

# **HEARING GOD SPEAK**

*Principles for Correct Bible Interpretation*

*“Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*  
**Matthew 4:4**

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## **LESSON 1: The Way We Know God**

### ❖ **COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*"You Christians are so arrogant and narrow minded! How can you be so proud to think that you can know what God thinks about everything!"*

### **1) Knowing God through THE WISDOM inside us?**

*"Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe."*

*(1 Corinthians 1:20-21)*

*Additional verses: Isaiah 29:13-14, Isaiah 44:24-25*

### **2) Knowing God through THE WORLD around us?**

*"For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, **in the things that have been made.**" (Romans 1:20)*

*Additional verses: Psalm 19:1-2, Psalm 97:6, Isaiah 40:21-26*

### **3) Knowing God through THE WORD given to us?**

*"...**these things God has revealed to us** through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God... And we impart this **in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit...**"*

*(1 Corinthians 2: 10-11, 13)*

*Additional verses: Isaiah 42:5, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Hebrews 1:1-2*

**SUMMARY:** If we were left to our own wisdom and reasoning capabilities, we would never arrive at true knowledge about God and how we are to worship Him. When we look at the creation around us, we know and understand that God exists and that He is powerful, but without His Word (The Bible) we would still remain in darkness about the specific character, requirements and promises of God.

## ***Seeing God's General Revelation***

*"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, **his eternal power** and **divine nature**, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."* (Romans 1:19-20)

### ➤ **How is it GENERAL and what does it REVEAL?**

**Robert L. Thomas:** "General revelation is the common possession of all people of all time and in all places. It is divinely generated revelation imposed on the whole human race and impossible for mankind to avoid."

- **Creation** ("*the things that have been made*" Romans 1:20)
- **Conscience** ("*their conscience also bears witness*" Romans 2:15)

The content of general revelation is two-fold. It reveals to us that God exists and that He is powerful. All people 'hear' God's general revelation, but they choose to suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

- **His eternal power** (Rom. 1:20)
- **His divine nature** (Rom. 1:20)

## ***Hearing God's Special Revelation***

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days **he has spoken to us** by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2a)*

### ➤ **How is it SPECIAL and what does it REVEAL?**

**John MacArthur:** "Special revelation takes up where creation and conscience leave off. Special revelation tells us all we need to know about God—truth that was never before understood."

- **Prophets** ("*God spoke to our fathers by the prophets*" Heb. 1:1)
- **His Son** ("*he [God] has spoken to us by his Son*" Heb. 1:2)

God's special revelation (The Bible) reveals to us the details of His character and His requirements. It reveals to us that which we could never know apart from Him revealing it to us.

- **Who God is** (Exodus 34:5-7)
- **What God requires** (Matthew 22:37-40)

## **LESSON 2: The Way He Has Spoken**

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*"The Bible is not the word of God! It was written by men!"*

## **Was the Bible written by God or by man?**

### **1) WHEN did God speak?**

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but **in these last days** he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2a)*

### **2) HOW did God speak?**

*"Long ago, at many times and **in many ways**, God spoke **to our fathers** by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2a)*

### **3) WHOM did God speak through?**

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers **by the prophets**, but in these last days he has spoken to us **by his Son**" (Hebrews 1:1-2a)*

*"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but **men spoke from God** as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit.**" (2 Peter 1:21)*

### **➤ GOD STILL SPEAKS through HIS WORD by the power of the Holy Spirit:**

*"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)*

*"All Scripture is **breathed out by God and profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

**SUMMARY:** The Bible is both a human book—written by men, and a divine book—inspired by the Holy Spirit. God has spoken to us through the prophets, apostles, and finally by His own Son. He continues to speak to us through His written Word.

## ***LESSON 3: The Living Truth Teacher***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*“Why do you even believe the Bible? How can you be so sure it’s true?”*

### **1) The Holy Spirit CONVICTS OUR SIN**

- He convicts us of our sin so that we would repent and turn to Christ:

*“And when he comes, **he** [the Holy Spirit] **will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...***” (John 16:8)

### **2) The Holy Spirit CONFIRMS THE WORD**

- He confirms to us the Word of God by opening our eyes to believe:

*“...**in demonstration of the Spirit** and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in **the power of God.**”* (1 Corinthians 2:4b-5)

**John Calvin:** “Let this point therefore stand: that those whom the Holy Spirit has inwardly taught truly rest upon Scripture, and that Scripture indeed is self-authenticated; hence, it is not right to subject it to proof or reasoning. And the certainty it deserves with us, it attains by the testimony of the Spirit.”

### **3) The Holy Spirit CORRECTS OUR UNDERSTANDING**

- He teaches us and helps us to understand and apply God’s Word:

*“**But you have been anointed by the Holy One**, and you all have knowledge... the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as **his anointing teaches you** about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.”* (1 John 2:20, 27)

**John MacArthur:** “We have an anointing, the resident truth teacher lives in us who makes the Word live...the very one who causes us to love the Word, also causes us to understand the Word.”

**J. C. Ryle:** “Is the Bible the Word of God? Then be sure you never read it without fervent prayer for the help and teaching of the Holy Spirit. Humble prayer will throw more light on your Bible than any commentary that ever was written. You will not understand it unless your heart is right. You will find it a sealed book without the teaching of the Holy Spirit.”

## ***The Faithful Bible Interpreter Must Be Born-Again***

***“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”*** (1 Corinthians 2:14)

### **1) Understanding the Text Without the Spirit?**

- The nonbeliever can certainly understand the grammar and language of the Bible, but he is unable to truly understand and apply its spiritual truth to his own life. True understanding of truth requires acting upon it.

**Roy B. Zuck:** “No one can fully comprehend the meaning of the Bible unless he is regenerate. The unsaved person is spiritually blind (2 Cor. 4:4) and dead (Eph. 2:2)... Does this mean an unsaved person cannot understand the words of Scripture? No. Instead it means he has no spiritual capacity for welcoming and appropriating spiritual truths. As Martin Luther once said, the unregenerate can understand the grammar of John 3:16, but they do not act on those facts. It is in this sense that they are unable to know the things of the Spirit of God.”

### **2) Understanding the Text Without Any Study?**

- Can a believer simply disregard all diligent study of the Scriptures and simply prayerfully expect the Holy Spirit to reveal the Scriptural truth to him without any careful study done on his part? No. We are called to be diligent and faithful in studying God’s Word to the best of our ability, prayerfully relying on the Holy Spirit to help us understand the significance of what we are studying, so that we might be able to accurately understand it and faithfully apply it in our own lives.

***“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”*** (2 Timothy 2:15)

***“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”***  
(Psalm 119:18)

**Robert H. Stein:** “The Holy Spirit brings to the believer a blessed assurance of the truthfulness of the biblical teachings, but he cannot be manipulated to cover for laziness in the study of the Word of God.”

## ***LESSON 4: The Importance of Bible Interpretation***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*"It doesn't really matter that much if you interpret the Bible correctly or not."*

## ***The Foundation for True Application and Worship***

If we fail in our interpretation of the meaning of Scripture, our application and worship will also be misguided, and depending on the doctrine in question possibly even idolatrous or blasphemous (such as misinterpreting the biblical teaching concerning the deity of Christ).

### **1) The Original MEANING**

➤ The accurate interpretation of Scripture is the solid foundation for life

### **2) The Current APPLICATION**

➤ The application of timeless truth must rest on the accurate interpretation

### **3) The Resulting WORSHIP**

➤ Worship to God results from our faithful application of Scriptural truth

We are called to worship God in spirit and truth, if our application and worship is not based on the true meaning of Scripture, we are not worshipping God in truth but rather according to the ideas of men, which is the essence of idolatry. To hear God speak, we must understand His Word accurately.

*"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship **in spirit and truth.**"*  
(John 4:24)

**John MacArthur:** "The meaning of the Scripture is the Scripture. The revelation of God cannot be known unless we understand the meaning of the Scripture."

**In EZRA 7:10 we find a worthy example and pattern for us to follow:**

### **1) Ezra set his heart to STUDY the Law of Yahweh**

➤ *"Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD..."* (Ezra 7:10)

### **2) Ezra set his heart to APPLY it to his own life and do it**

➤ *"...and to do it..."* (Ezra 7:10)

### **3) Ezra set his heart to TEACH God's truth to others**

➤ *"...and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."* (Ezra 7:10)



## ***LESSON 5: The Method and Goal of Bible Interpretation***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*"It doesn't matter what it meant then, it matters what it means to you now!"*

### ***What is Hermeneutics?***

Not all people define hermeneutics exactly the same, but the simple way of describing it is to say that it is the set of principles that are used to interpret the Bible. The differences come when those set of principles differ, or even when the principles are the same the consistency of applying them is sometimes lacking.

### ***What is the Grammatical-Historical Method?***

The grammatical-historical method of interpreting Scripture means that we should pay careful attention to the grammar (how language works) and historical context (when the text was written) of any given Bible passage that we are seeking to interpret and understand. In simple terms, it is seeking to understand the plain meaning of the text.

We might not consciously think about it, but we are actually all constantly using a form of grammatical-historical interpretation to help us understand what we are reading, whether it be an email, newspaper, advert, or a book. The difference that there is when considering the Bible, is that since it is the true Word of the living God (unlike the fallible newspaper that fades away the next day) it is much more crucial and meaningful for us to interpret and understand that message correctly.

#### **➤ Our Goal should be to discover the original God intended meaning**

**Matthew Waymeyer:** "Simply stated, the goal of Bible interpretation is to discover the original, divinely intended meaning of the author who wrote the text."

Waymeyer offers the following list to help clarify the goal of Bible interpretation:

- **1.** The meaning of Scripture first existed in the mind of God.
- **2.** It was communicated through the human author.
- **3.** It is contained in the text.
- **4.** It is fixed and unchanging.
- **5.** It is objective and intelligible.
- **6.** It exists apart from the human interpreter.
- **7.** The goal of the interpreter is to discover this meaning.

## ***What is Exegesis and Eisegesis?***

### **What we should not do: EISEGESIS**

- *The prefix 'eis' means "into"*

Eisegesis is to read something into the text, inserting a meaning to the text that is not in the text itself, but rather in the mind of the reader who wishes this meaning to be found in the text.

- *Can you think of any common examples of eisegesis?*

### **What we should do: EXEGESIS**

- *The prefix 'exe' means "out of"*

Exegesis is to read something out from the text, letting the text speak for itself. Seeking to simply understand the original meaning and authorial intent of the text, without seeking to prove a point or reading your own ideas into the text.

- *What might hinder a person from doing faithful exegesis?*

**SUMMARY:** Our goal should be to seek and discover the original meaning of the text that was intended by the original author and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The method we use to interpret the original meaning is the grammatical-historical method, which makes us focus on the plain meaning of the text, studying the grammar and historical context to gain correct understanding. If we simply seek to try and come up with our own meaning for any given text, we are actually misusing the Bible and ignoring what God has inspired and what He wanted to be said.

## ***LESSON 6: The Foundation of Bible Interpretation***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*“How can you claim that your way of interpretation is the right way?”*

## ***The Two-Fold Foundation***

### ***How Do We Know What Hermeneutical Principles Are Correct?***

#### **➤ THE DUAL AUTHORSHIP OF SCRIPTURE**

Dual authorship refers to the fact that the Bible is both a human and divine book, written by men and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

#### **1. HUMAN Authorship:**

*“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but **men spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21)*

*“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken **by the prophet.**” (Matthew 1:22)*

#### **2. DIVINE Authorship:**

*“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke **from God** as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit.**” (2 Peter 1:21)*

*“All this took place to fulfill **what the Lord had spoken by the prophet.**” (Matthew 1:22)*

**SUMMARY:** The dual authorship of Scripture lays for us the foundation for a consistent way of interpreting the Bible using the grammatical-historical method. Because of the human authorship we interpret it according to the normal rules or language, grammar and context. Because of the divine authorship we need to recognize the divine unity and spiritual nature of fully understanding its truth.

# ***The Implications of Dual Authorship***

A summary of the material presented by Matthew Waymeyer:

## **1. The Unity of Scripture**

- Divine authorship of Scripture is the basis for its unity

## **2. The Clarity of Scripture**

- God gave us the Scriptures to clearly reveal Himself

## **3. The Single Meaning of Scripture**

- Like in any other literature, there is only one intended meaning

## **4. The Contextual Nature of Scripture**

- God gave His Word in a specific historical and literary context

## **5. Human Language of Scripture**

- Human authorship demands that we understand the language

**Roy B. Zuck:** “If we look on the book as only human, then we approach the Bible rationally. If we look on the book as only divine while ignoring its human elements, we approach the Bible as a mystical book. Seeing that the Bible is a book that is both human and divine, we seek to interpret it as we would any other book while at the same time affirming its uniqueness as a book of divine truth from the hand of God.”

**SUMMARY:** God inspired men to write His exact words, all the while using the specific personalities, languages, and historical contexts of the Biblical authors. The Bible is therefore both a human book—written by men, and a divine book—inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is because of this ‘dual authorship’ (human and divine) that the method of grammatical historical interpretation is the correct way of interpretation.

## ***LESSON 7: The Context That Needs to Be Consulted***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*“You can just take any passage in the Bible and make it say whatever you want”*

Perhaps the most basic, but often neglected aspect of interpreting the Bible is the attention we need to give for understanding the context a certain passage is found in. Without a context, words can mean almost anything, meaning that they end up meaning nothing at all.

We need to be mindful of how all the different levels of context affect the correct interpretation of a specific passage.

### **1. The Immediate Context in the Chapters**

- The immediate textual context of the passage at hand.

**A. Berkley Mickelsen:** “The first responsibility of every interpreter is to note carefully what precedes and what follows any verse or passage which he is interpreting.”

### **2. The Whole Context in the Specific Book**

- The context and theme of the book (e.g. Ephesians) where the verse appears needs to be taken into account.

### **3. The Larger Context of Biblical Revelation**

- After consulting the immediate context and book as a whole, we also need to think about the place of this book in the flow of biblical revelation, for example: is this part of the old or new covenant?

### **4. The Historical and Cultural Context**

- The context in which a text is written will often reflect some parts that need to be understood in light of that history. This historical context can become clarified to us when carefully reading and studying the specific biblical book and other Scriptural passage that relate to it.

### ***Advice on How to Study and Understand the Historical Context:***

1. Read the biblical book repeatedly and pay close attention to historical aspects.
2. Look at other biblical passages that help to explain the historical context.
3. Find some trusted extra-biblical sources that explain certain historical details.

## ***LESSON 8: The Language That Needs to Be Understood***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*“That’s just words on a paper! We cannot really know what it means!”*

### **1. COMMUNICATION Requires Rules**

- Just like all good communication requires some form of rules and guidelines for it to be understood rightly, so it is especially with written languages. Since God has revealed Himself to us in the form of written language, therefore for us to be able to understand what God has spoken, we must understand and pay attention to the way language is built and how grammar works.

### **2. LANGUAGE Cannot Be Ignored**

- We cannot just ignore the rules of language or define words to mean whatever we would want them to mean. We can understand that this applies to our own everyday life also, that we need to understand the basic rules of language to be able to communicate and expect to be understood by others. The same is true when we seek to interpret the Bible.

### **3. CONTEXT Helps Determine Meaning**

- Relating to the previous chapter, **context plays a crucial role** in defining the meaning of words and how language is being used in a specific passage.
- **In the Finnish language** this point can be illustrated by the following example of how the same two words can have nine different meanings depending on the context where the words appear:

1. Kuusi palaa = The spruce is on fire.
2. Kuusi palaa = The spruce returns.
3. Kuusi palaa = The number six is on fire.
4. Kuusi palaa = The number six returns.
5. Kuusi palaa = Six of them are on fire.
6. Kuusi palaa = Six of them return.
7. Kuusi palaa = Your moon is on fire.
8. Kuusi palaa = Your moon returns.
9. Kuusi palaa = Six pieces.

## ***LESSON 9: The Genre That Needs to Be Considered***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*“Are you a fundamentalist who takes everything in the Bible just literally!?”*

### ***What is a Literary Genre?***

- Literary genres might seem like a strange concept, but in fact we use them all the time in our everyday lives, whether we are consciously aware of them or not, after all we most likely interpret the words of a pop song slightly differently than an academic article.

**Branson L. Woodward, Jr. and Michael E. Travers:** “A genre is a group of things with common characteristics. Like dinner at a fine restaurant (hors d’oeuvres, salads, entrées, desserts), the things that people write can be categorized... A personal letter is not a business letter, and a novel is not a short story, though each pair of these examples has internal similarities. Genre is an important aspect of how an author creates meaning in a text...” (Cracking Old Testament Codes, 29-30).

- When studying the Scriptures we need to be mindful of the different literary genres that are contained in the Bible, since this will often have an effect on the accuracy of our interpretation.

**Robert H. Stein:** “It is clear that there are various kinds of literary forms in the Bible. Each of these forms, or “genres,” possesses its own rules of interpretation. In using these literary forms, the authors consciously submitted themselves to the rules governing these forms in order to share their meaning with their readers. They assumed their readers would interpret their words according to the rules governing that literary form...”

### ***Literary Genres in the Bible (as presented by Roy B. Zuck):***

1. **LEGAL** (e.g. Leviticus)
2. **NARRATIVE** (e.g. Exodus)
3. **POETRY** (e.g. Song of Solomon)
4. **WISDOM LITERATURE** (e.g. Proverbs)
5. **GOSPELS** (e.g. Matthew)
6. **LOGICAL DISCOURSE** (e.g. Romans)
7. **PROPHETIC LITERATURE** (e.g. Revelation)

## ***LESSON 10: The Different Approaches Throughout History***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*"There are so many different groups claiming that their view is correct!"*

### ***The Major Interpretive Approaches***

#### **1) The Literal Approach**

- Seeking to correctly understand the plain meaning of the text
- Utilizes the grammatical-historical method of interpretation
- Exemplified by: Antiochean fathers, Reformers: Luther, Calvin

#### **2) The Allegorical Approach**

- Seeking to find a deeper spiritual meaning instead of the plain meaning
- Spiritualizing the plain meaning to change its meaning
- Exemplified by: Origen, Philo

#### **3) The Traditionalistic Approach**

- Interpreting Scripture only in according to the teaching of the church
- Exemplified by: The Roman Catholic Church

#### **4) The Rationalistic Approach**

- Seeking to subject the Scriptures to our superior intellect and critique
- Making human intellect the ultimate authority of what is true and false
- Exemplified by: Thomas Hobbes, Baruch Spinoza

#### **5) The Subjective Approach**

- Seeking personal meaning rather than original authorial intent
- Could be summarized: *"What does it mean to you?"*
- Exemplified by: The modern 20<sup>th</sup> century church at large

### ***How can people misunderstand and twist the Scriptures?***

- *"There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures."* (2 Peter 3:16)
- Some things in the Scriptures are hard to understand, and it is possible for people to twist the Scriptures for their own destruction. This helps us realize that not everyone talking about the Bible is necessarily doing it right, but might even be purposefully twisting it to deceive others. It is also comforting for us to know that even Peter recognized that certain things in Scripture are harder to understand than others.



## ***LESSON 11: The Right and Wrong of Bible Interpretation***

### **❖ COMMENT TO CONSIDER:**

*“The only thing that matters is what I think and feel this means to me”*

### ***Examples of Interpretations to Evaluate:***

- 1. OLD EARTH CLAIM:** The Bible teaches that to God a day is like a thousand years, therefore the days in Genesis chapter 1 cannot be literal days!

*“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” (2 Peter 3:8)*

- What is wrong with this usage of the verse from 2 Peter?
- What is the correct interpretation of this verse?

- 2. PERFECTIONIST CLAIM:** The Bible teaches that true Christians do not sin at all, and that everyone who sins belongs to the devil.

*“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.” (1 John 3:8)*

- What is wrong with this usage of the verse from 1 John?
- What is the correct interpretation of this verse?

- 3. PROSPERITY CLAIM:** The Bible teaches that when God blesses someone it will always make him rich and he will have no sorrow.

*“The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.” (Proverbs 10:22)*

- What is wrong with this usage of the verse from Proverbs 10?
- What is the correct interpretation of this verse?

## ***LESSON 12: The Summary***

The reason that it is so important for us to accurately know and understand the true and original meaning of the text, is that it is this foundation that we will then build our lives upon, God has revealed to us what we need to know and we should seek to live in accordance to that. If we misinterpret the Bible and live according to our faulty and misguided understanding of what God has said, we are not actually building our lives on the truth of God's Word, but instead a misrepresentation of it. When we rightly interpret and truly understand the meaning of Scripture by the power of the Holy Spirit, this is when we hear God speak to us, through the authoritative and living Word of God.

**Martin Luther:** "Let the man who would hear God speak read Holy Scripture."

**John MacArthur:** "The distinguishing quality of a true believer is receptivity to the voice of God which is conveyed to us through the pages of Scripture. This is where He speaks."

- 1. The Way We Know God**
  - General and Special Revelation
  
- 2. The Way He Has Spoken**
  - Through His prophets and His Son
  
- 3. The Living Truth Teacher**
  - The Holy Spirit convicts, confirms, and corrects us
  
- 4. The Importance of Bible Interpretation**
  - Our application and worship is based on our interpretation
  
- 5. The Method and Goal of Bible Interpretation**
  - The grammatical-historical method
  - To understand the original divinely intended meaning
  
- 6. The Foundation of Bible Interpretation**
  - The dual authorship of Scripture
  
- 7. The Context That Needs to Be Consulted**
  - The importance of paying attention to the context of the passage
  
- 8. The Language That Needs to Be Understood**
  - To understand God's Word we need to understand the rules of language
  
- 9. The Genre That Needs to Be Considered**
  - We need to recognize the different literary genres in the Scriptures

## ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

### **BOOKS:**

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40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible – Robert L. Plummer

A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible – Robert H. Stein

Institutes of the Christian Religion – John Calvin

Preaching: How to Preach Biblically – John MacArthur

How to Get the Most From God’s Word – John MacArthur

Interpreting the Bible – A. Berkley Mickelsen

Cracking Old Testament Codes – Sandy & Giese

### **SERMONS AND ARTICLES:**

General Revelation and Biblical Hermeneutics – Robert L. Thomas

Inspiration – J. C. Ryle

God’s True and Complete Revelation – John MacArthur

Can We Know What the Scripture Means? – John MacArthur

How to Listen to the Lord – John MacArthur

### **OTHER:**

Hermeneutics Class Study Notes – Professor Matthew Waymeyer

## ***RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL READING***

The book written by Roy B. Zuck (Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth) is recommended for reading during the course of this study, according to the schedule presented below.

### ***Suggested schedule for reading book in connection to each lesson:***

***LESSON 1:*** Foreword and Chapter 1 (The What and Why of Bible Interpretation)

***LESSON 2:*** Chapter 2 (Bible Interpretation – Then and Now)

***LESSON 3:*** Chapter 3 (Whose View Is Valid?)

***LESSON 4:*** Chapter 4 (Bridging the Cultural Gap)

***LESSON 5:*** Chapter 5 (Bridging the Grammatical Gap)

***LESSON 6:*** Chapter 6 (Bridging the Literary Gap)

***LESSON 7:*** Chapter 7 (Figures of Speech)

***LESSON 8:*** Chapter 8 (Testing the Types and Sensing the Symbols)

***LESSON 9:*** Chapter 9 (Probing the Parables and Analyzing the Allegories)

***LESSON 10:*** Chapter 10 (Interpreting Prophecy)

***LESSON 11:*** Chapter 11 (The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament)

***LESSON 12:*** Chapter 12 (Applying God's Word Today)