



A. Historical Analysis

1. Historical-cultural background of the book as a whole
 - a. Timeframe and its general characteristics
 - b. Author and his circumstances
 - c. Recipient(s) and their circumstances
 - d. Purpose

Until we have determined a passage's purpose, we are not ready to preach its truths, even if we know many true facts about the text....

No text was written merely for those in the past; God intends for each passage to give us the "endurance and the encouragement" we need today (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13).

Preaching that is true to these purposes (1) focuses on the fallen condition that necessitated the writing of the passage and (2) uses the text's features to explain how the Holy Spirit addresses that concern then and now.

The Fallen Condition Focus (FCF) is the mutual human condition that contemporary believers share with those to or about whom the text was written that requires the grace of the passage for God's people to glorify and enjoy him.

Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching*, 49-50

A. Historical Analysis

1. Historical-cultural background of the book as a whole
2. Specific historical-cultural factors within the passage

B. Genre Analysis

Interpret each passage in conformity with the characteristics of its genre.

B. Genre Analysis

1. Narrative
 - a. OT historical narrative
 - b. Gospel

B. Genre Analysis

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| 1. Narrative | 5. Prophecy |
| 2. Law | 6. Apocalyptic |
| 3. Poetry | 7. Parable |
| 4. Wisdom | 8. Epistle |

C. Contextual Analysis

Interpret each passage in conformity with its surrounding layers of context.



C. Contextual Analysis

1. Canon/redemptive history
2. Testament
3. Writer
4. Book
5. Section
6. Immediate

D. Linguistic Analysis

Interpret each passage in conformity with the normal use of language.

1. Word meanings
2. Syntactical relationships



HERMENEUTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION

Hermeneutical Issues

- A. An excessively subjective approach to biblical authority
- B. An inappropriate handling of culturally situated elements in the Bible
- C. A simplistically narrow view of the sufficiency of Scripture

The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge *the inward illumination of the Spirit of God* to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the word;

and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered *by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the word, which are always to be observed.*

Westminster Confession of Faith 1.6

Hermeneutical Issues

D. Confusion over meaning, implication, and significance

1. Meaning: The human author's willed/conscious truth-intent as communicated directly by the words he used
2. Implication: Legitimate inferences from the meaning
3. Significance: The particular way in which the individual responds to meaning and implication

In the Bible's conceptual world, failure to apply usually includes a failure to understand *fully*. That includes a failure to respond to God, who represents himself in Scripture....

Thus it is ill advised to draw a sharp line between exegesis and relevance, for the boundary between them is fuzzy and permeable....

This nexus of understanding and application may occur either through immediate insight or through the painstaking use of methods.

Daniel Doriani, *Putting the Truth to Work*, 22-23, 27

Meaning

No carriage repair on road

Implication

No broken vehicles on road (trans-historical intention)

Significance

No truck, car, ... repair on road

London's *Metropolitan Police Act* of 1839, cited in Abraham Kuruville, *Privilege the Text!*, 43-46

The validity of future applications is contingent upon whether such applications fall within the perimeter of the transhistorical intention/*world in front of the text*.

What is fixed for the future in the past event of writing, then, is the transhistorical concept of deriving any number of future exemplifications for any number of future situations.

The ancient text, whether it be legal statute or religious Scripture, fixes the transhistorical intention by means of its original intention (“carriage”). The transhistorical intention (“vehicle”) in turn serves as the broad arena within which all valid applications (“car/truck”) must be located.

Thus a text projects a world with multiple possibilities for application.

Abraham Kuruvilla, *Privilege the Text!*, 43-46

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Do not muzzle a threshing ox (Deut. 25:4)	God is fair and kind and requires these qualities of His people Compensate equitably those who work for you	Pay the preacher (1 Cor. 9:8-11)

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Do not commit adultery (Exod. 20:14)	Sexual intimacy a feature of marriage relationship exclusively Premarital sex prohibited Sexual lust prohibited (cf. Matt. 5:27-30)	Establish relationship guidelines to protect sexual purity Do not view pornography

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)	Do not be controlled by anything other than the Spirit	Abstain from modern alcoholic beverages Do not use cocaine Limit video game and internet use

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Do not murder (Exod. 20:13)	Life begins at conception (Pss. 51:5; 139:13-16; Lk. 1:44)	Do not abort your baby

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20)	Duty of all generations of Christians not only original disciples	Some career cross-cultural missionaries Some support missionaries financially All engage in local disciple-making

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Love your wife as Christ loved the Church (Eph. 5:25-33)	Requires knowing the needs and desires of my wife (cf. 1 Pet. 3:7)	Buy her chocolate or not? Put my arm around her in public or not? Help her with the dishes or not?

<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Implication</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Do not be shaped by the "this-age-only" mindset (Rom. 12:2)	Requires specifying the wrong mindset and identifying the means through which it is conveyed	Resist materialistic thinking Avoid forms of entertainment that are likely to nurture wrong affections and behavior

<u>Hermeneutical Issues</u>
E. An overdone redemptive-historical emphasis

CONCLUSION

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Our hope for proper interpretation and application is the Spirit's illumination.

Our encouragement for proper interpretation and application is the Scripture's transforming power.

