



**EST.**

# **ESTABLISHED | HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

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**"THE BIBLE IS SHALLOW ENOUGH FOR A CHILD NOT TO  
DROWN, YET DEEP ENOUGH FOR AN ELEPHANT TO SWIM."**

**- AUGUSTINE**

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# **DANGEROUS APPROACHES**

- **MEDICINE APPROACH**
- **BOUNCY BALL APPROACH**
- **MAGIC EIGHT BALL APPROACH**
- **TOPICAL ONLY APPROACH**
- **TELEPHONE GAME**

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## **C.I.A.**

- **COMPREHENSION**
- **INTERPRETATION**
- **APPLICATION**

# COMPREHENSION

- **READ YOUR BIBLE**
  - **READ IT CAREFULLY**
  - **READ IT PATIENTLY**
  - **READ IT PATIENTLY**
  - **PRAYERFULLY**
  - **PURPOSEFULLY**
  - **INQUISITIVELY**

# COMPREHENSION

- **ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS:**
  - **WHO IS TALKING OR BEING TALKED ABOUT?**
  - **WHAT IS THE SUBJECT OR OBJECT BEING DISCUSSED?**
  - **WHAT COMES BEFORE OR AFTER?**
  - **WHERE IS THE ACTIVITY OR DISCUSSION TAKING PLACE?**
  - **WHEN IS THE ACTIVITY OR DISCUSSION TAKING PLACE?**
  - **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY?**
  - **HOW ARE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED RESPONDING?**

# COMPREHENSION

- **HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO LOOK FOR:**
  - **KEY WORDS OR PHRASES**
  - **STRUCTURE**
  - **ATMOSPHERE OF THE TEXT**
  - **LITERARY FORM**



# COMPREHENSION

- **LITERARY FORM:**

- **NARRATIVE**

- **DISCOURSE**

- **POETRY**

- **PROPHETIC**

A diamond-shaped logo containing the text "EST." in a bold, serif font. The text is centered within the diamond, and the diamond has a thin black border.

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# **INTERPRETATION**

**WHAT DID IT MEAN WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN.**

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# INTERPRETATION

- **KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK:**
  - **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**
  - **WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS?**
  - **WHY DID GOD INCLUDE THIS?**
  - **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PASSAGE?**
  - **HOW DID THE AUTHOR INTEND THE WORDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD?**
  - **HOW DOES THIS FIT WITH THE BALANCE OF SCRIPTURE?**

# **INTERPRETATION**

## **GENERAL RULES:**

### **— INTERPRET LITERALLY**

- **PLAIN LITERAL**
- **FIGURATIVE LITERAL**

### **— INTERPRET IN CONTEXT**

- **SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR**
- **VERSES, SENTENCES, PARAGRAPHS, SURROUNDING PARAGRAPHS, CHAPTERS, SECTIONS, BOOKS, ENTIRE BIBLE**

# **INTERPRETATION**

## **INTERPRET IN VIEW OF HISTORY AND CULTURE:**

- **HISTORY**
  - **WHO'S THE AUTHOR?**
  - **WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?**
  - **WHO WAS IT WRITTEN TO?**
  - **WHAT WAS THE CLIMATE OF THE CULTURE? (POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, LEGAL, ETHICAL)**

# INTERPRETATION

- **CULTURE:**
  - **WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE, SAY, DO, WEAR, EAT, MAKE.**
  - **PRACTICE/TEACHING**
    - **WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE CULTURAL PRACTICE OR TEACHING?**
    - **WOULD THAT CULTURAL PRACTICE HAVE THE SAME SIGNIFICANCE TODAY?**
    - **IS THERE A TIMELESS PRINCIPAL?**

# INTERPRETATION

- **CULTURE:**

- **ASSUME EVERY PRACTICE AND TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE IS APPLICABLE FOR TODAY UNLESS:**

- **THE CONTEXT RESTRICTS IT**
    - **LATER REVELATION OVERRULES IT**
    - **IT'S CLEARLY UNIQUE TO THAT CULTURE**

# **INTERPRETATION**

- **INTERPRET IN LIGHT OF LITERARY FORM**
  - **THE FORM MATTERS**
  - **SEE LIST OF LITERARY FORMS ABOVE**
- **INTERPRET IN VIEW OF THEOLOGICAL CONSISTENCY**
  - **TEST ANY PROPOSED INTERPRETATION TO DETERMINE ITS THEOLOGICAL CONSISTENCY**



# **INTERPRETATION**

- **SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE**
  - **THE BIBLE WILL NEVER CONTRADICT ITSELF**
  - **CHOOSE A SIMPLE, NATURAL MEANING OVER A MORE COMPLEX ONE**
  - **THE OLD TESTAMENT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT AND VICE VERSA**
  - **INTERPRET UNCLEAR OR AMBIGUOUS PASSAGES IN VIEW OF PLAIN, CLEAR, CENTRAL ONES**

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# **INTERPRETATION**

## **SPECIAL RULES**

**—PARABLES TEACH ONE TRUTH**

**—PROVERBS ARE PRINCIPLES, NOT PROMISES**

# INTERPRETATION

- **POETRY**
  - EXAMINE THE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE TO DETERMINE ITS MEANING
  - LINE 1/LINE 2
- **SYMBOLS**
  - JESUS - LAMB, LION, ROCK, BRANCH, ROOT, STUMBLING BLOCK
  - HOLY SPIRIT - WATER, OIL, WIND, DOVE
- **PROPHECY**
  - NEAR APPLICATION/FAR FULFILLMENT
  - PARTIAL FULFILLMENT TO DATE (PROGRESSIVE)



# **APPLICATION**

## **WHAT SHALL I DO?**

- **RESULTS OF NOT OBEYING**
  - DECEIT**
  - DECAY**

**<sup>22</sup> BUT BE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY,  
DECEIVING YOURSELVES. <sup>23</sup> FOR IF ANYONE IS A HEARER OF THE  
WORD AND NOT A DOER, HE IS LIKE A MAN WHO LOOKS INTENTLY  
AT HIS NATURAL FACE IN A MIRROR. <sup>24</sup> FOR HE LOOKS AT HIMSELF  
AND GOES AWAY AND AT ONCE FORGETS WHAT HE WAS LIKE. <sup>25</sup> BUT  
THE ONE WHO LOOKS INTO THE PERFECT LAW, THE LAW OF LIBERTY,  
AND PERSEVERES, BEING NO HEARER WHO FORGETS BUT A DOER  
WHO ACTS, HE WILL BE BLESSED IN HIS DOING.**

**JAMES 1:22-25**

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# **APPLICATION**

- **EFFECTIVE APPLICATION**
  - **DECISION, NOT EMOTION**
  - **TAKES PLACE OVER AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD OF TIME (NOT DELAYED)**
  - **COMPLETE, NOT PARTIAL**
  - **PLAN TO PUT IT INTO ACTION**

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