

Going to take a step back outside of Revelation for a few minutes and dig into some theology topics.

=> Who has heard the word "hermeneutic" before?

What is a hermeneutic?

- **Key to interpretation of scripture is to have a consistent hermeneutic**
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-Revelation.html>)
- **Hermeneutics**
 - **The branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially of the Bible or literary texts (Oxford)**
 - **The study of the methodological principles of interpretation (as of the Bible) (Merriam-Webster)**
 - **the study of the principles of interpretation**
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-Revelation.html>)
 - **Any effort to interpret the meaning of communication, particularly communication that is being interpreted in a different cultural context**
(<https://www.logos.com/grow/biblical-hermeneutics-guide/>)
- **“Although language presupposes shared conventions between persons, the unique experience of the individual cannot be expressed adequately through this medium. The receiver therefore needs help to reproduce the meaning of the sender in his or her own consciousness. The task of hermeneutics is to provide this help.”** (<https://www.logos.com/grow/biblical-hermeneutics-guide/>)
- **Biblical hermeneutics is the method of interpreting Scripture so we can bridge the gaps between modern-day readers of the Bible, its original audiences, and God as its ultimate author.**

=> What should be our reaction when we read something in scripture that we are unsure of, struggle with, or even flat out disagree with?

- **Pray**

- Seek counsel from trusted, godly people
- Pray
- Consult other trustworthy sources
- Pray
- Dig deeper yourself
- Pray

Also will see the words *exegesis* and *eisegesis* frequently when delving into this topic

What is exegesis?

- Critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially scripture (Oxford)
- Exposition or explanation of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. To lead out of. To be led to your conclusion.
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/exegesis-eisegesis.html>)

What is eisegesis?

- The interpretation of a word or passage (of the Scriptures) by reading into it one's own ideas)
- The interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. To lead into. Interpreter injects his own ideas into the text, making it whatever he wants.

=> How should we approach scriptural interpretation?

- Exegetically

=> What are dangers of interpreting scripture eisegetically?

- Exegesis is concerned with discovering the true meaning of the text
- Eisegesis is a mishandling of a text and often leads to a misinterpretation
 - Only concerned with making a point, even at the expense of the meaning of the words

We all bring our own hermeneutic to the table when we read scripture

- **We CANNOT, however, allow it to alter what the message is saying**
- **Scripture changes us, we don't change scripture**

5 Key Components of Biblical Hermeneutics (<https://www.logos.com/grow/biblical-hermeneutics-guide/>)

1. Context

a. Historical - "What did the text mean in its original situation?"

- i. Who wrote the text?**
- ii. When was it written?**
- iii. What group was it addressing?**
- iv. What is the purpose / theme?**

b. Logical - "Does this interpretation really make sense?"

- i. 8 concentric circles of context to help unlock the meaning of a text - passage, immediate context, major section, book, writer, testament, Bible, genre.**

2. Grammar

a. Don't rely on commentaries. Helpful, yes, but reference other translations and they ways they do it

b. Digital tools - web, Logos, etc.

3. Semantics

a. Do a Word Study

- i. Look for a promising word**
- ii. Identify the underlying Greek or Hebrew lemma (dictionary form, base or root form)**

- 1. MSS means manuscripts where words appear in their inflected form**

2. Lemma is the standardized version of a word found in the various inflected forms within the MSS

iii. Find every instance of a particular Greek or Hebrew word (easy to do with digital tools)

4. Syntax

a. How are the words being used in the sentence?

b. Is the word / phrase idiomatic, or a figure of speech, or maybe tongue in cheek?

c. 6 types of figures of speech

i. Figures of comparison

ii. Figures of addition or fullness of expression

iii. Incomplete figures of speech

iv. Figures involving contrast or understatement

v. Figures centering on association or relation

vi. Figures stressing the personal dimension

5. Historical or Cultural Backgrounds

a. Everything in the Bible was written within a concrete cultural milieu and written to a concrete situation

Biblical Genres

1. Law

2. Narrative

3. Poetry

4. Wisdom

5. Letters

6. Prophecy

7. Apocalypse

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Every word of scripture, both Old Testament and New Testament, points toward Jesus and the salvation we have available to us through His work on the cross and resurrection.