



How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

Session 1: Introduction

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AGENDA

- A little about this series
- What is the Bible anyways?
- Exegesis & Hermeneutics
- Intro to the Epistles
- Readings for next week

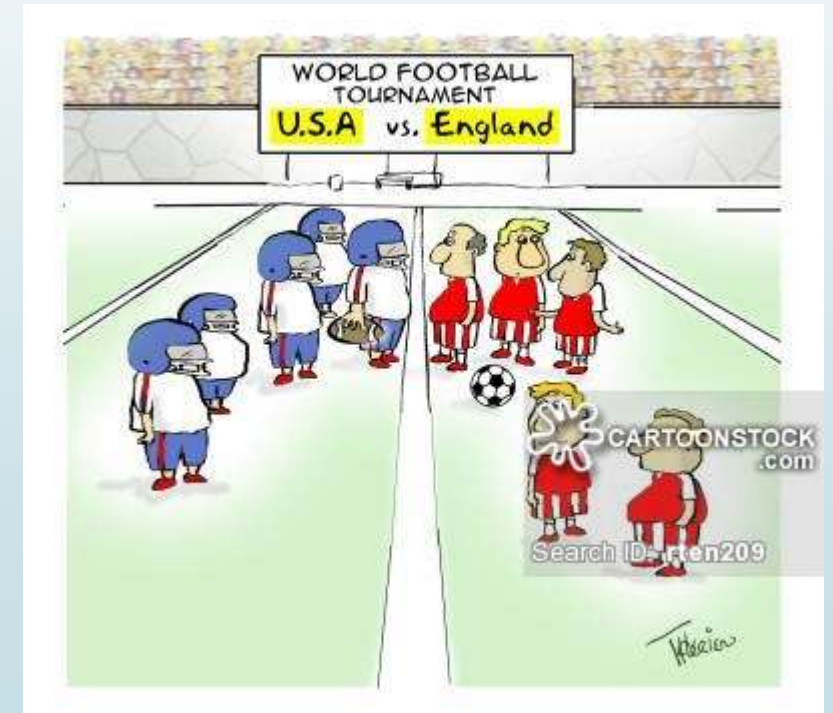




A LITTLE ABOUT THIS
SERIES...

Why this series and book?

- ▶ “No need to interpret; just do what it says”
- ▶ Interpretation is vital to our success, even today!
- ▶ “The aim of good interpretation is not uniqueness; we are not trying to discover what no one has seen before. The aim of good interpretation is simple: to get at the ‘plain meaning of the text.’” (17-18)

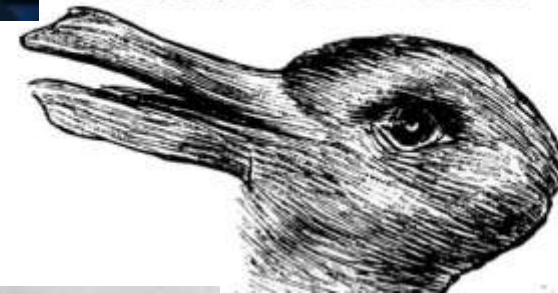


So why can't we just read?

1. The nature of the reader



Rabbit or Duck?



2. The nature of scripture

- ▶ “The Bible is the Word of God given in human words in history (dual nature)”
- ▶ God’s word:
 - ▶ **Eternal** relevance
 - ▶ **Historical** particularity





WHAT IS THE BIBLE
ANYWAYS?

What is the Bible Anyway???

- ▶ Special Revelation came to
- ▶ Human author with Holy Spirit who produced
- ▶ Original Manuscripts leading to
 - ▶ Hebrew and Greek copies used to create
 - ▶ Translations

How did the ancients recognize the books of the Bible?

- ▶ Ancient writings tested for
 - ▶ Authenticity by Apostolic/prophetic origin, doctrinal soundness and consistency, and the early church acceptance/use
- ▶ Those that passed the test?
 - ▶ 39 OT books (Historical, Poetic, Prophetic)
 - ▶ 27 NT books (Narrative, Epistles,





EXEGESIS AND HERMENEUTICS

So then how do we interpret?

- ▶ Hear the word they heard...hear the word in the then and there (Exegesis)
- ▶ Hear the word in the here and now (Hermeneutics)



TASK 1: EXEGESIS

*What Jesus meant
was...*

- Careful, systematic study of the scripture to discover the original, intended meaning
- Experts are needed, yes! But anyone CAN exegete a text.

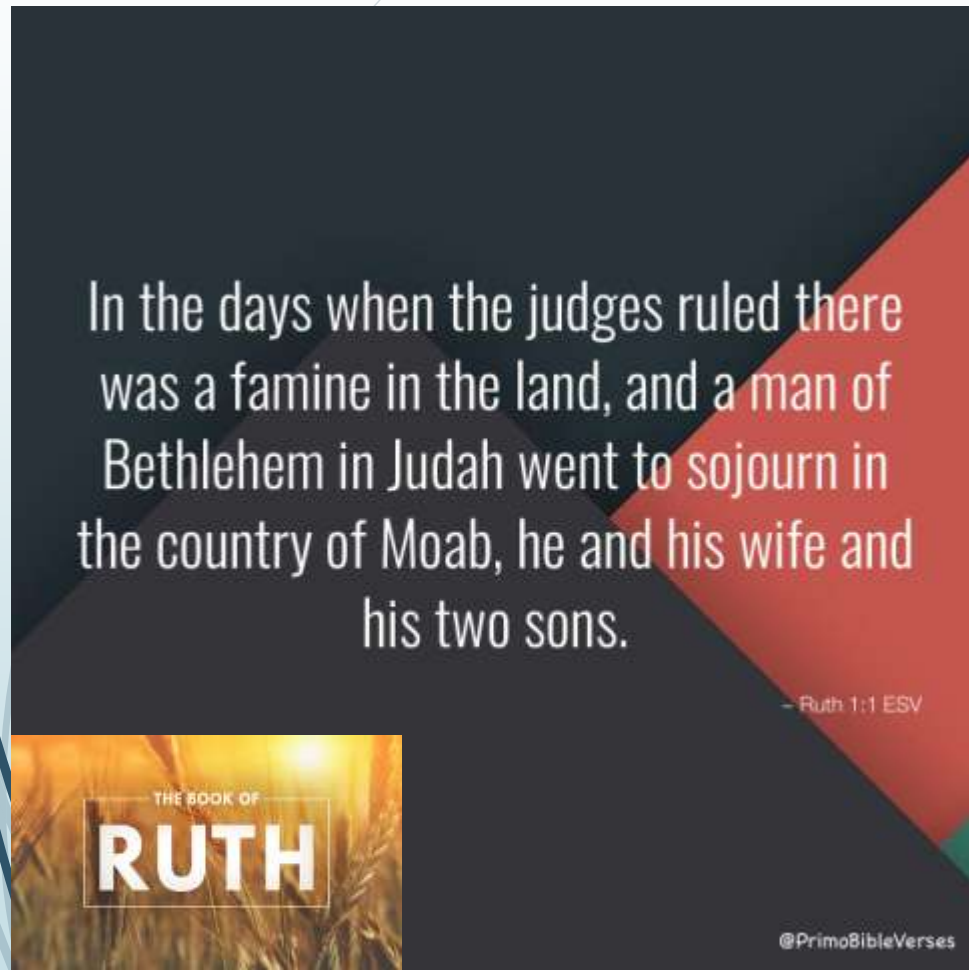
*Back in those
days...*

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue vertical bar on the far left. A black arrow points to the right from the top of this bar. Below the arrow, several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and design.

What is involved in exegeting a text?

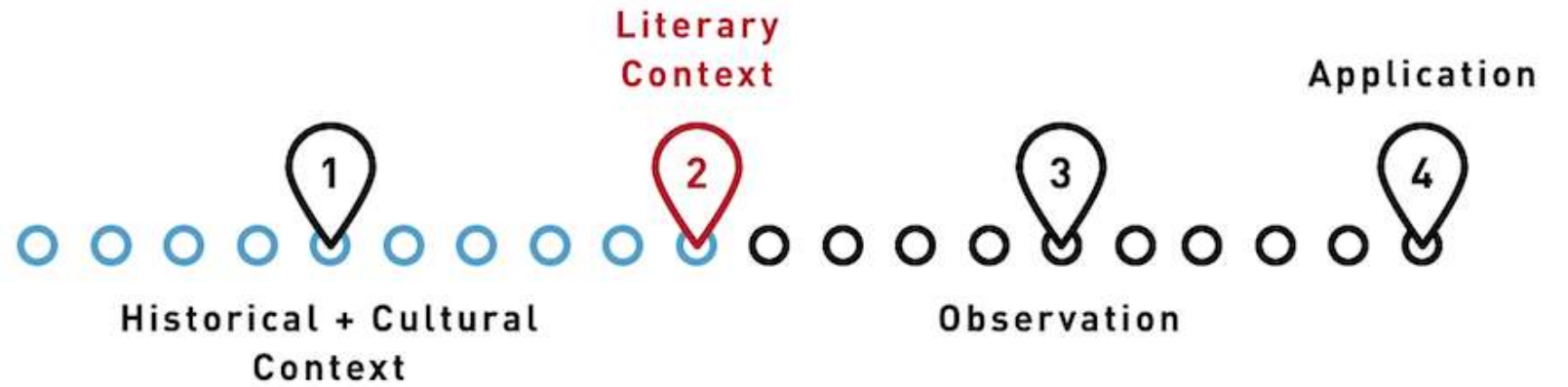
- Read carefully
- Ask the right questions
 - Relate to CONTEXT
 - Relate to CONTENT

Historical context



- ▶ Time and culture of the author
- ▶ Occasion and purpose of the writing
- ▶ Help? Use a Bible dictionary

Literary Context



► THE CRUCIAL TASK OF EXEGESIS

- Meaning of words
 - grammatical relationships with sentences
 - choice of original text
- Most important question? WHAT IS THE POINT???
- So...how do we handle this?
- Good translation, a Bible dictionary, and good commentaries

TASK 2: HERMENEUTICS



- Seeking the contemporary relevance of ancient texts
- The Bible's meaning in the "here and now"
- *The study of the Bible (exegesis) will inform our devotional (hermeneutical) reading

Application is always built on interpretation, and is rooted in the gospel; glows out of gospel

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles



- The context rules when interpreting the text
- The text must be interpreted in light of all scripture
- Scripture will never contradict itself
- Scripture should be interpreted literally (or naturally according to its **genre**)
- Do not develop doctrines from obscure or difficult passages
- Discover the author's original intended meaning and honor that meaning
- Check your conclusions using reliable resources

Questions to ask...

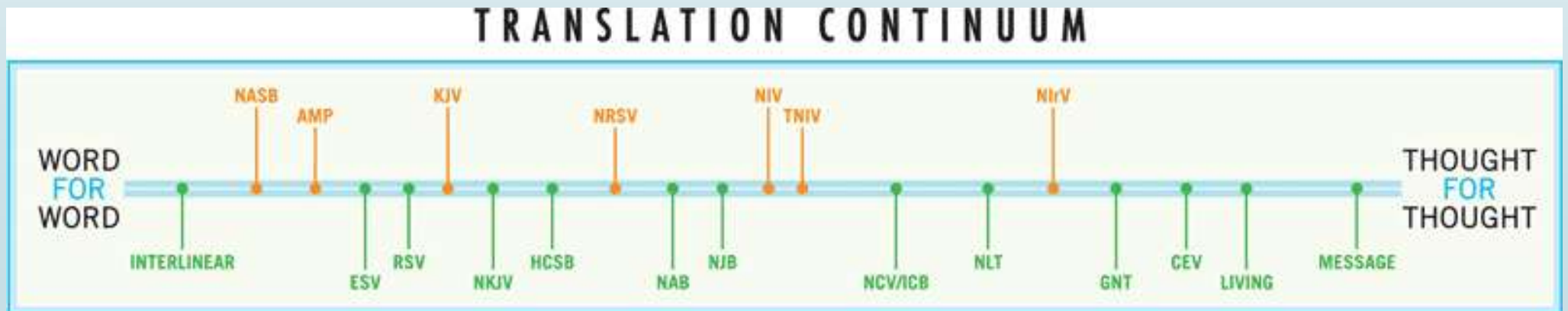


1. Is there an example for me to follow?
2. Is there a sin to avoid/confess?
3. Is there a promise to claim?
4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
5. Is there a command to obey?
6. Is there a condition to meet?
7. Is there a verse to memorize?
8. Is there an error to avoid?
9. Is there a challenge to face?
10. Is there a principle to apply?
11. Is there a habit to change – i.e. start or stop?
12. Is there an attitude to correct?
13. Is there a truth to believe?



INTRO TO THE EPISTLES

- ▶ 66 books written in
 - ▶ Hebrew
 - ▶ Aramaic
 - ▶ Greek
- ▶ We read in English (most of us)
- ▶ Translation understanding



This continuum shows how different Bible translations fit into the word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation philosophies.

THE NATURE OF EPISTLES

➤ All the NT except gospels, Acts and Revelation

➤ Types of Epistles:

➤ “Real letters”

➤ Epistle

➤ Form of ancient letters

1. Name of the writer (e.g. Paul)

2. Name of the recipient (e.g., to the church of God in Corinth)

3. Greeting (e.g., Grace and peace to you from God our Father...)

4. Prayer wish or thanksgiving (e.g., I always thank God for you...)

5. Body

6. Final greeting and farewell (e.g., The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you)

Letters to Churches	Letters to Individuals	Letters not by Paul
•Romans •1 & 2 Corinthians •Galatians •Ephesians •Philippians •Colossians •1 & 2 Thessalonians	•1 & 2 Timothy •Titus •Philemon	•Hebrews

BUT

417 N. Spring
Stranahan, N.C.
Aug 28, 1938

Hills Darling,

I have been looking
for a letter from you
everyday. Wish that you
don't have time to write
me or don't you like
me?

What days do you
usually go riding on?

I am going to sell
my pony and get a
saddle horse we may
keep it out at William
sso I can ride with
Hatherine. (may you)

What grade will
you be in this year?

You sweet me, right
off my feet when you
called me Monday
evening.

With love
Loren
Bridges

► They are ALL occasional documents

► They are ALL theology IMPLIED...

How to exegete 1 Corinthians?

Homework for you 😊



- Consult Bible dictionary or the introduction to your commentary to find out as much as possible about Corinth and its people.
- Read the entire book in one sitting (jot down notes)
 - What you notice about the recipients
 - Paul's attitudes
 - Things mentioned as to the specific occasion of the letter
 - The letter's natural, logical divisions
 - **Think High School English: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How