

He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

Essay Questions

LESSON
ONE

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS



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5. Describe the priorities of approaching the Scriptures using scientific hermeneutics?

6. What are the biblical roots of devotional hermeneutics?

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LESSON
TWO

PREPARATION FOR
INTERPRETATION



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3. What is the doctrine of illumination?

4. Why is human effort important when preparing to interpret Scripture?

5. Describe the three major influences on our efforts when we prepare to interpret Scripture?

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LESSON
THREE

INVESTIGATING
SCRIPTURE



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Essay Questions

1. What is original meaning?
2. What is the theological basis for giving attention to the biblical writers in our exploration of the meaning of Scripture?

3. Why is studying the original audience of the Bible essential to the process of investigating Scripture?

4. How do organic inspiration and divine accommodation help us understand the original meaning of biblical documents?

5. Describe some of key examples of the proper investigation of Scripture found in church history?

6. What are some of the challenges in the modern church that have discounted the importance of original meaning?

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LESSON
FOUR

APPROACHES TO
MEANING



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5. What influence have subjective approaches had on biblical interpretation?

6. Explain the philosophical and cultural background of dialogical approaches to interpretation?

7. Compare and contrast the authority-dialog and objective models and the authority-dialog and subjective models.

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LESSON
FIVE

THE COMPLEXITY OF MEANING



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3. Explain how Thomas Aquinas and other interpreters argued for a singular meaning of Scripture.

4. What characteristics help us discover the “full value” of a passage?

5. What do we mean by the “original meaning” of a text?

6. List and describe the three types of biblical elaborations often used in Scripture.

7. How can our legitimate applications assist us in finding the full sense of Scripture?

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LESSON
SIX

DISCOVERING MEANING



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Essay Questions

1. Explain why knowing something about the writer of a biblical text is significant to interpreting Scripture?
2. When we interpret Scripture, how does paying close attention to all the features a biblical document benefit us?

3. How does knowing the identity of the original audience of a biblical book serve as a helpful guide to interpretation?

4. List and describe the three interpretive fallacies. Comment on ways to avoid falling into one or more of these fallacies.

5. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is complex in nature?

6. How can the uniqueness of the biblical interpreter lead us to multiple summaries of biblical texts? Why are multiple summaries important to interpretation?

7. Explain why we should adapt our summary of a biblical passage to the needs of the intended audience?

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LESSON
SEVEN

APPLYING SCRIPTURE



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3. How is the world in which we live similar to the worlds of the original audiences of Scripture? Give examples.

4. Describe at least three ways that people today are similar to Scripture's original audiences.

7. Describe some personal developments over the course of redemptive history that differentiate people today from the Bible's original audiences.

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LESSON
EIGHT

MODERN APPLICATION &
OLD TESTAMENT EPOCHS



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5. Explain the developing storyline of Scripture, and explore how each stage of biblical history contributes to the overall, unified narrative.

6. Why did Old Testament authors frequently apply earlier epochs to the audiences of their own time?

7. What types of connections did biblical authors draw between the past and the present, and how should modern audiences respond to these connections?

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Essay Questions

LESSON
NINE

MODERN APPLICATION & THE NEW COVENANT



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5. What are some general guidelines for appropriately connecting the original meaning of Old Testament passages to contemporary audiences? What are the guidelines for New Testament passages?

6. Using the Bible's emphasis on warfare, illustrate the general guidelines we should use in modern application.

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Essay Questions

LESSON
TEN

BIBLICAL CULTURE &
MODERN APPLICATION



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3. How did cultural variety first develop through both special revelation and general revelation?

4. Why was culture important and essential in the development of biblical history?

5. Describe how the two opposing cultural ideals developed over the course of biblical history. Define the groups that followed each ideal in the Old Testament and explain how and why this changed in the New Testament.

6. Explain how cultural variety developed in the Scriptures. Give examples of cultural variations that occurred in different communities at the same time and variations that occurred in the same community over time.

9. What do the apostle Paul's experiences and insights teach us about embracing cultures that are different from our own? How should we deal with cultural variety when we apply Scripture in our modern context?

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LESSON
ELEVEN

MODERN APPLICATION
FOR INDIVIDUALS



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5. Explain how the content of the Old Testament books spread from the leaders to the larger community. Include at least three examples from Scripture.

6. Describe in as much detail as possible how the early church community learned and applied the Scriptures.