

# HERMENEUTICS

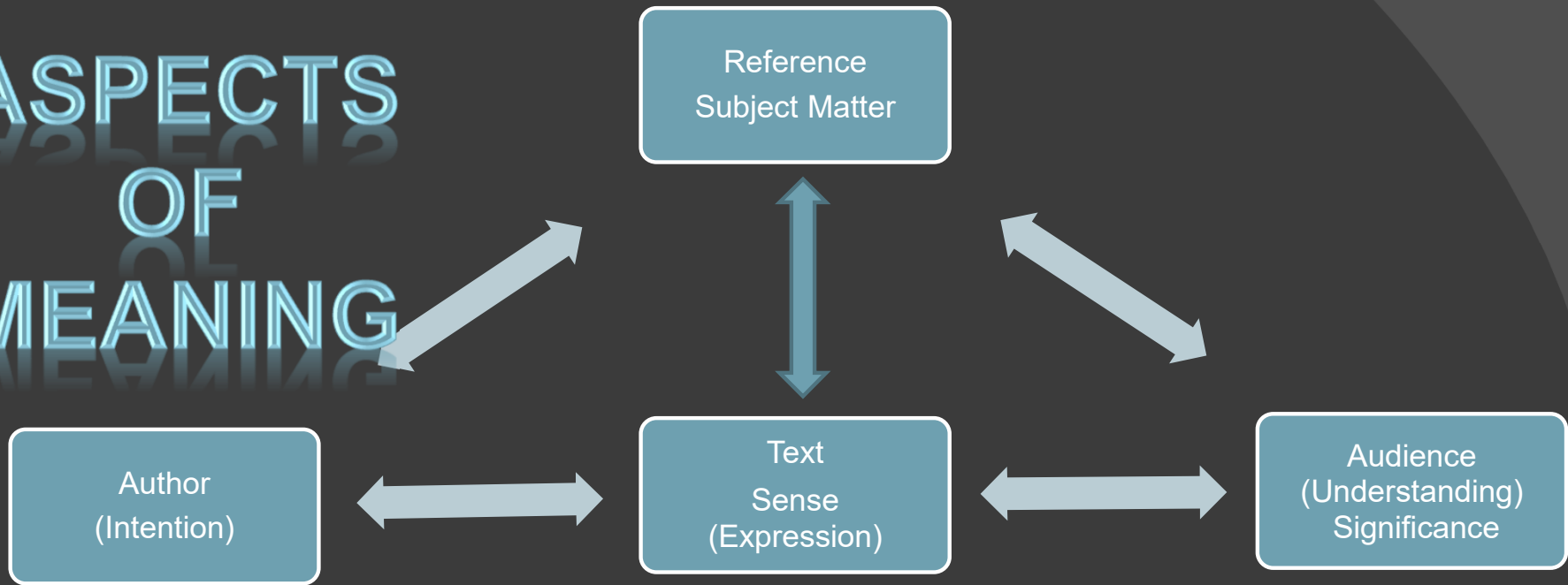
# HERMENEUTICS

- I. Hermeneutics: The art or science of interpretation, as of literary or religious texts. “Hermes” the messenger.
- II. Language: A system of vocal sounds and combinations of such sounds to which meaning is attributed, used for the expression or communication of thoughts and feelings.
- III. God’s Problem – How to communicate?
- IV. Our Problem – Are we listening?

# HERMENEUTICS

- I. Aspects of Meaning
- II. Hermeneutical Process
- III. The Difference Between Translation and Interpretation
- IV. The Goal of Bible Study
- V. A word about Higher Criticism
- VI. The Bible

# ASPECTS OF MEANING



The author **intends** to communicate a meaning.  
He or she creates a text to **express** that meaning.  
The audience attempts to **understand** that meaning.

**Sense:** What the text says. Dictionary definitions of the words and ordinary understanding of the grammar.

**Reference:** What the text refers to (points to) in the real world.

**Significance:** How the text relates to the life of any given audience ("what it means to me").

# THE HERMENEUTICAL PROCESS

God's Activity:

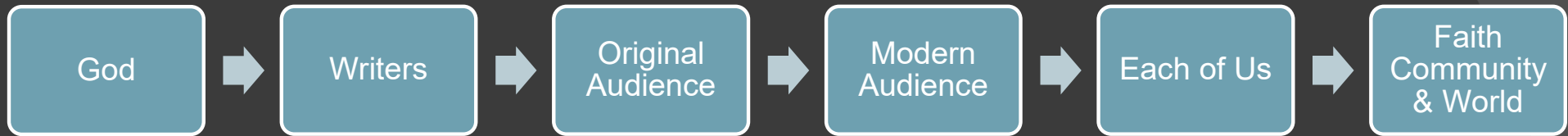
Revelation

Inspiration

Transmission

Illumination

Conviction, Empowering



Phases: Preunderstandings

Exegesis

Interpretation

Application

Proclamation & Validation

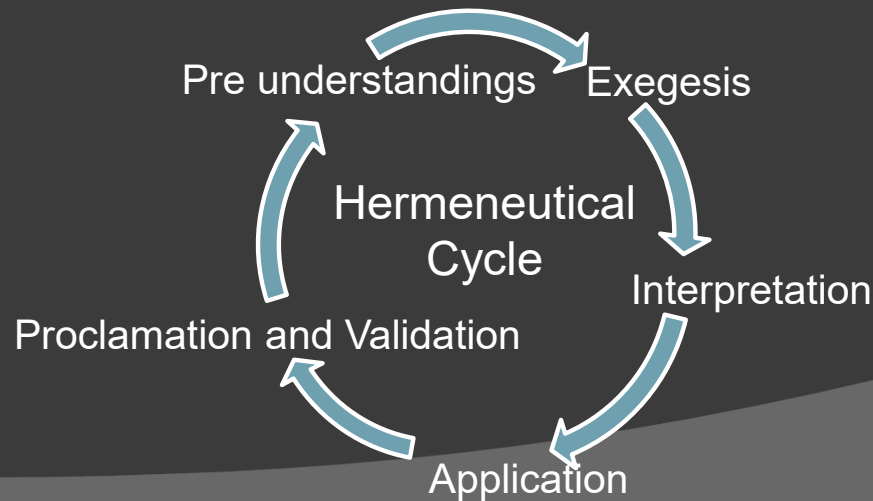
Questions: What do I believe?

What DID it mean?

What DOES it mean

What must I do?

What must we/you do?  
What is the fruit



# THE BIBLE

**66 Books (39/27)**

**Over 40 authors**

- ✓ *Prophets*
- ✓ *Kings*
- ✓ *Priests*
- ✓ *Farmers*
- ✓ *Tax Collectors*
- ✓ *Fishermen*
- ✓ *Scholars*
- ✓ *Physician*

**OT – 1,100 Years**

**NT – 100 years**

**Languages**

- ✓ Hebrew
- ✓ Aramaic
- ✓ Greek

**The Septuagint – 250 BC**

**66 Books – AD 367**

**Council of Carthage – AD 397**

**Chapters – AD 1214**

**Verses – circa AD 1550**

**Apocrypha?**

- ✓ 1 Esdras
- ✓ 2 Esdras
- ✓ Tobit
- ✓ Judith
- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Ecclesiasticus
- ✓ Baruch
- ✓ 1 Maccabees
- ✓ 2 Maccabees
- ✓ Additions to Esther and Daniel

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Pentateuch

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

## Historical

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

## Wisdom/Poetry

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

## Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

## Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

## Gospels/History

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

## Pauline Epistles

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

## General Epistles

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

## Prophecy

Revelation





# Reliability of New Testament

AUTHOR	BOOK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	# COPIES
Homer	Iliad	800 BC	c. 400 BC	c. 400 yrs.	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 BC	c. AD 900	c. 1,350 yrs.	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 BC	c. AD 900	c. 1,300 yrs.	8
Plato		400 BC	c. AD 900	c. 1,300 yrs.	7
Demosthenes		300 BC	c. AD 1100	c. 1,400 yrs.	200
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 BC	c. AD 900	c. 1,000 yrs.	10
Livy	History of Rome	59 BC – AD 17	4 <sup>th</sup> cent. (partial) Mostly 10 <sup>th</sup> cent.	c. 400 yrs. c. 1,000 yrs.	1 -partial 19 -copies
Tacitus	Annals	AD 100	c. AD 1100	c. 1,000 yrs.	20
Pliny Secundus	Natural History	AD 61 -113	c. AD 850	c. 750 yrs.	7
New Testament		AD 50-100	c. 114 (fragments) c. 200 (books) c. 250 (most of NT) c. 325 (complete NT)	+50 yrs. 100 yrs. 150 yrs. 225 yrs.	5366

# HERMENEUTICS

## Methods of Study

### I. 3 Stages in every method

- a. Observation – what it says.
- b. Interpretation – What it means.
- c. Application – What it means to me, What must I do about it

### I. Inductive Study

- a. “Bottom up” study
- b. Using the pieces to form a general idea
- c. Deductive – begin with general idea and break it down.

### I. Inductive Study questions.

- a. What does it Say?
- b. What does it mean?
- c. What does it mean to me?
- d. *What does it tell me about God?*
- e. *What does it tell me about myself?*

## 3 Basic Methods/Approaches

### **Panoramic**

- Survey method
- Overall sweep
- Whole book, whole Bible

### **Telescopic**

- Looks at many places one at a time
- Topical
- Follows a specific theme

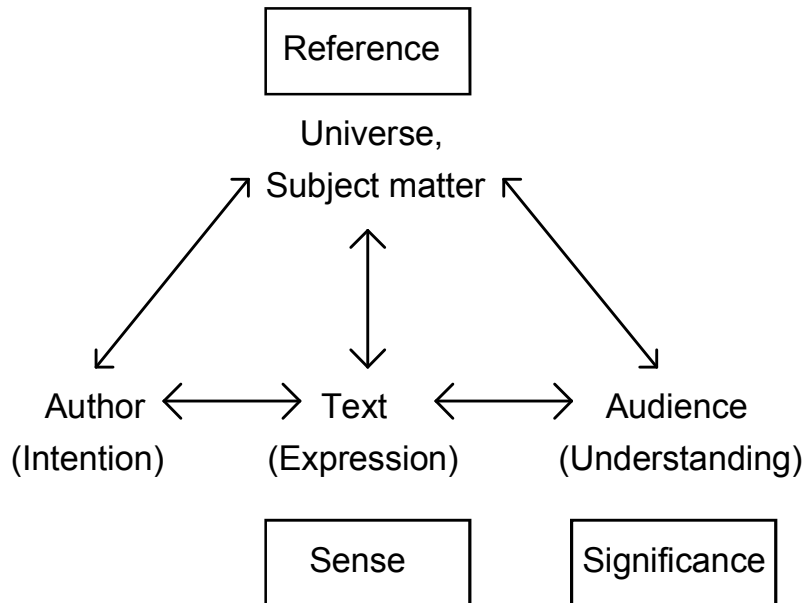
### **Microscopic**

- Focuses on a particular passage
- Exposition
- Analysis

## Aspects of Meaning

Brenda B. Colijn

“A **text** is a discourse in which **someone** says **something** to **someone else** about **something**.”  
-- P. Ricoeur



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## Step 1

Seeing the Setting (Reconnaissance)

- a. From the Local Scene
- b. From the Broader View: other scripture, history, the whole Bible:

## Step 2

Pulling Into Focus (Observation)

Observe what it says, one word at a time:

## Step 3

Getting on Target (Meditation)

Decide what it means, weighing possible alternatives:

## Step 4

Hitting the Bulls-Eye (Interpretation)

Draw Conclusions:

- a. In statement of principles
- b. What's the big Idea?

## Step 5

Getting the Point (Application)

Determine "How does it affect me", and "What must I do about it?"

## Step 6

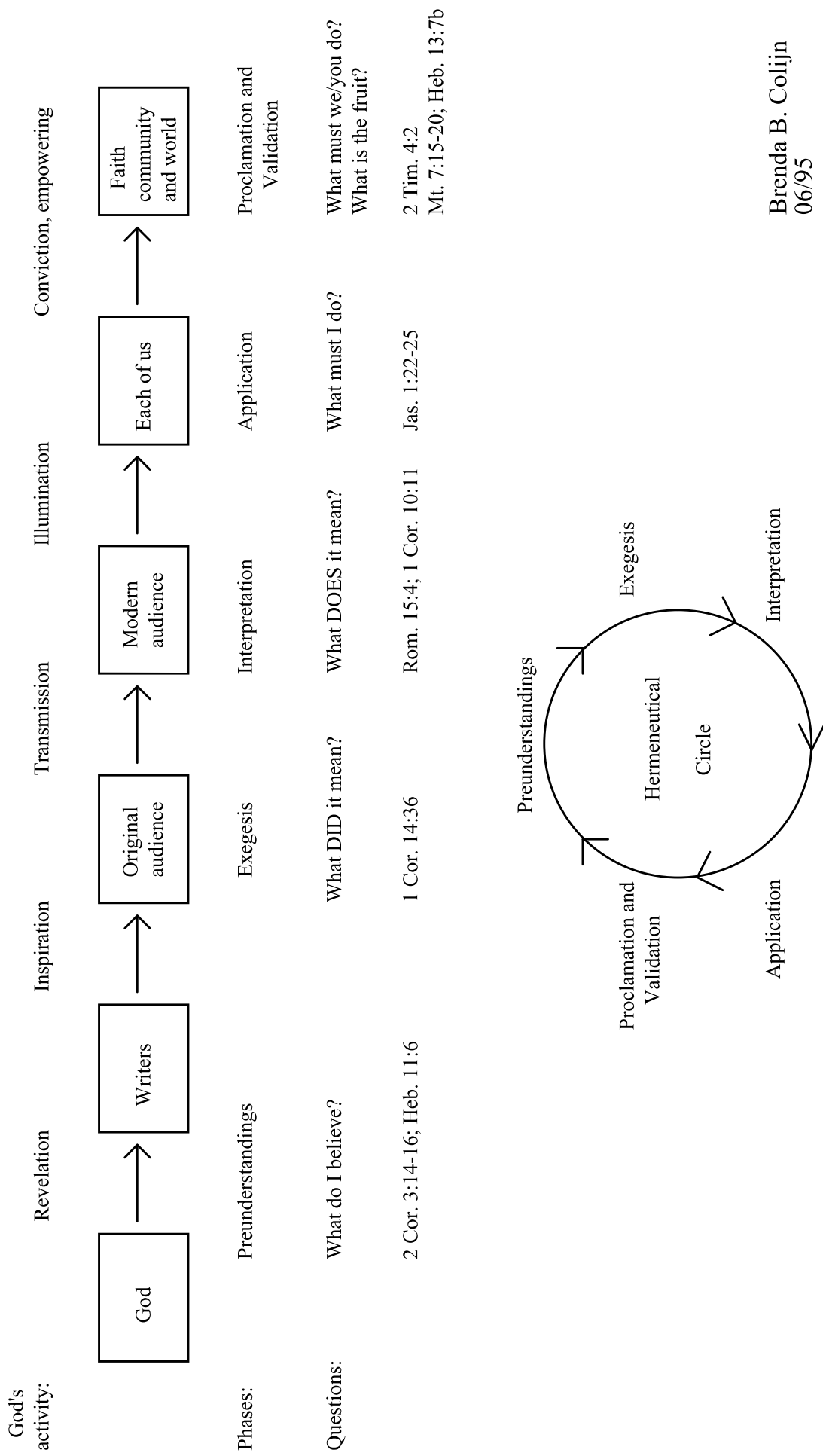
Putting it back together (Outlining)

Well... you did pretty well at taking it apart; now see if you can put it together again!

Schematic Summary (sometimes called an outline)

Final Exam: Will it hold together?

## Overview of the Hermeneutical Process



Brenda B. Colijn  
06/95