

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

## PART 4

### TEXTUAL CONTEXT

# 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

# RE-CAP - PART 3

## WE LOOK FOR 3 THINGS:

1. **CONTEXT.** -- Context is everything
2. **CONTENT** -- What is going on within the words.
3. **CONCERN** -- How do I take this and apply to my life.

- **CONTEXT**

  - HISTORICAL CONTEXT

  - TEXTUAL CONTEXT---**Tonight**

- **Historical context is broken down into 4 areas:**

1. Geographical Historical Context
2. Specific Historical Context.
3. Cultural Historical Context.
4. Religious Historical Context

# TEXTUAL CONTEXT

- **How does this passage fit in this book?**

## 1. **How does it fit authors narrative?**

- Judges -what it looks like when no King in Israel
- Romans 9 -- Strong statement about Gods sovereignty --he will have mercy on whom he will have mercy etc.
- QUOTED IN A CALVINISTIC ARMENIAN WAY ----
- END OF CHAPTER 8 TALKS ABOUT God has always saved by Faith
- in 9-10 he is answering that question
- Question is --Since the Jews rejected Gods word did --Gods word fail
- That is what Paul is answering in Romans 9 - 10-11
- THORN IN THE flesh
- Wrong to rip Chpt. 9 out of that context and use for some other purpose.**

# TEXTUAL CONTEXT

## 2. HOW DOES IT FIT INTO META NARRATIVE, THE BIG OVERALL STORY OF REDEMPTION

- JUDGES - What it looks like with no King, People doing what is right in their own eyes.
  - WOMAN AT WELL -- Christ reaching out to "undesirables"
  - CHRIST IN THE PASS OVER MEAL
- Look at how it fits in small story (authors book) and how it fits in grand narrative.

# LITERARY CONTEXT

- **LOOK AT THE FORM OF WRITING :**

- **Historical -- Narrative -- Discourse -- Parable**

- **Narrative** Book of Matthew -- Jesus went to other side of Sea of Galilee

- Also **Discourse** --Jesus in sermon on the mount said Blessed are poor in spirit.

- **Parable** -- Not same expectation of narrative

- Once upon a time (Changes expectation) -- Not necessarily a wicked queen

- A man went up from Jerusalem to Jericho (actual man??).

- **A PARABLE IS AN EARTHLY STORY WITH A HEAVENLY MEANING**

- A Jewish Rabbi -- Catholic Priest and Baptist preacher walked into a Bar

- **TAKE HISTORY AS INTENDED AND PARABLE THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED**

# CONTENT

- **CONTEXT** - Surrounds the meaning.
- **CONTENT** – How do the words and sentences convey the intent (Textual Analysis)
- **STEP 1: Read it over and over.** --- Literal translation –word for word –(impossible – English one word greek 3 words). In Greek you put subject in the verb –No "we" needed.
  - KJV and NAS & ESV is considered literal. Eph 1 longest sentence in the Bible –1 to vs 14 – NIV chops it up in several sentences, in Greek one long sentence –
  - DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE – Not word for word or phrase by phrase but thought or concept by concept.
  - THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE –Puts meaning of every verb – and thought in the Bible.

# CONTENT

- **Step 2: Look at Micro and Macro structure** – **Micro** –read the sentence on the level of the sentence –subject verb & action etc.

---The bible hangs on verbs – seeing the crowd –he had compassion — what is the main verb .

--- ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE MAIN VERB.

---Why did they use these words -- DETAILS MATTER -- Sentence structure matters.

--- **MACRO STRUCTURE** -- Where one subject ends and another beings --  
When does the author shift gears --

--- Reading Roman 1-2-3 Pauls discusses lost humanity -- Then 4-5 talks about Faith -- Then - 9 Poses a questions -- Then answers

--- Chapt 12 -- a big therefore -- Present your Body a living sacrifice.

NOTICE DIVISION MARKS --SAME WAY YOU WOULD READ A LETTER.



# CONTENT

- **STEP 3: Compositional Pattern**

- What is. He writing. What is the style --

- In Mark -- "Straightway" -- immediately -- Jesus went to this city and immediately -- John does not use it.

- Repetition used to emphasize He dress 11 -- By faith --over and over and over.

- Variation -- Luke 15 -- Pharisees testing Jesus

- -- Lost Sheep and lost coin, Then lost son

- Notice first 2 are short and. Identical -- Son story is longer and much different.

- REPETITION AND VARIATION -- USED TO REALLY EMPHASIZE

- Older brother shows up -- he is mad -- no one got mad about coin and sheep.

- brother is the entire point

- You Pharisees are ticked that the sinners come to me .

# CONTENT

- **STEP 4 : Theological Pattern** -- What is author emphasizing about God
  - Jesus Christ the same yesterday today and forever more.
  - God changes his mind -- Jonah & Nineveh --
  - God always hates sin & always forgives sinners
  - Who changed --Ninevites --Not God.
  - God always punishes sin & always forces sine when people repent.
  - Gospels -- Matthew -- Jesus is King of Jews
  - Luke -- Makes Jesus more human for Gentile. -- His emphasis is different.
  - John - Jesus divine -- Doesn't mean that Mark doesn't not believe Jesus is God.

# CONTENT

- **STEP 5: Lexicon Analysis** -- Knowing what words mean. --  
KJV -- all kinds of words we do not use anymore
  - People will take words from one context and use it in another context.
    - A Home Run -- means mucus drips from ball -- because that is what it means when your nose runs.
  - Trust your instincts. -- Almost always the most natural meaning is the right one
  - When folks try to get weird is when it comes out twisted.