

# HERMENEUTICS



A bright, sunny outdoor plaza with large trees and people sitting on benches. The scene is filled with green foliage and dappled sunlight on the paved ground. The text is overlaid in a bold, pink, stencil-style font.

**THE SCIENCE AND  
ART OF  
INTERPRETATION**

**GRAMMATICAL-  
HISTORICAL-  
CONTEXTUAL  
METHOD**

**or**

**“Literal Method”**

# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

## 1. Linguistic



A night scene of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a full moon. The moon is visible in the dark sky, and its light reflects on the water. The waves are white and foamy as they break on the sand.

# LINGUISTIC

**Determine meaning by  
conventions of language**

# LINGUISTIC

✓ **Language**

✓ **Text**



**“There are some 8,000 manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate and at least 1,000 for the other early versions. Add to that over 4,000 (now 6,000) Greek manuscript copies of portions of the NT. Besides all this, much of the NT can be reproduced from the quotations of the early Christian writers.”**

**AT Robertson**

# LINGUISTIC

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





# MEANING

- ✧ Usage - range of meaning
- ✧ Context - determines meaning

# **Trunk**

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

# MEANING

- ✧ Usage - range of meaning
- ✧ Context - determines meaning
- ✧ Etymology - limitations

# **ETYMOLOGY**

- 1. Theoretical**
- 2. Meaning different in different ages**
- 3. Meaning different from original**
- 4. Too subjective**
- 5. Little relation to components**
- 6. False sense of authority**

# MEANING

- ✧ Usage - range of meaning
- ✧ Context - determines meaning
- ✧ Etymology - limitations
- ✧ Synonyms - useful

# LINGUISTIC



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

# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

**1. Linguistic**

**2. Contextual**

A night beach scene with waves crashing on the shore under a full moon. The moon is visible in the dark sky, and its light reflects on the water and the wet sand. The waves are white and foamy as they break on the beach.

# 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

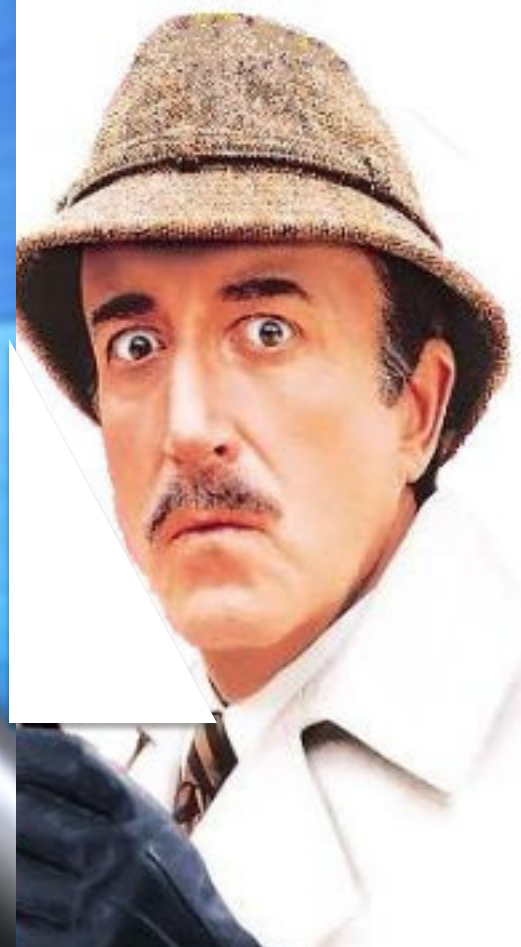
- 1. Textual - primary**
- 2. Literary**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**
- 5. Theological**



**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.



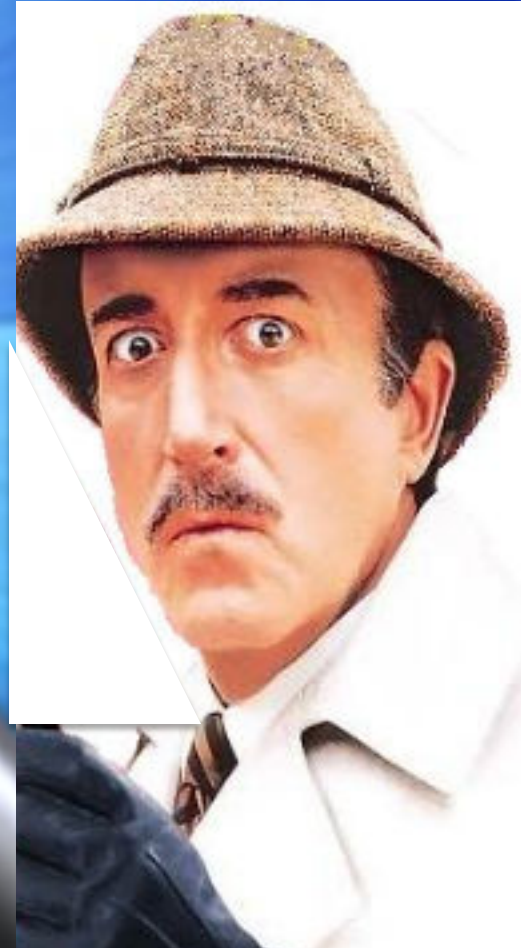
**SPECIFIC**

**Immediate**

**Book**

**Remote**

**CIRCLES OF  
CONTEXT**



# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES



**1. Linguistic**

**2. Contextual**

**3. Historical**

A night scene of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a full moon. The moon is visible in the dark sky, and its light reflects on the water and the wet sand. The waves are white and foamy as they break. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# **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**

# ACTS 17:24-28

Act 17:26-27 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

# **PHILOSOPHY**

- 1. God as Creator is Author**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**

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# **PHILOSOPHY**

- 1. God as Creator is Author**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**
- 4. Involves Time & Geography**
- 5. Divine Purpose**

# TIED TO HISTORY

- **Biblical Philosophy of History**
- **Biblical Covenants**



# בְּרִית (berit)

- **A Legally Binding Contract**
- **An Agreement, Pact, Treaty**
- **Specifies behavior to be complied with**



"AN ORAL CONTRACT IS NOT WORTH THE PAPER IT'S WRITTEN ON."

# TIED TO HISTORY

- **Biblical Philosophy of History**
- **Biblical Covenants**
- **History Based on Bible**

# 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

# **TIED TO HISTORY**

- **Biblical Philosophy of History**
- **Biblical Covenants**
- **History Based on Bible**
- **Doctrine Tied to History**

# **HISTORY**

- 1. Bible Tied to History**
- 2. Essence behind Passage**
- 3. Extremes**
- 4. Areas**

# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

**1. Linguistic**      **4. Cultural**

**2. Contextual**

**3. Historical**

A night-time photograph of a beach. The sky is dark with a bright full moon in the upper center. The ocean is dark, with white foam from waves crashing onto the shore. The sand is a light brown color, and the water is dark with white foam. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**CULTURAL**

**Cultural setting  
contributes to meaning**

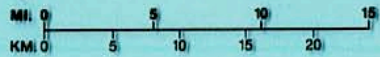
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# CULTURE

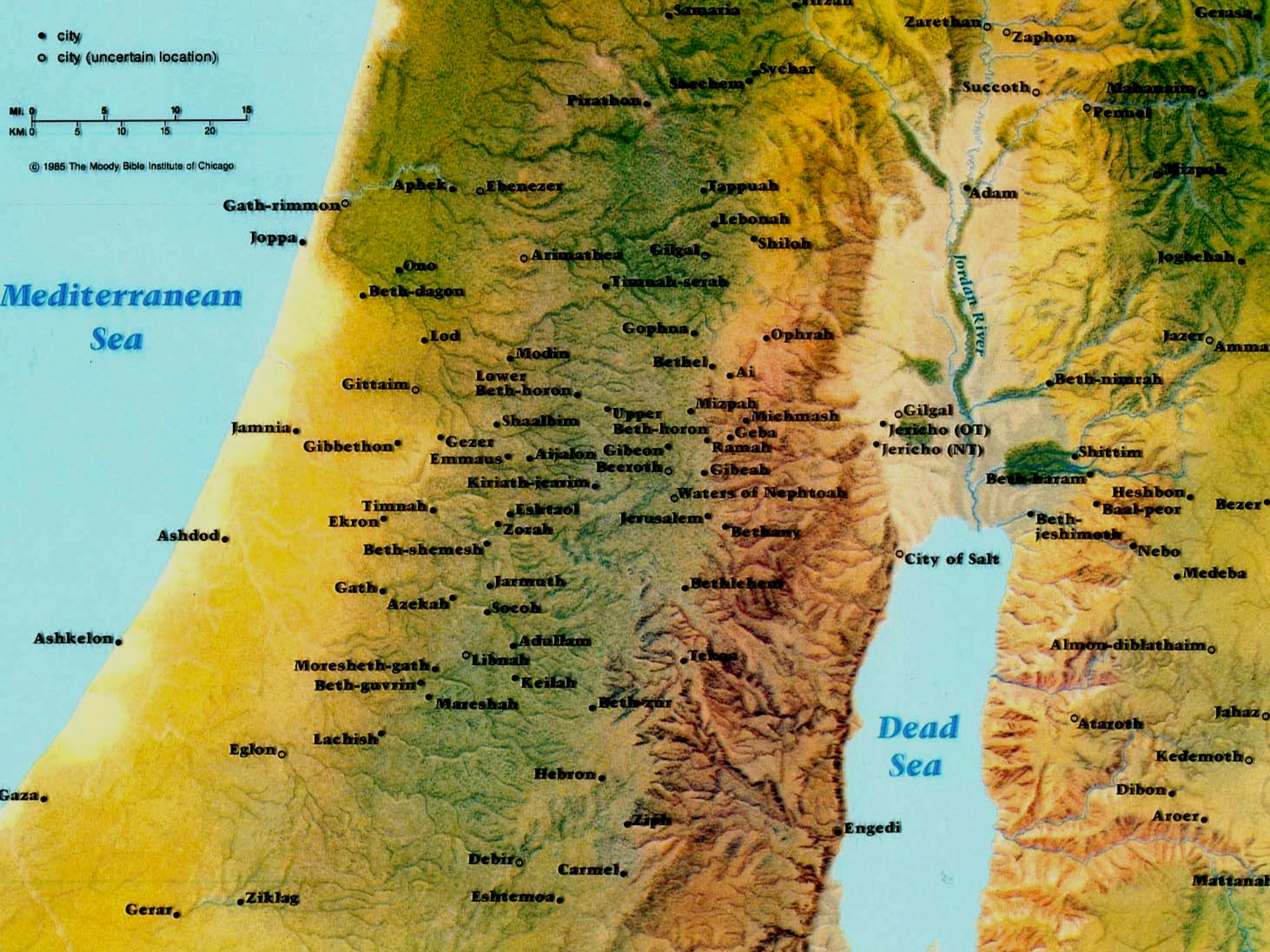
## 1. Geography



- city
- city (uncertain location)



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# 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**

A night scene of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a full moon. The moon is visible in the dark sky, and its light reflects on the water. The waves are white and foamy as they break on the sand.

# **METAPHORICAL**

**Interpret according to  
appropriate metaphorical  
conventions**

# FIGURES - Kinds

## 1. Symbols



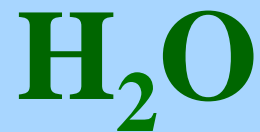
# SYMBOLS

$$E = MC^2$$

$$V = d/t$$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$A = v/t$$



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



# SYMBOLS

1. Object = Symbol

2. Referent = What is Referred

3. Meaning = Resemblance

# **INTERPRETING**

## **SYMBOLS**

- 1. Definite Meaning**
- 2. Bible Interprets**
- 3. Few Un-interpreted**
- 4. Possibility of Multiple Uses**