- The sovereignty of God (God’s will)

- Joy at the arrival of the Messiah
- Christ's role as prophet
- Miracles that validate Jesus' claims

John

- Concerned with showing Christ's divinity
- Responses to Jesus range from rejection to openness

Acts

- The story of the Gospel penetrating the Roman Empire, despite stiff opposition, through the boldness of witnesses drawing on God's Spirit.
- Speeches: Missionary and Defense

Epistles

Structured in three parts:

- Opening
- Body
- Closing

Studying Epistles:

- We often only have one side of the conversation
- Balancing original audience and modern audience

Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature:

Interpreting the Prophets:

- Prophets **forth-tell** and **foretell**
 - Salvation / Judgment

Numerous literary forms:

- Allegories (Isa. 5:1-7)
- Proverbs (Ez. 18:2)
- Lamentations (Amos 5:1-2)
- Prayers (Habakuk 3)
- Narratives (Isa. 36-39)

Writing style diverse:

- Jeremiah's lamentations (8:18-9:1)
- Ezekiel's shocking statements (20:21-26)
- Habakuk's questioning (1:12-17)
- Amos' sarcasm and irony (3:12)

Often multiple levels of fulfillment

1. Discern the immediate **context** –structure and flow
2. Discern the kind of **oracle** employed (judgment, salvation, etc.).
3. Study the balance between **forth-telling** and foretelling
4. Determine what **kind of language** is being used (Poetic? Disputation? Narrative?) Literary forms are often crucial in determining the author's meaning and intent.
5. Place these texts in their overall **place in redemptive-history**. In doing this, be careful not to make wrong associations between Israel and your nation or church.
6. **Try not to impose your theological system** on the text (whether dispensational, covenantal, etc.).

7. Be alert for certain **reoccurring and sweeping themes**, especially those that bear on the relationships between the testaments (e.g. eschatology, temple, marriage and spiritual adultery, new birth).
8. Consider how the New Testament authors employ your passage, or at least your book.

Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature:

- Understand background
 - Looking and longing
- Understand genre
 - Multiple genres
 - "Unveil"
 - Symbolic language
- Understand purpose
 - To help churches face persecution
- Understand structure
 - Severn visions
 - Hearing turns to seeing

5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (Rev 5:5-6)

- There is some debate

For Next Week

- Read John 6:60-65, John 20:30-31, 1 John 5:13, 2 Timothy 1:9-10

April 22
How To Study The Bible
Class 8: Purpose & Context

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

The Author's Purpose:

Intent is clear:

John 20:30-31

1 John 5:13

Intent is NOT clear:

Four questions for NT epistles & OT prophets:

1. Who is writing to whom?
2. What is the situation of the author and reader?
3. Are there any problems or issues explicitly identified as things to be addressed?
4. Are certain things repeated or is there a central idea that holds everything together?

Class exercise: 2 Timothy 1:9-10

When dealing with narratives....

Other books (e.g. Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, etc.) may prove more difficult

Context

- Novel vs. encyclopedia
- Verses, chapters, and books are all connected
- We should ask how this passage fits into what comes before and after

Figure 1: Levels of context¹

Class exercise: John 3:16

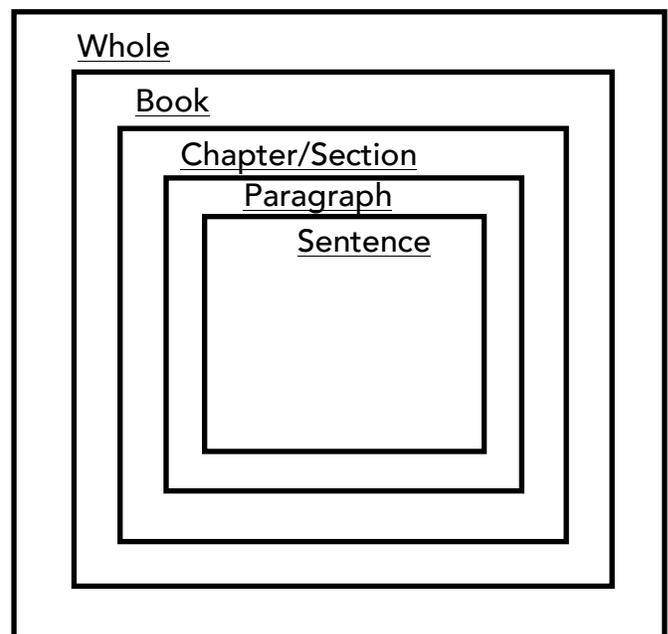
Sentence:

Paragraph:

Chapter:

Book:

Bible:



¹ Taken from Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach, *Digging Deeper: Tools to unearth the Bible's Treasure*, pp. 37, Inter-Varsity Press, 2005

Seven Tips For Getting Context:

1. (Paragraph): Watch for transition words
2. (Chapter): Read before and after your passage
3. (Chapter): Locate your passage in an argument or sequence if there is any
4. (Chapter): Ask yourself, "What would be lost if your chapter disappeared from the book?"
5. (Chapter): Pay attention to how the book is structured. (Especially important for Job, Ecclesiastes, & Revelation. Also important for Exodus, Daniel, Malachi, & Matthew.)
6. (Book): Read an introduction to the book.
7. (Bible): Read a good overview of Biblical Theology
 - a. *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church* by Michael Lawrence
 - b. *God's Big Picture* by Vaughan Roberts
 - c. *Gospel and Kingdom* by Graeme Goldsworthy
 - d. *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm and Gail Shoonmaker

For Next Week

- Read Isaiah 40, John 18:12-27, Matthew 5:3-10, and Psalm 62.

April 29

How To Study The Bible

Class 9: Structure & Parallelsim

"And God spoke all these words ..."
(Exodus 20:1)

I. Structure

Two questions to ask about structure:

1. Has the author divided his material into sections?
2. How do those sections fit together?

Examples of structure

- At the book level: Daniel 1-9
- At the chapter level: Isaiah 40
- The importance of structure: 1 Corinthians 13

How to find structure

- Look for recurring words or themes
- In narratives, look for scene changes
- In dialog, look at who is talking
- Identify progression of thought or argument

* biblegateway.com

How to use structure:

- Give each section a title
- Identify how the pieces fit together
- Outline your passage
- Memorize your passage

Class Exercise: John 18:12-27

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Some Common Types of Structure in the Bible:

- Bookends:

Book-level example: Romans

Beginning: *"Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among **all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.**"* (Romans 1:5)

End: *"... But now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the Eternal God, so that **all nations might believe and obey him.**"* (Romans 16:26)

Passage-Level Example: Sermon on the Mount—Matthew 5:3-10

- Chiasms:

Class Exercise: Genesis 11:1-8—The Tower of Babel

Now the whole world

had one language and a common speech ...

they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

They said to each other, "Come, let us make bricks ..."

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower ...

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building ...

The Lord said, "Come, let us go down and confuse ..."

It was called Babel--because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world

**Other Chiasm examples: Daniel 2-9 (chapter chiasm), John 1:1-2, and Jonah 1:4-15

II. Parallels

Synonymous Parallelism

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters. (Psalm 24:1-2)

Antithetical Parallelism

"A fool gives full vent to his anger,
but a wise man keeps himself under control." (Proverbs 29:11)

Chiastic Parallelism

"The torrent would have gone
over us;
Then over us
would have gone the raging waters." (Psalm 124:4-5)

How parallelism helps us understand a passage:

1. One statement can clarify another

- Isaiah 55:6
- John 6:40 and 6:54
- 2 Timothy 2:13

*"If we are faithless,
he will remain faithful
for he cannot disown himself."*

2. One statement can amplify the other

- Psalm 62:11-12

For Next Week

- Read Philippians 2:5-11, Hebrews 4:4-15, 2 Peter 2:4-9, and Titus 2.

May 6

How to Study the Bible

Class 10: Linking Words

I. What are linking words?

- Help us to see relationships between various propositions
- Proposition: An assertion or statement about something that must include a subject and a predicate
- Linking words can be used to ...

II. Four Common Linking Words in Scripture

1. **"For"** - indicates the reason or grounds

"Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever" (2 Chron. 20:21)

"If they do not have self control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than burn with passion" (1 Cor. 7:9)

"Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance" (Phil. 1:18-19).

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who is promised is faithful" (Heb 10:23)

2. **"Therefore"** - indicates a particular effect or consequence of a preceding statement

*"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,*

being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” (Hebrews 4:14-15)

3. **“If”** - can be understood in two ways:

1) Conditional...

“If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom ... However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.” (Deuteronomy 28:13, 15)

2) Or, as because...

“If God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorra by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous should by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) - if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.” (2 Peter 2:4-9)

4. **“So that” statements** - can be understood two ways:

1) Indicate purpose

“...strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, SO THAT Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” (Eph. 3:16-17)

2) Demonstrate a result

“Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak...” (Luke 12:1)

Titus 2

1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness

8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,

10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

For Next Week

- Read John 6:47-59, Daniel 3:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:3-6, and Revelation 18:9-20.

May 13

How to Study the Bible

Class 11: Repetition—Making the Point Again and Again and Again

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.”

(Isaiah 53:4)

1. Repetition Reveals the Main Point

John 6:47-59

47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

2. Repetition Reveals the Author’s Interpretation

Daniel 3

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King

Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

3. Repetition Provides Emphasis

2 Timothy 2:3-6

3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

4. Repetition Sets the Tone

Revelation 18:9-11, 15-20

9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.
10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

"Alas! Alas! You great city,
you mighty city, Babylon!
For in a single hour your judgment has come."

11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore...

15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

16 "Alas, alas, for the great city
that was clothed in fine linen,
in purple and scarlet,
adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls!

17 For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste."
And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea,
stood far off 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,
"What city was like the great city?"

19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,
"Alas, alas, for the great city
where all who had ships at sea
grew rich by her wealth!
For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

20 Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you against her!"

Bringing it all Together—Two Final Examples

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Psalm 33

*1 Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
3 Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
4 For the word of the LORD is upright,*

and all his work is done in faithfulness.
5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.
8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
9 For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.
12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
13 The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
15 he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.
16 The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.
18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
19 that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.
20 Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
21 For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

For Next Week

- Read Genesis 3.

May 20

How to Study the Bible

Class 12: Using Extra-Biblical Resources

I. Bible Commentaries

D. When to use them ...

E. When not to use them ...

F. What they provide ...

II. Genesis 3:1-19

Some Recommendations:

- *IVP's New Bible Commentary*, Edited by G.J. Wenham, J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carson and R.T. France
- *The Tyndale OT and NT Commentary Series*, published by William B. Erdmand Publishing
- *The Bible Speaks Today Commentaries*, published by IVP

III. Bible Dictionaries/Encyclopedias

- Why use a Bible dictionary?

- Choosing a good dictionary/Encyclopedia
 1. REPUTATION:

 2. RECENCY:

 3. REFERENCES:

 4. RELEVANCY:

Some Recommendations:

- *The New Bible Dictionary* (Inter-Varsity Press, 1982)
- *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* (Harper, 1996)
- *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* (Doubleday, 1992)
- *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (Eerdmans, 1979-1988)

For Next Week

- Read Matthew 12 and Psalm 23.

May 27

How to Study the Bible

Class 13: Difficult & Familiar Passages (Two Worked Passages)

I. Studying Difficult Passages

A. Why are passages often difficult?

1. Culture Gap
2. Apparent Contradiction
3. Mystery

B. Four Principals

1. Pray
2. Examine the Context
3. Let Scripture Interpret Scripture
 - Diagnose the difficulty
 - Find relevant passages
 - Synthesize

4. Ask for help

Example: Mathew 12:31-32

*22 Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." 25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. 30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 31 **Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.***

II. Studying Familiar passages

A. Five Principals

1. Pray
2. Don't Assume, Ask
3. Search for Surprises
4. Meditate

5. Express

Example: Psalm 23:1

- 1 *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
- 2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.*
- 3 *He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*
- 4 *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will 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 anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*
- 6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*