



## WHAT IS THE BIBLE ABOUT?

### HERMENEUTICS

What is Hermeneutics? = The science of interpretation

#### Does method matter?

Can't we trust the plain reading of the text and the Spirit to give us the true meaning?

QUESTION: Why do we need to *interpret* the Bible?

Example: When a widow gets email from her dead husband.

A man checked into a hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an E-mail to his wife.

He accidentally typed the wrong email address, and without realizing he sent the mail to a widow, who just returned from her husband's funeral.

The widow decided to check her mail, expecting condolence messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message she fainted.

The son rushed into the room and found his mother on the floor. He noticed the computer screen turned on which read: 'My loving wife, I know you are surprised to hear from me. They have computers here and we are allowed to send emails to loved ones. I have just checked in. How are you and the kids? The place is really nice but i feel lonely here. I have made necessary arrangement for your arrival tomorrow. Expecting you darling. I can't wait to see you. With Love – Your Husband'

Are there rules to understanding the bible?

All of the sciences have rules and methods that govern how that science operates properly. Biblical interpretation is no different; there are rules that we must follow in order to understand the Scriptures rightly. The science of interpreting the Bible is called "hermeneutics." (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/hermeneutics>)

What happens when we don't know the rules?

Example: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot" (Rev 3:15)

Meaning:



“...that Laodicea lies between Colossae and Hierapolis (in modern-day Turkey). Colossae was well-known for its cold water, while Hierapolis was known for its hot mineral water. By the time waters from Colossae or Hierapolis reached Laodicea, however, they would be lukewarm. So the words “hot” and “cold” are both positive terms in [Revelation 3:15-16](#), and this is why Jesus can say, “I wish you were cold or hot.” The Laodiceans were all too-familiar with lukewarmness! To arrive at the correct understanding of this passage, some knowledge of ancient geography is necessary (for a full explanation see pp. 10-11 of *Misunderstanding Scripture*).

### VARIOUS POPULAR VIEWS OF INTERPRETATION

**Intellectualist:**

**Moralist-exemplarist:**

**Liberal-critical:**

**Redemptive-historical:**

If we forget the story line of the Old Testament, we will also miss the witness of their faith. That omission cuts the heart out of the Bible. Sunday school stories are then told as tamer versions of the Sunday comics, where Samson substitutes for Superman. David’s meeting with Goliath then dissolves into an ancient Hebrew version of Jack the Giant Killer. No, David is not a brave little boy who isn’t afraid of the big bad giant. He is the Lord’s anointed, chosen of God to be the king and deliverer of Israel. God chose David as a king after His own heart in order to prepare the way for David’s great Son, our Deliverer and Champion. David’s reply to the taunts of Goliath shows us that David was a warrior of faith: “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty,

Clowney, Edmund P.. *The Unfolding Mystery* (2d. ed.): Discovering Christ in the Old Testament (p. 15). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.



## REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL HERMENEUTIC

### Following the Examples of Jesus and Paul:

- **New Testament Priority**

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Acts 8:34 ¶ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 18:28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

John 5:40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

2Cor. 1:20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Rom. 15:8 ¶ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

Rom. 15:9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

### **The Metanarrative of Redemptive History**

When we start with the NT interpretation of the OT, we gain the whole picture of the story.

#### **Flow of the Bible:**

#### Eternal Decree (Pactum Salutis) – Ephesians 1:3-6

Eph. 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,



## How To Understand The Bible

Eph. 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Eph. 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Eph. 1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

### Creation – Genesis 1-3

### Fall – Genesis 3

### Protoevangelion – Genesis 3:15

Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

### The Long Road to Redemption

## BENEFITS FROM A REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL HERMENEUTIC

1. *A redemptive-historical reading prioritizes God’s story over our own.*
2. *A redemptive-historical reading focuses our eyes on Christ as the subject and object of Scripture.*
3. *A redemptive-historical reading allows us to enlarge our idea of “applying the Bible to our lives.”*

(Adapted from: <http://wrfnet.org/resources/2009/07/reaping-fruits-redemptive-historical-reading-scripture>)

## POPULAR COMPARISON

- **Grammatical Historical**
  - The original author’s intent
  - Rejects NT Priority