

Preunderstandings

The Preunderstandings of the Interpreter

- Informational
- Attitudinal
- Ideological
- Methodological

We must consistently test our preunderstandings

Goals of Interpretation

- Textual meaning
- Validating interpretation
- Meaning and Application

General Rules and Guiding Principles of Hermeneutics

- Literary Genre
 - OT Narratives
 - Law
 - Poetry
 - Prophecy
 - Wisdom Literature
 - Gospels
 - Acts
 - Epistles
 - Revelation
- Literary Context
 - The Significance of the Context
 - Three important hermeneutical principles here
 - Each statement must be understood according to its natural meaning in the literary context in which it occurs.
 - A text without a context may very well be a pretext.
 - The smaller the passage being studied, the greater the chance of error.
 - The broadening scope of contextual study
 - Immediate-book-author's corpus-testament-canon

- Historical-Cultural Background
 - The Significance of the Background
 - Hermeneutical Principles
 - We must understand each passage consistent with its historical and cultural background.
 - We must determine the impact that the biblical message would have had in its original setting.
 - We must express biblical truth in our language, in ways that most closely correspond to the ideas in the biblical culture.
 - Don't let the background information become the message!
 - What am I looking for?

- Word Meanings
 - The correct interpretation of Scripture is the meaning required by the normal meaning of the words in the context in which they occur.
 - Nature of Words
 - Word Study

- Grammatical-Structural Relationships