**What the Bible Says about Itself**

**Proof is in the Pudding…Dirt:**

Until 1947, the earliest copies of the OT text was AD 895... Dead Sea Scrolls gave us manuscripts of every OT book except Esther back to 2nd-1st Century BC!!!

Ps 19: 7-11– **Perfect … sure…right….pure... clean…true...** [more valuable than] **gold.... sweeter than honey**

Proverbs 30:5, **Every word** of God proves **True**…

Do not add to his words,

Lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

Ps 18:30ff – Links God's **perfection** and His Word being **flawless**/proven true.

2 Timothy 3:16: **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Romans 15:4: written for our **instruction**… **encouragement** of the Scriptures **we might have hope**.

Isaiah 40:8: the word of our God will stand **forever**.

2 Peter 1:21: For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spok**e from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 4:2: You shall **not add** to the word that I command you, **nor take from it**…

1 Thessalonians 2:13: **not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God…**

Deuteronomy 12:32: Everything that I command... be careful to do. You shall not add...or take from it.

Hebrews 4:12:For the word of God is **living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and **discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

John 10:35: ...**Scripture cannot be broken**—

John 5:39: You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear **witness about me,**

2 Peter 3:15-16: There are some things in them that are **hard to understand**, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2 Peter 1:20:  **no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation**.

### James 1:21: receive with meekness the implanted word, **which is able to save your souls.**

### John 12:47-48: **the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.**

### Psalm 119:105: Your word is a **lamp to my feet and a light to my path**.

### It is remarkable fact **that no early Church Council selected the books** that should constitute the New Testament Canon. The books that we now have **crushed out all rivals**, not by any adventitious authority, **but by their own weight and worth**. This is in itself a strong proof of the genuineness and authenticity of the books that have survived. It is not until the close of the fourth century that any Council even discussed the subject.

**Why Correct Hermeneutics are Important:**

Common verses taken out of Context

**Phil 4:19** = “And my God will supply every need of your according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Who are the Philippians?

Conclusion: God promises here to meet every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Applies **directly** to those who have expended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of furthering the gospel.

It can be **indirectly** applied to us: God is our abundantly wealthy Father, who can provide any resource He desires us to have when we are sacrificially striving to partner with Him and His missionaries in the spread of the Gospel.

**CLOSED** for Business:

The New Testament closes with a warning that no other words are to be added to the Scriptures (Rev 22:18-19). Which means we believe in a **closed cannon**. Meaning, the method of this “special revelation” which is *authoritative for all followers of Christ*, is now **complete**; there are no further additions to the Scriptures.

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

**Modern misapply: Social Justice**

**Even Homeschoolers take verses out of context**

**Paradigms recognizing errors in Biblical Application:**

1. **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Rooting out the Weed**

The Weed

P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hermeneutics:

Wisely understanding and applying God’s Word to our lives.

**Role of the Holy Spirit**

1. **Salvation**
   * Personal Preparation for Study:
     + Reverence for God's Word – this is God's Word; Absolute Authority over everything
     + Humility – we all have blind spots
     + Obedience – Bible commands, not suggests
     + Diligence – hard work; effort; perseverance
     + Dependence of Holy Spirit.
2. **Illumination**

**1 Corinthians 2:10-16** – Spiritual truths can only comprehended, understand, accept, and discerned through the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Works of Antiquity VS the Bible**

Plato 427-347 BC 1,200 yrs 7 -

Ceasar 100-44BC 1,000 yrs 10 -

Tacitus 100AD 1,000 yrs 20 -

Aristotle 384-322 BC 1,400 yrs 49 -

Homer (Illiad) 900BC 500 yrs 643 95%

NT 50-100AD less 100 5600+ 99.5%

1. **His Goal for knowledge: 2 Timothy 3:16ff**

**End goal**: “…that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every **good work**.”

**Training in righteousness –** how to **keep on the path**

**Teaching** – what the path is like – helps discern which is the **RIGHT** path.

**Correction** - “restore to an upright position”; **helps us GET BACK ON the path.**

**Reproof** – negative instruction; tells us when we are WRONG and **when we are OFF the path**

**Role of Prayer: Key that unlocks mysteries**

*Some stones broken only by an earnest use of the hammer, and the stone mason usually goes down on his knees. Use the hammer of diligence and let the knee of prayer be exercised. There is not a stony doctrine in Revelation that is profitable for you to understand that will not fly into shivers under the exercise of prayer and faith. “To have prayed well is to have studied well” was a wise sentence of Luther’s.* – Charles Spurgeon.

Ephesians 1:16-17: I do not cease [to pray]…that God…may give you the Spirit of **wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him**

Philippians 1:9: And it is my payer that your love may abound more and more, **with knowledge and all discernment**…

Colossians 1:9-10: we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the **knowledge** of his will in all **spiritual wisdom and understanding**, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work **and increasing in the knowledge of God.**

‬‬‬‬

**Role of a good, solid English Translation**

* Literal
* Dynamic Equivalence
  + A lengthy, but insightful discussion on: “Is simple really better?” @ <http://www.bible-researcher.com/dynamic-equivalence.html>
* Paraphrase

Modern Translations: the good, the bad and the ugly

* + KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV….. NIV, NLT, Holman…. Philips, the Message, etc...

**Various Methodologies for Bible Study**

* **Analytical** (comes up with as many facts and truths as possible)

**+** precision, understanding, details;

**-** verses viewed in isolation rather in big pic; unbalanced doctrine (one verse outweighs other clearer texts);

* **Devotional** (focuses on “life”, practical needs; most “bible studies” and Christian books are simply glorified “devotional studies”)

+ answers questions to felt needs and questions;

- misuse text; “did God really mean this?” and never really submit to authority of God's Word

* **Commentary** (reading other people's study notes)

+ wisdom and experience; input of original languages; good teaching materials;

– miss out on the joy of discovering and feeding on God's word ourselves. (baby food)

The Scriptures, is the **compilation of s\_\_\_\_\_, not a\_\_\_\_,** of the *special* *revelations*. -John 21:29

**Hermeneutics:** *the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of interrupting the Bible.*

Inductive Bible Study

**2 Timothy 2:15**

*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.*

**How did they KNOW which books were inspired?**

What has always been R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as God's Word?

What is being used and taught throughout the C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Was is written by an A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by an apostle?

Is it in d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with what is already known to be Scripture?

Why IBS?

* Accuracy
* Application
* Joy of Discovery
* Reasonable Time

Prerequisites

* Willingness to slow down
* Desire to carefully observe what the passage is literally saying, unbiased by prior experience.
* Humility – (a) dependence on the Holy Spirit for

illumination;

(b) errors are found in ourselves *not* the

Word of God.

**OVERVIEW provided by Todd Friel: *Herman Who*?**

Have to cross a RIVER in order to use the statements in Bible to our lives. Sometimes the river is more like a creek and we jump over. Other times, it’s a river as wide as the Mississippi and we need a bridge the size of the Golden Gate.

* Time
* Culture
* Language
* Situation
* Covenant

**Postmodern Hermeneutics:**  What does the text say TO ME?

**Authorial Intent Hermeneutics.:** What did the A I it to say to his

O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Majority Hermeneutical Rule**:

We cannot understand the verse differently than the original AUDIENCE.

**Grasp the text in their town:**  what did it say to original audience?

**Part 1 and 2**

**Observational Phase**: what is **SEEN**

Survey Reading

Historical Background

Unaided observations

**Interpretive Phase:** what does it **MEAN**

Interpretive Questions

Laws of Composition

Bible Study Helps

***Observation*** *refers to* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** *and is probably the broadest part of Bible study. It encompasses things like gathering background information, looking for major and minor themes that run throughout a letter, identifying the structure of the book, noting the type of literature (narrative, prose, letter, poetry, parables, etc.), recognizing key words, sensing the mood or tone of the author, etc.*

*One key to observation is to* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*** *In fact, the more one reads, the more one typically sees or learns about the book. A second key is to take notes. It can even be helpful to mark up the text as you read by highlighting, circling or underlining key words or phrases.*

*The goal of observation should be* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** *of information; i.e. how much can you possibly see?*

*-Mykel Pamperin-*

[***Martin Luther***](http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/biographies/martin-luther-lessons-from-his-life-and-labor) *said...*

*I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I shake the Bible as a whole, like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb—study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings. (http://www.preceptaustin.org/observation.htm)*

**GOAL: know what is going on INSIDE and OUTSIDE the text.**

***Verbal-Plenary Inspiration of Scripture.***

**Verbal** - refers to the belief that God “the Spirit guided the choice of words used.”\* The implication is that “inspiration involves the very words of Scripture, not simply the concepts or subjects of Scripture.”\*\* The Spirit allowed the authors’ characteristics to be captured, “but without the intrusion of error.”\*

* Essential Doctrines based on single words are worth fighting for. (Gen 1; John 1)
* Every word, not just the THOUGHTS are inspired
  + *This impact which VERSIONS of the Bible we use in our study/teaching.*

**Plenary**- refers to F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It adds the idea that “all” of scripture is equally inspired. The implication of this is that “all its parts [are] both *infallible* as to truth and *final* as to divine authority.”\* All books and all subjects addressed in the Bible are inspired; historical, scientific, geographical and spiritual issues are all equally inspired by God.

* Evolutionists who claim to be “Christians” – says God's word authoritative on matters of Theology... but not on science, history, psychology, etc...

**Inspiration**- the work of the Holy Spirit carrying men along as so that the very words were the out breathing of God.

*\*Chaffer, Volume 1 Systematic Theo, 71 \*\* Dockery, Foundations for Biblical Interpretation, 23*

**Survey reading of whole book**

* Getting the Big Picture
* 5 minutes thumb through the book
* Looking for:
  + Author
  + Recipients
  + Setting
  + Theme
  + Purpose
  + Tone

**Historical background**

* Read whole book in ONE SITTING; no bogged down in details
* Develop framework for understanding

**First**, read the text with the goal of looking for the things that are *OBVIOUS*.   
  
**PEOPLE, PLACES, and EVENTS are the most obvious facts.** In the epistles observation of the facts about the author and the recipients is a good place to begin to establish context.  
  
*As you read through the text observe the facts that are obvious by virtue of being REPEATED.*

www.preceptaustin.org/observation.htm

* Form educated hypothesis of the original situation author is speaking into.
* Gather other data from other books in the Bible – ie: Acts re: Paul and where at when wrote Colossians

***Pursue Personal Discovery***

* Personal discovery will keep you excited about reading and studying God's Word.
* Do as much digging through repetitive readings of the whole book.
* Don't assume you know it all... or have found all the information... there's always more.
* Commentaries and other Bible study helps very useful here- Geography, Economy, Political context.
* After using the Bible Study Helps, read through the Book again, looking for more information.
* Be a Detective Looking for Clues – slow down; get as much info as you can:
* Who’s the author?

**Inerrancy***-* “Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching . . .”(Chicago statement)

Based on God’s character: Titus 1:2 “God, who does not lie,” Hebrews 6:18 “God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie.”

***To deny inerrancy, it to assault the character of God; God does not lie.***

* What do we know about him?
* Why did he write the letter or book?
* When did he write it?
* To whom did he write?
* What do we know about them, their lives or culture they lived in?
* From where did he write it?
* What prompted him to write?
* Were there any major events surrounding the writing of the letter?
* What major subjects and themes is covered in the book?
* What content is unique to this book, largely left out of other books?
* What TONE is the author using towards his readers?

**Divide Book into Manageable chunks.**

**Narratives –** ie:Gospels, Acts, OT Historical book – will study an entire chapter or event at a

time.

* David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:1-58
* Luke 2 -birth of Christ
  + - * + Birth of Jesus vs 1-7
        + Shepherd and Angels vs 8-20
        + Jesus in the Temple vs 21-35
        + Anna vs 36-40

**Psalms** – a Psalm is a whole song that needs understood from beginning to end. In some cases,

a Psalm is included in a grouping for a particular use in worship – ie: Psalms 120-134

**Epistles** – Letters written to churches or individuals should be divided by paragraphs or main

thoughts. One way is to take several translations and use their paragraph divisions.

* Colossians -

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PP** | **ESV Study Bible** | **NIV Student Bible** |
| 1 | 1:1-2 | 1:1-2 |
| 2 | 1:3-8 | 1:3-8 |
| 3 | 1:9-14 | 1:9-14 |
| 4 | 1:15-20 | 1:15-20 |
| 5 | 1:21-23 | 1:21-23 |
| 6 | 1:24-29 | 1:24-27 |
| 6b |  | 1:28-29 |
| 7 | 2:1-5 | 2:1-5 |
| 8 | 2:6-7 | 2:6-7 |
| 9 | 2:8-15 | 2:8 |
| 9b |  | 2:9-12 |
| 9c |  | 2:13-15 |
| 10 | 2:16-19 | 2:16-19 |
| 11 | 2:20-23 | 2:20-23 |

**Inductive Bible Study Process in Picture Form**

What do you **SEE**?

What does it **MEAN**?

How do I **LIVE**?

**Observational Phase**: what is **SEEN?**

* Survey Reading
* Historical Background
* Unaided observations

**Unaided Observations**

**Look at the WORDS**

* Repetition – use of the same term: “holy, holy, holy”
* Similarities – similar words used: Philemon = brother, partner, fellow worker
* Contrasts – opposites: Proverbs uses this repeatedly for clarification.
* Comparison -using two items using “like” or “as”.
  + Four soils in parable of the seeds.
  + Psalms 1
* General to particular -moving from a general concept to details
  + Ps 23 – Lord is Shepherd (General), then rest of Psalm gives details.
* Particular to General - Details, then an over arching truth.
* Cause to Effect - Proverbs are filled with these.
* Effect to Cause -
* Climax – Ruth 4

**Look for the 5 W’s and H**

* Who…. What… Where… When…. Why…. How
* People… Facts…. Locations… Timing…. Reasons… Methods

**Look at the Context**

* Statements of Fact…. Command…. Advice…. Description
* Conditions/Transitional clauses: IF... BECAUSE... SO THAT... THEREFORE
* Promises (to whom and under what conditions?).
* Strict meaning vs. connotation – suggested meaning.

**Listen to the text. Be a Detective not a teacher.**

* What are the most important words?
* What words give you trouble – not sure what they mean?
* What does it say? …. What does it NOT say? (ie: 1 Peter 3:3ff)
* EVERY word is important.
* Every letter is important:
  + singular/plural
  + past tense/present tense/future tense
* Look for pronouns: Me, my, she, his, hers, their, they, etc...

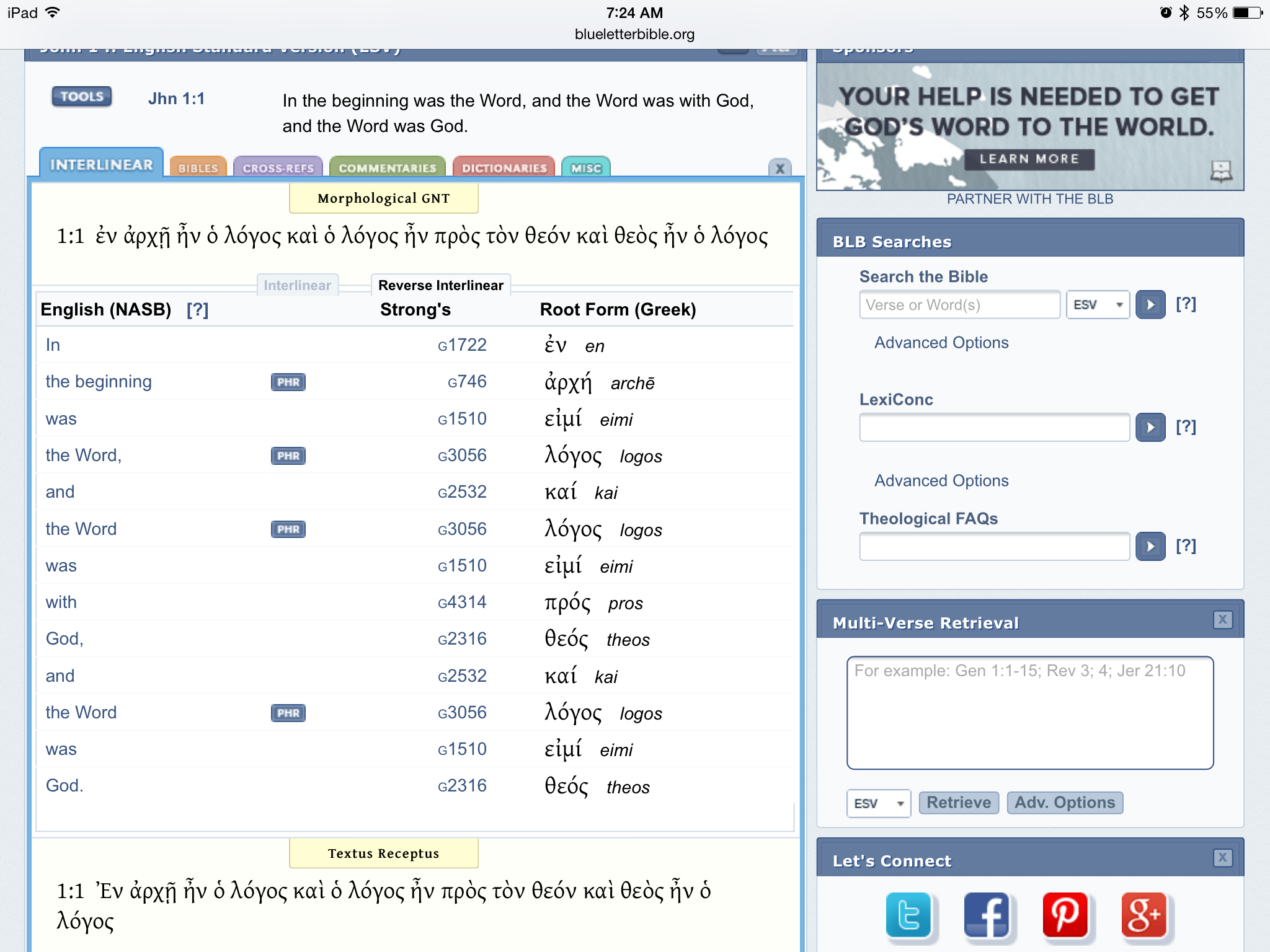
**WORD STUDY**

**“GO FOR IT!”**

Do at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ word study per section of scripture you are studying.

* Generally pick a key word that is part of the central thought of the passage.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are usually good places to start, or complex, theologically pack nouns.
* OR a word that is repeated throughout the passage or book.

Steps to studying a word:

1. Need to find out the original word being translated (strong’s # or greek)
   1. [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com)
   2. Go to any verse, and click on the blue box labeled “TOOLS” beside each verse.
2. Click on the Strong’s # associated with the word you are investigating.
3. Another box will appear with all kinds of information – part of speech, root word, definition, and where else the word in used in the Bible.
4. Investigate where the word is used:
   1. In the book you are studying
   2. By the author
   3. In the NT/OT
   4. Look for patterns, diversification of usage, etc…
5. See [**http://www.preceptaustin.org/greek\_word\_studies1.htm**](http://www.preceptaustin.org/greek_word_studies1.htm) for detailed, full blown examples of a word study:)

**Word Studies** can take ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** so be careful not to get lost in the forest. But the more you do, the quicker and more insights you will learn.

The Goal of the Observational Phase is to collect **LOTS** of information, clues and insights in the passage.

**Interpretation Phase**: What does it **MEAN?**

**Part 2** of **Grasp the text in their town.**

Aka: What did it mean to original audience?

***Interpretation*** *refers to* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** *and is where things begin to slow down and become more focused. It encompasses working verse-by-verse through the text and studying the words and phrases. Cross referencing, word studies, reading commentaries, outlining and diagramming are all a part of this process. It involves wrestling with the text by asking questions and seeking answers.*

*The keys to interpretation are to* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and work analytically*** *through one verse or passage at a time and then compare each verse or passage to both its immediate and broader context. The goal should be to discover as much* ***detail*** *as one can about the text and formulate a proper understanding of its meaning. -Mykel Pamperin-*

**Step Four: Interpretive Questions**

* What ***questions need to be answered*** in order to better understand the passage?
  + Ie: John 1:1 – Who is “the Word”?
  + The better the questions the better the understanding will be.
  + Questions a child would ask: why... how... who… what
* Are any of the words/phrases being used ***metaphorically, symbolically, ironically***… rather than literally?
  + Revelation 3:15 – “I wish you were cold or hot…”
* What do other texts in the book and the bible say about the main subject of the passage?
  + John 1:1ff = “The incarnation”: Philippians 2; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1
  + HOWEVER – as we know more than the original audience, be warned – don’t use that to expand the verse to say more than it would have to them. (aka: progressive revelation)

**Keep the CONTEXT always in mind**

* The quickest way to misinterpret a passage is to remove it from its original context and apply it directly, solely to your life.
* *All the study notes, to this point, should be in the 3rd person: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

**Step Six: Bible Study Helps**

* The Bible – what other Biblical texts address similar truths, ideas.
* Primary Texts – books written in the same time period.
* Secondary Texts – modern commentaries, archaeology, encyclopedias.

+ provides historical background; answer to some interpretation questions; discusses alternatives; provides observations that aren't immediately evident in English translation; Serves to check our conclusions

- Written by Humans so can be wrong; not exhaustive; if use first then may bias you toward viewpoints; Become a crutch, dependent on others. LOOSE JOY OF DISCOVERING God's Truth!

***A careful definition of INSPIRATION would then be stated, “The Spirit of God guided E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ word chosen, ensuring c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ infallibility and divine authority on E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subject as contained in the original autograph.”***

**Measuring the River’s Width:** How big of a bridge do we need to build to cross the differences between the biblical audience and us?

**Culture and Setting:**  What life was like for them?

Economically

Spiritually

Geographically, etc,..

Ie: **Ruth 1:1** “In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. (

* **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “In the days when the judges ruled…” (Judges 21:25 – last verse of the book) = Utter spiritual darkness.
* **E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**- “there was a famine in the land”
* **G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “man of Bethlehem… in the country of Moab”

**Covenant**

OT = What you do leads to blessing or curses.

NT = Spiritual riches.

Carrying for the poor, widow and orphan;

* OT = inside the boarders of the nation
* NT = inside the boarders of the local congregation
* Most of todays “social gospel” is based on poor application due to lazy interpretation (and misguided motives).

***When studying in the OT, need to ask = How does the New Testament alter the principle or application of an Old Testament Text?***

**Building the bridge:** Developing the *MAIN POINT* of the passage.

Importance of this step: Easier to remember and apply the Word of God, if we can remember it throughout the day. Developing a memorable, main point, better allows us to carry God’s word, promises, and truths with us throughout the day.

**Subject: main emphasis of the passage.**

*Begin with a pointer Word and related key word(s).*

* What – the point of the author is to state a fact (Matt 4:23 – What Jesus did in Galilee)
* Why – a purpose or reason is the emphasis (Mtt 4:1 – why the spirit lead JC into desert)
* How- emphasizes the process or manner (Mtt 2:11 – How the wise men greeted the Christ Child)
* Who – identifies a person or persons (Mtt 1:1-16 – Who ancestors of Christ were)
* When – focuses on time (Mtt 4.2 – when Jesus was tempted)
* Where- centers on a place (Mtt 4.25 – Where the followers of JC came from)

**Compliment: fills out the subject.**

*Flip the subject into a question….*

* What did Jesus do in Galilee?
* Why did the Spirit lead Jesus into the desert?
* Who were the ancestors of Christ?

*Answer the question in one sentence that includes the subject.*

**Validation** *–* **checking to see the Main Point includes all the verses.**

*You now have the MAIN point of the passage…. But not quite a POINT.*

**Shape the main.**

* **15 words or less**
* **Memorable – rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, poetic, etc.**

*Phil 1:3-8 We know who we love by who we pray for.*

*1 Peter 1:1-2- God knows where I’m at and where He’s taking me.*

*Col 1:3-6a: Gratitude is grown when we hear about others responding to the Gospel.*

**Application**

*Application refers to* ***how it works*** *and is where things get personal. It involves asking two primary questions: How does this apply to people in general? and How does this apply to me specifically? The goal of application should be to* ***change and grow*** *in one’s relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*The key to application is to determine what the* ***key principle or principles*** *are behind the text. Some verses can be applied directly to our lives today exactly as they appear, such as the command to make disciples in Matthew 28:19-20. Others, however, have no direct application for the American Church when taken as written. For instance, how do we apply Paul’s words from Colossians 3:22-4:1, where he instructs slaves to obey their masters and masters to be fair with their slaves, when we live in a society that no longer practices slavery? One choice would be to simply ignore passages like these but that would be a mistake. The right choice is to determine the principle behind the passage and apply that principle to a contemporary situation. In our example above, for instance, we might apply the passage to how one treats a boss or employee. -Mykel Pamperin-*

**Hermeneutics on ONE PAGE**

**Prayer**

**Observations:** *What did it say - to original audience? - (50% of overall study)*

***Keep all observations in 3rd person – he, she, they.***

* Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How.
* Repetition, Similarities, contrasts, climax, comparison, cause-effect
* How does every word fit into what author is saying?
* What is the Tone of the passage?
* Stating facts… command… advice…. description.
* Note Conditional/transitional/purpose wording: if, then, because, so that, therefore.
* Plural vs. singular
* Past, present or future tense of verbs
* Do one word study on a key word.

**Interpretation:** *What did it mean – to original audience? (25% of overall study)*

***Keep all observations in 3rd person – he, she, they.***

* What are the key words in the passage (verbs, theological language, transition/purpose words…)?
* What words are unfamiliar or don’t understand?
* Ask and seek answers to questions that need to be answered to more fully understand passage.
* How does the Paragraph….chapter…. book shape and/or inform about these verses?
* Are any key words, ideas or themes repeated in the book? What about in the rest of the Bible?
* Is there any wording being used figuratively, symbolically, non literally?

*Here and only here do you begin to use outside sources – ie: commentaries.“Am I in the ballpark?”*

**Boiling it down:** *Shaping the Main Point of the Passage. (15% of overall study)*

* What is the subject of the passage? –start with: Who, What, Where, When, Why or How.
* Flip the subject into a question.
* The answer will give you the compliment.
* Subject + Compliment = Main Point of the passage
* Word it in a short (15 words or less), memorable (alliteration, rhythm, rhyme all help).
* Use here and now language (me, I, we)

**Application:** *What do I do? (10% of overall study)*

* Assess the degree of transfer-ability. How much can apply to me?
* Apply to your life via an application that can be measured, recognized or realized.
  + Rather than “prayer more”, could write out “prayer 1 day a week for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”