



Hermeneutics: Principles of Interpretation

A. BASIC PRINCIPLES TO BE DEVELOPED

1. Observation – To see things as they really are
 - a. Terms
 - b. Structure
 - c. Literary Forms
2. Interpretation
 - a. Purpose – The meaning in a given context
 - b. Historical Narratives
 - c. Prophetic Narratives
 - d. Poetic Narratives
 - e. Apocalyptic Narratives
3. Evaluation and Application
 - a. Evaluation – To analyze what truths are taught and which are timeless, and which are historical
 - b. Application – Proper application to a present situation
4. Correlation
 - a. To determine a teaching of a passage and how it harmonizes with Biblical doctrine as a whole
 - b. Distinction between time periods

B. FOUR BASIC RULES OF INTERPRETATION

1. Golden Rule of Interpretation

- a. When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.

- b. The usage of symbols

2. The Law of Double Reference

- a. A passage of Scripture speaks of two different persons or events that are separated by a long period of time. The fact that a gap of time exists is known because of other Scriptures.

3. The Law of Recurrence

- a. Two blocks of Scripture record the same event; the second block adds more information and provides additional details to the first.

4. The Law of Context

- a. A text apart from its context is pretext.

C. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT QUOTES THE HEBREW BIBLE

1. Literal Prophecy Plus Literal Interpretation

- a. Matthew 2:5-6
- b. Matthew 1:22-23
- c. Matthew 3:3 and Mark 1:2
- d. Luke 4:18-19
- e. Matthew 4:13-16
- f. Matthew 21:5
- g. John 12:38-40
- h. John 19:24
- i. Matthew 27:46

2. Literal Plus Typical (Typology)

- a. Matthew 2:15
- b. Matthew 15:7-9
- c. John 12:39-40
- d. Matthew 21:42
- e. John 19:36
- f. The Book of Hebrews

3. Literal Plus Application

- a. Matthew 2:17-18
- b. Acts 2:16-21

4. Summation

- a. Matthew 2:23
- b. Luke 18:31-33
- c. Matthew 26:54-56

D. MESSIANIC PROPHECY

1. New Testament Usage

- a. Luke 24:25-27
- b. Luke 24:44-46
- c. Acts 8:35
- d. Acts 17:1-3
- e. Acts 18:27-28
- f. Acts 28:23

2. Type of Messianic Prophecy

- a. First Coming Only
- b. Second Coming Only
- c. The First and Second Coming Blended Together
- d. The Whole Redemptive Career
 - (1) First Coming
 - (2) Time in Between
 - (3) Second Coming
 - (4) Messianic Kingdom

3. Importance