



Biblical Interpretation Guide

Observation

- I have prayed as I enter into the study of God's Word and as I finish the study of God's Word.
- I have read the text I am studying thoroughly
 - I have read the text (repeatedly).
 - I have read the surrounding text (before and after).
 - I have read the paragraph in which my text is found.
 - I understand where this text fits into the book of the Bible in which it is found.
- I understand the context of the text I am studying
 - I know the author of the book in which my text appears.
 - I know the reason why this book was written.
 - I know who is the intended audience of this book.
 - I know the historical context of this text and book.
- I have made thorough observations of the text.
 - I have annotated the text.
 - I understand the meaning and usage of all words.
 - I have identified and understand any use of figurative language.
 - I have analyzed the grammatical nuances of the text, taking into account parts of speech, syntax, etc.
 - Who/what is the subject of this text?
 - What action is the subject taking?
 - To whom/what is the action being done?
 - I have researched and bridged any historical gaps that may affect the meaning of any part of the text.
 - Religious, economic, legal, agricultural, architectural, fashion, domestic, geographical, military, and/or social
 - I have considered the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW of this passage.
 - WHO is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters?
 - WHAT is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, place, or events?
 - WHEN do/will the events occur or did/will something happen?
 - WHERE did or will this happen? Where was it said?
 - WHY is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time and/or to this person/people?
 - HOW will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?
- I have asked questions of my text.
 - I have resolved any parts of the text that:
 - were hard to understand
 - appeared to contradict other parts of Scripture
 - seemed out of place or odd
- I have outlined the text, making note of the main and supporting points.



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Interpretation

- I have prayed as I enter into the study of God's Word and as I finish the study of God's Word.
- I have read associated cross-reference verses to aid my understanding.
- I have paraphrased the text.
- I have considered several questions to aid my interpretation:
 - What is the doctrine that the passage is teaching?
 - Why is the author writing this particular passage?
 - What sinful, fallen, or broken condition is being addressed or corrected?
 - What deeper sin or heart issues are being exposed or corrected?
 - How does this passage point to God's character/attributes and glory?
 - How do we see God's redemptive plan (the Gospel) being worked out in the people's lives?
 - Other questions
- What does this passage mean?
- I have made my interpretation.

Application

- I have prayed as I enter into the study of God's Word and as I finish the study of God's Word.
- What attributes of God's character has this Scripture shown me more clearly?
- How might this/these attribute(s) affect your Prayers, Actions, Speech, and Thinking (PAST)?
- I have considered several questions to aid me in applying this text to my life.
 - In what ways am I looking to find hope and fulfillment in things besides God?
 - In what ways am I seeking to earn favor from God and not living by grace?
 - What do my actions suggest that I'm wrongly believing about God's character, our relationship, and what He has said in His Word?
 - In what ways am I making my treasure something other than Christ?
 - What old, sinful thoughts am I trusting of which I should repent?
 - What issues of the heart and character are being addressed in this passage?
 - In what new thoughts and beliefs should I be believing and walking?
 - How does this text shape my view of the world around me?
 - How will this text shape and change how I approach my life?
 - How does this text shape how I will love people around me?
- How should this section of Scripture change me?
- I have determined the way(s) this Scripture applies to my life.
- In accordance with what God has revealed to me through this text, I have made plans for how I will change in order to glorify Him.