

HERMENEUTICS





**THE SCIENCE AND
ART OF
INTERPRETATION**



- 1. Hermeneutics in General**
- 2. Scope**
- 3. Purpose**
- 4. Importance**
- 5. Prerequisites**
- 6. Nature of Scripture**

UNIQUENESS

- ❖ Authority
- ❖ Diversity
- ❖ Unity
- ❖ Survival
- ❖ Objectivity



NATURE OF SCRIPTURE



Isaiah

- **Unique**
- **Literary**

LITERARY

- Physical Preparation
- Historical
- Linguistic
- Contextual



Vaticanus

NATURE OF SCRIPTURE



Isaiah

- **Unique**
- **Literary**
- **Spiritual**

SPIRITUAL

❖ Revelation



REVELATION

“God has revealed to the original authors the unknowable things He wants man to know about Himself.”

SPIRITUAL

- ❖ Revelation
- ❖ Inspiration



INSPIRATION

“God superintended the human authors so that they recorded His message to man in the words of the original authors.”

Ryrie

SPIRITUAL

- ❖ Revelation
- ❖ Inspiration
- ❖ Inerrancy



INERRANCY

“Scripture is infallible and without error or fault in all its parts and words.”

Yod and Serif

א ב ג ד ...

ה ... ו ז

SPIRITUAL

- ❖ Revelation
- ❖ Inspiration
- ❖ Inerrancy
- ❖ Canonicity
- ❖ Transmission



GENERAL HERMENEUTICS

A. Description



TERMS

ἑρμηνεία - interpretation

BACKGROUND

- **Greek Mythology**
- **Main god - Zeus**
- **Interpreter - Hermes**
- **Act 14:11-14**

TERMS

ἐρμηνεία - interpretation

ἐρμηνεύω - to translate

εξηγεομαι - to explain

**GRAMMATICAL-
HISTORICAL-
CONTEXTUAL
METHOD**

Or “Literal Method”

**Intentionalist,
Textualist, Originalist**



**The Author's
Willed Meaning**

DETERMINE MEANING:

- **Laws of Grammar**
- **Facts of History**
- **Framework of Context**



GENERAL HERMENEUTICS

A. Description

B. Need



GAPS

✓ Language

✓ History

✓ Culture

✓ Literary

✓ Chronological

✓ Geographical



Jagged Peaks

Cities on Tells



Lachish
from NW

GAPS

✓ Language

✓ History

✓ Culture

✓ Literary

✓ Chronological

✓ Geographical

✓ Supernatural

✓ Philosophical

GENERAL HERMENEUTICS

A. Description

B. Need

C. Principles



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic





LINGUISTIC

**Determine meaning by
conventions of language**

IMPORTANCE

- **Verbal Inspiration**
- **Image of God & language**
- **God communicates with language**
- **Goal of Exegesis**

LINGUISTIC

✓ **Language**



LANGUAGES

➤ **Hebrew -** הלל ידע

mainly of God's people

➤ **Aramaic -** Dan 2:4-7:28

dominant in 1550 -1200 BC

➤ **Greek -** Koine

3000 yrs - 1000 BC - present

LINGUISTIC

- ✓ **Language**
- ✓ **Text**
- ✓ **Lexicography**



MEANING

- Usage - range of meaning
- Context - determines meaning

Trunk

- 1. Car**
- 2. Elephant**
- 3. Tree**
- 4. Communication**
- 5. Attic**

LINGUISTIC



- ✓ **Language**
- ✓ **Text**
- ✓ **Lexicography**
- ✓ **Syntax**
- ✓ **Phonology**
- ✓ **Morphology**
- ✓ **Literary Devices**



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

2. Contextual



CONTEXTUAL

**Context is the final
determiner of meaning**

Pack the **trunk** in the attic and put it into the **trunk** of our car so we can drive to Africa and park next to a tree with a large **trunk** in order to watch the animal with a large **trunk**.

CONTEXT - Types

- 1. Textual - primary**
- 2. Literary**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**
- 5. Theological**



SPECIFIC

Immediate

**CIRCLES OF
CONTEXT**



TEXTUAL

CONTEXT

Immediate

Context

Specific
Context

Immediate

Context

21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER ' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. **23** "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. **25** "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **26** "Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY ' ; **28** but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30** "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 "It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE ' ; **32** but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.' **34** "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, **35** or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. **36** "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. **37** "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes ' or 'No, no ' ; anything beyond these is of evil.

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' **39** "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. **40** "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. **41** "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. **42** "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' **44** "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

A magnifying glass is positioned over a diagram of concentric circles. The circles are nested, with the innermost being a pink oval with a red border containing the word 'SPECIFIC'. The next circle is light blue with a purple border containing the word 'Immediate'. The third circle is white with a purple border containing the word 'Book'. The outermost circle is light blue with a purple border containing the word 'Remote'. The background is a blue gradient.

SPECIFIC

Immediate

Book

Remote

**CIRCLES OF
CONTEXT**





ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

2. Contextual

3. Historical



HISTORICAL

**Historical setting
contributes to meaning**

“Each biblical writing was written by someone to specific hearer or readers in a specific historical, geographical situation for a specific purpose.”

R. Zuck

HISTORY

1. Bible Tied to History

WORLD HISTORY

SECULAR

1. Man's actions
2. Human interp.
3. Distorted
4. Past
5. Speculative
6. Purposeless

BIBLICAL

1. God's actions
2. God's interp.
3. Real
4. Past & Future
5. Inspired
6. Purpose



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

4. Cultural

2. Contextual

3. Historical

A night-time photograph of a beach. The sky is dark with a few stars visible. The ocean is dark, and white waves are crashing onto the sandy shore in the foreground. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

CULTURAL

**Cultural setting
contributes to meaning**

Natal

CULTURE

1. Geography



CULTURE

1. Geography

2. Politics

3. Sociology

4. Economy

5. Agriculture

6. Religion

7. Legal

8. Architecture

9. Military



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic **4. Cultural**

2. Contextual

3. Historical **5. Metaphorical**



METAPHORICAL

**Interpret according to
appropriate metaphorical
conventions**

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols



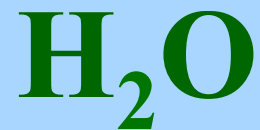
SYMBOLS

$$E = MC^2$$

$$V = d/t$$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$A = v/t$$



$$\tan \theta = y/x$$

