



METHODICAL BIBLE STUDY
INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
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I. DEFINITIONS

A. Hermeneutics

B. Exegesis

II. BASIC RULES OF INTERPRETATION

A. Purpose of Bible as a Whole

B. Principle of Progressive Revelation

C. Specific Books

1. Author
2. Recipients
3. Purpose(s) of the Book
4. Key Words

D. Comparisons of Scripture with Scripture

1. Relevant Contexts
2. Irrelevant Contexts

E. Things To Avoid

1. Personal Prejudice
2. Misinterpretation
3. Subinterpretation
4. Supraintrepretation

III. SPECIFIC RULES OF INTREPRETATION

A. The Golden Rule of Interpretation

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 Law of Double Reference

The principle of associating similar or related ideas, which are usually separated from one another by long periods of times, and which are blended into a single picture.

C. The Law of Recurrence

Involves the recording of an event and the repetition of the account which gives added details. This principle may be illustrated by the artist who “blocks out the portrait” of a person at the first sitting and adds details at subsequent sittings.

D. The Law of Context

A text apart from its context is a pretext.

E. Law of Paronomasia

IV. SPECIALIZED AREAS OF INTERPRETATION

A. Poetry

B. Prophecy

C. Parables

D. Apocalyptic Books

E. Word Study

1. Etymology
 - a. Sources
 - b. Root Meaning
 - c. Derived Meanings
2. Usage
 - a. Source
 - b. Possible Categorizations and/or Classifications
 - (1) Places
 - (2) Things
 - (3) Times
 - (4) People
 - (5) God
3. Summary
 - a. Primary Meaning
 - b. Implied Meaning
4. Conclusions and Applications

V. FALSE HERMENEUTICS

A. Allegorical Hermeneutics

B. Semi-Allegorical or Semi-Literal Hermeneutics

C. Theological Hermeneutics