

HOW TO STUDY THE
BIBLE

PART 3

INTERPRETATION

RE-CAP - PARTS 1 & 2

- **STEP 1** -- Find out where you are in God's Grand Narrative Story of Redemptions
- **STEP 2** -- Find out where you are from a Historical Perspective.
- **STEP 3** -- Find out which type of book you are in based on how the Books of Bible are Organized
 - Determines Purpose & Style of Writing
 - Determines Who it was directed to
 - Determines What it was written for

Perspicuous

- THE **PERSPICUITY** OF SCRIPTURE --
- "clearly expressed and easily understood."
 - Perspicuous** -- means a person of reasonable intelligence can read and get the main message. ---The basic meaning.
 - Main message --Men and women are wicked -- Jesus is really wonderful -- never sinned
 - **We believe that the bible can be understood.**
- **Comprehending on a spiritual level** is different
 - Carnal man cannot understand.

Hermeneutics

- **Hermeneutics** --The structured discipline of interpretation.
- **Exegesis** -- 2 Verbs - TO BRING OUT OF
- What we don't want to do is **Eisegesis** --reading into the text -- Imposing on text what I intend.

- DOES IT NOT OCCUR TO YOU NO ONE EVER USED THE **BIBLE TO JUSTIFY** HOMOSEXUALITY AND GAY MARRIAGE for first 19 Centuries

--Now a popular thing to do -- WE ARE **IMPOSING ON TEXT WHAT WE WANT IT TO SAY.**

--Many **rip a verse out of context** and use it for there justification.

--IF YOU ARE THE **ONLY ONE TO SEE SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE HAS SEEN** YOU MIGHT NOT BE LEAD DOg BUT ON THE WRONG TRAIL.

THE AUTHORS INTENT

- **HOW DO WE READ THE BIBLE & MAKE SENSE OF IT**
- **CAN YOU CAN PROVE ANYTHING FROM BIBLE ?**
 - Only if you twist and pervert it.
- **WHEN YOU WRITE SOMETHING YOU EXPRESS AN INTENT -- AT THAT TIME**
 - Example: Bear Bryant greatest coach in Football
 - Now: Nick Saban is greatest coach in Football
 - You can change opinion --but you cannot go back and change the meaning if you wrote that in a letter

THE AUTHORS INTENT

- **WHAT DID THE AUTHOR INTEND?**
- **SOME SAY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW**
 - **EXAMPLE:**
 - Pharmacist looks at prescription knows Doctors intent
 - Doesn't say who can know what he intended

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

WE LOOK FOR 3 THINGS:

1. **CONTEXT.** -- Context is everything --determines meaning. Word "**Run**" has lots of meanings but context helps us determine which one it is.
2. **CONTENT** -- What is going on within the words.
3. **CONCERN** -- How do I take this and apply it to my life.

TONIGHT --We will look at Context

CONTEXT

1. **Historical Context** -- A distance between us and what was written then. Culture and History.
 - Farming written about then is much different than it is in our time.
 - We must learn the historical context of the Bible.
 - [2 Things to help -](#)
 1. A good study Bible -- ESV (Crossway)
 2. A good Bible handbook -- Eerdmans

A WORD ABOUT TRANSLATIONS

- I love the KJV -- Old English Language
- But not the only correct translation
- As a Pastor I want folks to read the Bible
 - This is tough --if we give them a KJV
 - Ask have you read it?
 - You know those "thee" and "thous" are tough
 - Like trying to learn another language to understand the Bible.
- Many good translations: ESV is probably the best

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **Using 2 Passages to look at context:**
 - John 4 --Woman at the well
 - Judges 6 --ANGEL APPEARING TO GIDEON.
- **Historical context is broken down into 4 areas:**
 1. Geographical Historical Context
 2. Specific Historical Context.
 3. Cultural Historical Context.
 4. Religious Historical Context

GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. Where is this happening-- Israel a small country --Most of Bible happens there -- Basic map of Israel -- Israel about the size of Kentucky.
 - John 4 -- Samaria -- He had to go through Samaria -- Jews hated Samaritans would go 20 miles out of way to avoid them.
 - Sometimes the geography is necessary to make sense of the context.
 - Judges 6 Midianites are living around them -- USE YOUR MAPS

SPECIFIC HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND THEM AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY**

- Luke 2 tells us about the birth of Jesus -- Gives us historical context of what was going on at the time Jesus was born.

- Gideon -- no King in Israel --Judges tells that story

- John 4 -- First Century AD -- Rome in power

- Why Jews hate Samaritans etc.

- Jeroaboam did not want his folks going back down to Jerusalem. Why Samaritans worshipped in Mountian.

CULTURAL HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. GIDEON THRESHING WHEAT IN WINE PRESS:

- We might just pass over it. Not someone from that culture.
- Wheat threshing done on a hill winnowing
- Midianites would let you do everything up to this point
- Threshing floor up high
- Picture of most famous threshing floor Dome of the rock on there

2. Where do you put an olive press or a wine press -- RIGHT BY A BROOK

--Gethsemane was by brook Kidron

--**Why a wine press near a running creek** -- because once you trample out all of the grapes you are left with skins

-- You push them into the running water so they would take them away.

-- Wine press is always down in valley -- NO BREEZE.

--**TOUGH WORK FOR GIDEON TO THRESH WHEAT IN A WINEPRESS.**

CULTURAL HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. HAIL YOU MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR:

--- Nothing he is doing makes him look like a man of valor.

2. HOW DO YOU GREET AN ANGEL?

-- Hey why is God letting this happen to us --GIDEON COMPLAINS --not how you greet an angel.

--I need a sign --ISNT THE APPERANCE OF THE ANGEL ENOUGH. Then another sign.

3. HE IS NOT BRAVE NOT REVERENT --DESTROYS FATHERS GROVE AT NIGHT WHEN NO ONE CAN SEE

-- The specific historical and Cultural context helps us understand the story.

4. SAMARITAN WOMAN -- Jesus got there at noon -- A woman drawing water an noon?

--- THEY WOULD SAY WHAT IS SHE DOING THERE AT NOON?

--- JACOBS WELL - 1976 Palestinian Women were still coming early in the AM to get water and late in day

--- 5 Gallon Clay pots. of water on their heads -- Thick neck women -- A hot spot now

---It is a social contact as well as GETTIn water for the day

--- There by herself at noon -- HE IS NOT A PART OF SOCIAL FABRIC OF THE AREA.

5. When you read assume that every detail means something --author is telling us something

RELIGIOUS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. Mainly Judaism.

-- But in case of **Gideon** worship of BAAL -- destroy the Ashera pole

-- Jesus talking to **Samaritan Woman** -- Get you Husband

-- Changes subject to Religious subject.

-- Our Fathers say we should worshiop in this Mountain

-- Goes back to Jeroaboam and the mix of Zoaster with a.

Perversion of Judaism.

-- That is why she asks that question

2. RELIGIOUS CONTEXT IS IMPORTANT --MEAT OFFERED TO IDOLS ETC.

3. THE DETAILS ARE THER FOR A REASON.