

## Hermeneutics — Student Handout

### Chapter 5: How to Read the Book — Discourses

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### What You Should Learn From Today’s Lecture

- Understand what a **discourse** is in biblical literature.
  - Recognize how **paragraphs and episodes connect** in larger sections of Scripture.
  - Identify **major story shifts and pivot passages**.
  - Learn how **interchange compares or contrasts characters and events**.
  - Recognize literary structures such as **chiasm and inclusio**.
  - See how careful observation at the discourse level helps reveal the message of Scripture.
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#### 1. Moving from Paragraphs to Discourses

Notes:

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#### 2. Seeing vs. Observing

(Sherlock Holmes Illustration)

Key Idea: “You see, but you do not observe.”

Notes:

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#### 3. Connections Between Paragraphs and Episodes

Key Example: **Mark 8:22–30**

Mark 8:22–26

Healing of the blind man

Mark 8:17–18  
Disciples lack understanding

Mark 8:29  
Peter confesses Christ

Notes:

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#### **4. Story Shifts — Major Breaks and Pivots**

Examples Discussed in Lecture

##### **Ephesians 4:1**

“I therefore... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

##### **2 Samuel 11–12**

David’s sin with Bathsheba becomes a turning point in the story.

Notes:

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#### **5. Interchange in Narrative**

Examples:

##### **1 Samuel**

Contrast between Eli’s sons and Samuel

1 Samuel 2:12

“Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.”

1 Samuel 2:26

“And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.”

##### **Acts**

Movement between the ministries of Peter and Paul

Notes:

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## 6. Chiasm

Definition:

A mirrored structure where ideas appear in reverse order.

Example Structure:

a  
b  
c  
d  
c'  
b'  
a'

Key Passage:

### **Genesis 11:1–9 — Tower of Babel**

Central statement:

Genesis 11:5

“And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower...”

Notes:

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## 7. Inclusio

Definition:

A literary structure where a passage begins and ends with similar words or themes.

Example:

### **Psalm 8**

Psalm 8:1

“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

Psalm 8:9

“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

Notes:

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### **Closing Summary**

- Scripture must be observed at the **sentence, paragraph, and discourse levels**.
  - Larger sections of Scripture often reveal the **full message of the passage**.
  - Careful reading allows believers to discover the richness of God’s Word.
  - The Bible continues to reveal deeper truth to those who study it carefully.
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### **THINGS TO KNOW (Exam Anchors)**

1. A discourse is a connected unit of text larger than a paragraph.
  2. Discourse observation builds upon sentence and paragraph observation.
  3. Connections between paragraphs and episodes reveal the flow of the passage.
  4. Major breaks in letters often shift from doctrine to practice.
  5. Pivot passages often change the direction of a narrative.
  6. Interchange moves back and forth between storylines to highlight contrast.
  7. Chiasm is a mirrored literary structure emphasizing a central point.
  8. Inclusion frames a passage with similar opening and closing statements.
  9. Careful observation helps readers understand the richness of Scripture.
  10. A question will be asked if you completed the assigned reading.
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### **ASSIGNMENT**

Read **Chapter 5 — HOW TO READ THE BOOK: DISCOURSES**