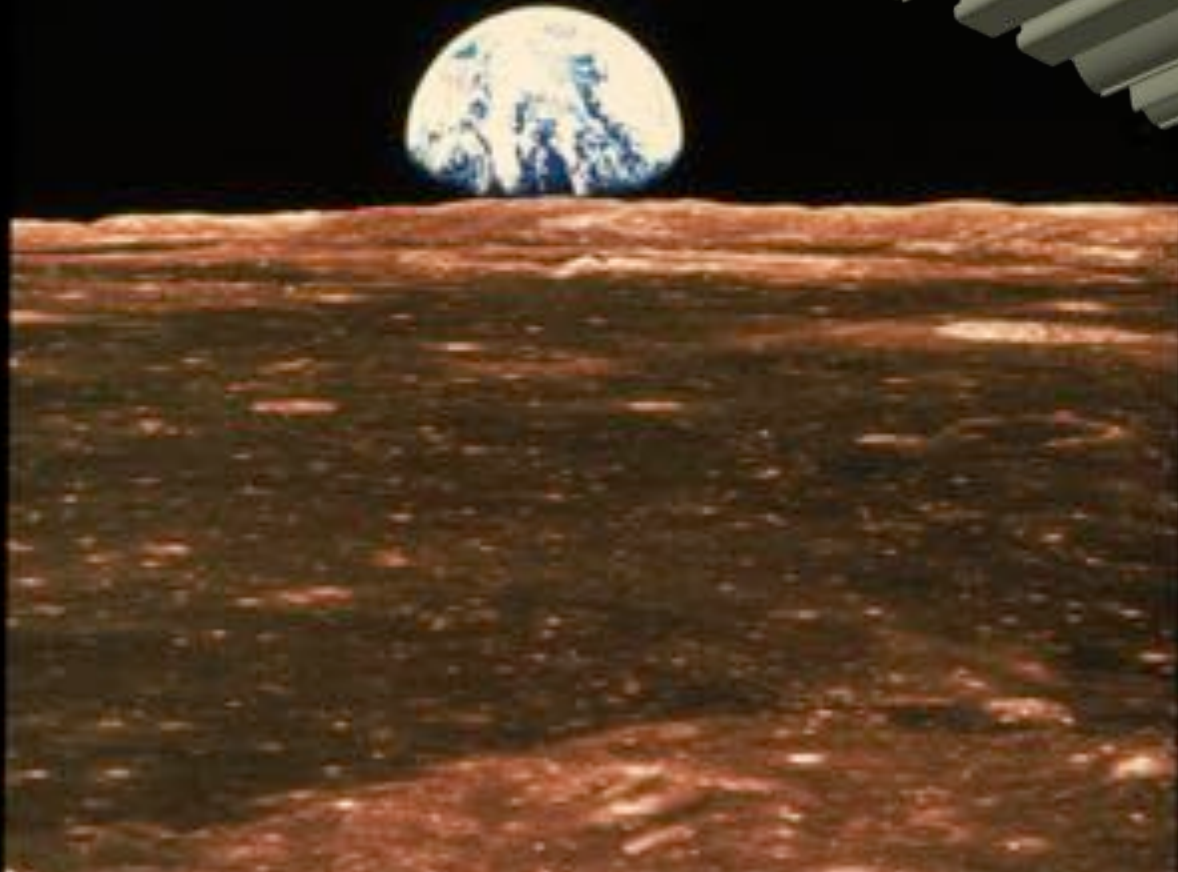


HERMENEUTICS



A bright, sunny outdoor plaza with large trees and people walking. The scene is filled with green foliage and dappled sunlight on the paved ground. In the background, there are some structures and more people, suggesting a university or public park setting.

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF INTERPRETATION

**GRAMMATICAL-
HISTORICAL-
CONTEXTUAL
METHOD**

Or

“Literal Method”

GENERAL HERMENEUTICS

A. Description

B. Need

C. History

D. Approaches

E. Essential Principles





ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

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 foreground shows the wet, reflective sand of the beach.

HISTORICAL

**Historical setting
contributes to meaning**

Natal

“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

TIED TO HISTORY

➤ **Biblical Philosophy of 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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- 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**



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 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 beach is visible in the foreground, appearing as a dark, wet surface.

CULTURAL

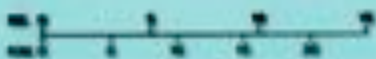
**Cultural setting
contributes to meaning**

Natal

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**



METAPHORICAL

**Interpret according to
appropriate metaphorical
conventions**

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols



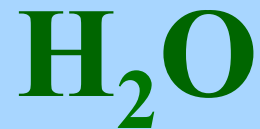
SYMBOLS

$$E = MC^2$$

$$V = d/t$$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$A = v/t$$



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



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**

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols

2. Comparisons



COMPARISON

❖ Simile - explicit

❖ Metaphor - implicit

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions



SUBSTITUTION

- **Personification - personality**
- **Anthropomorphism - humanity**
- **Metonymy - substitution**
- **Hendiadys - coordinate**
- **Merism - totality**
- **Euphemism - indirect**

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions
4. Omissions



OMMISSION

❖ Ellipsis - omissions

❖ Rhetorical Questions - not needed



FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions
4. Omissions
5. Overstatement



OVERSTATEMENT

❖ Hyperbole - exaggeration

❖ Irony - different

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions
4. Omissions
5. Overstatement
6. Inconsistency



INCONSISTENCY

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, there is a paved plaza with a circular fountain in the lower right corner. The fountain has a central water feature and is surrounded by a low concrete wall. In the background, there are several multi-story buildings with a mix of brick and light-colored facades, interspersed with green trees. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

❖ Paradox - seeming contradiction

❖ Oxymoron - opposites combined

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

7. Literary



LITERARY

Take literary form into
consideration in
interpretation

LITERARY FORM



1. Narrative
2. Poetry
3. Discourse
4. Prophetic
5. Parabolic
6. Other

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

1. Literary
2. Single Meaning



SINGLE MEANING

**Meaning in each text is
single, definite, & fixed**

SINGLE MEANING

- 1. Words & sentences can have but one meaning**
- 2. Author's intended meaning**
- 3. One interpretation but many applications**
- 4. Sensus plenior - subjectivity**
- 5. NT Authors - inspiration**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

- 1. Literary**
 - 2. Single Meaning**
 - 3. Clarity**
 - 4. Unity**
- 
- A scenic view of a pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The fountain is in the foreground, spraying water upwards. The pond is in the middle ground, reflecting the sky and trees. The background is filled with dense green foliage under a bright blue sky.

CLARITY

Scripture was intended to
be understood

UNITY

Use Scripture to interpret
Scripture

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

A scenic view of a pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The fountain is in the foreground, spraying water upwards. The pond is in the middle ground, reflecting the sky and trees. The background is filled with dense green foliage under a bright blue sky.

1. Literary

6. Progress

2. Single Meaning

3. Clarity

4. Unity

5. Analogy

ANALOGY

**No interpretation of a
passage can contradict
the rest of Scripture**

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

**God has revealed His mind
over time**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

A scenic view of a pond with a fountain and trees in the background. The pond is surrounded by a concrete curb and green grass. The water is dark green, and the fountain is spraying water into the air. The background is filled with lush green trees under a clear blue sky.

1. Literary

2. Single Meaning

3. Clarity

4. Unity

5. Analogy

6. Progress

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

LOGICAL

Utilize basic principles of
logic & communication

LOGICAL

- **Priority of Objectivity**
- **Eliminate
Subjectivity**
- **Give writer
benefit of
doubt
1Cor 13:12**



SUPERNATURAL

**Interpret Scripture as a
divine book**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES



1. Literary

2. Single Meaning

3. Clarity

4. Unity

5. Analogy

6. Progress

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Finite

10. Christological

FINITE

**Interpret aware of mystery
in Scripture**

CHRISTOLOGICAL

**Interpret with Christ as
central to All Scripture**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES



1. Literary

2. Single Meaning

3. Clarity

4. Unity

5. Analogy

6. Progress

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Finite

10. Christological