

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

"Acts 17:11" and "2 Timothy 2:15"

CLASS #2 | Observing The Text

"O" OBSERVATION; Are we paying attention to what God is saying in the text? Observation is asking questions as we read carefully through a passage of Scripture. The questions are formed around the following words; who, what, when, where, why and how. Ex. Observing the grass, crime scene, "Clue"

NOTE: Determine if your questions are leading you to deeper Biblical understanding or profitless speculation.

"Observation" begins with coming to the Word of God humbly, prayerfully and with an eager expectation of **seeing Jesus in the text**. Once our hearts are **fixed on Jesus**, we can then carefully and meticulously read the text, noticing any and all minute details that will aid in the correct "interpretation."

(Luke 24:27-32) And beginning at **Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them in **all the Scriptures** the things **concerning Himself**. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then **their eyes were opened and they knew Him**; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our **heart burn within us** while He talked with us on the road, and **while He opened the Scriptures to us?**"

(Luke 24:44-45) Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in **the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**" And **He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**

(John 3:14) "And **as Moses** lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even **so must the Son** of Man be lifted up

(1 Cor 5:7) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover**, was sacrificed for us.

I. Looking for Christ through the Scriptures.

A. Christ in the Old Testament as the:

Genesis- Seed of the Woman (3:15)

Exodus- Passover Lamb (12:3ff)

Leviticus- Atoning Sacrifice (17:10)

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Numbers- Smitten Rock (20:8,11)
Deuteronomy- Faithful Prophet (18:15-18)
Joshua- Captain of the Lord's Army (5:15)
Judges- Divine Deliverer (2:18)
Ruth- Kinsman Redeemer (3:12)
1 Samuel- Anticipated Anointed One (2:10)
2 Samuel- Son of David (7:14)
1 & 2 Kings- Coming King
1 & 2 Chronicles- Builder of the Temple (28:20)
Ezra- Restorer of the Temple (6:14-15)
Nehemiah- Restorer of the Nation (6:15)
Esther- Preserver of the Nation (4:14)
Job- Mediator/Redeemer (19:25)
Psalms- Praise of Israel (150:6)
Proverbs- Wisdom of God (8:22-23)
Ecclesiastes- Our Great Teacher (12:11)
Song of Solomon- Fairest of Ten-thousand (5:10)
Isaiah- Suffering Servant (53:11)
Jeremiah- New Covenant (31:31)
Lamentations- Man of Sorrows (3:28ff)
Ezekiel- Glory of God (43:2)
Daniel- Coming Rock (2:45;9:25)
Hosea- Healer of Unfaithful (3:1)
Joel- Hope of Israel (3:16)
Amos- The Husbandman (9:13)
Obadiah- Savior (21)
Jonah- Resurrected One (2:10; Mt 12:40)
Micah- Everlasting Ruler (5:2)
Nahum- Avenger (2:1)
Habakkuk- Holy God (2:7)
Zephaniah- King of Israel (3:15)
Haggai- Desire of Nations (2:7)
Zechariah- Righteous Branch (3:8)

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Malachi- Son of Righteousness (4:2)

B. Christ in the New Testament as:

Matthew- The King of the Jews

Mark- The Servant of Jehovah

Luke- The Perfect Man

John- The Son of God

Acts- The Resurrected Lord

Romans- Our Righteousness (1:17)

1 Corinthians- Our Sanctification (1:30)

2 Corinthians- Our Sufficiency (12:9)

Galatians- Our Liberty (2:4)

Ephesians- The Exalted Head of the Church (1:22)

Philippians- Our Humility (2:5-8)

Colossians- The Fullness of God (2:9)

1 Thessalonians- Our Comfort in His Return (4:16-18)

2 Thessalonians- Our Glory (1:12)

1 Timothy- Our Mediator (2:5)

2 Timothy- Our Rewarder (4:8)

Titus- Our Blessed Hope (2:13)

Philemon- Our Substitute (v 17-18)

Hebrews- Our Great High Priest (8:1)

James- Our Practical Wisdom (1:5)

1 Peter- Our Example in Suffering (2:21)

2 Peter- Our Memorial (3:1)

1 John- Our Love, Light and Life (1:1-2,5)

2 John- Our Truth (v 1-2,4)

3 John- Our Host (v 5-8)

Jude- Our Preserver (v 24)

Revelation- The King of Kings and Lord of Lords (19:16)

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II. Observation begins with _____; How do we prepare our hearts for this text?

1. Before you begin studying the Bible: Pray
2. Submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit
3. Expect by faith for the Lord to minister to you as you study and meditate on His Word

(Eph 1:17-18) ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may **give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may **know what is the hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...

(John 16:13) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

(Jer 29:13) And you will **seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

III. Observe carefully, pay close attention, notice all details.

Observation — “What does the Text _____?”

1. Read the Text several times.
2. Record your first impressions.
3. Record who, what, when, where, and how. (Not “why” because that is interpretation!)

KEY: Observation is the KEY to Bible Study!

If you have the wrong observation, then you will have the wrong interpretation!

Illust. - If you go to the doctor because you're sick, they will ask you all kinds of observation questions. And you want them to ask the right questions because then they can have the right interpretation of the data (diagnose what you have) and the right application (give you the right medication, surgery, diet, etc.).

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DO NOT READ INTO THINGS!!! It is **NOT** reading into the passage for what speaks to you, but what does it say?!!!

We need to study:

1. _____ that is written.

(2 Tim 3:16-17) **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2. Even the very _____.

(Psa 110:1) A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my **Lord**, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

(Mat 22:41-45) While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him **Lord**, how is he his son?

(Exo 24:4) And Moses wrote **all the words** of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

(Jer 26:2) Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, **all the words** that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

(Gal 3:16) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith **not, And to seeds, as of many**; but as of one, And to **thy seed**, which is Christ.

(Gen 22:18) And in **thy seed** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

3. Even the _____ of the verbs.

(Mat 22:31-32) But as touching the resurrection of the dead, **have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God**, saying, **I am** the God of

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Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

(Exo 3:6) Moreover he said, **I am** the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

(Jhn 8:58) Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I am**.

4. Even the _____ parts of words.

(Mat 5:17-18) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

KEY: Exhaust the Text before cross-referencing! Don't go to other texts until you have exhausted the Text before you.

V. Suggestions on Observing the Text: 2 Cor 4:16-18; Eph 1:3-6; 3:20; Matt 16:18

1. **Pay close attention** to what you read because it is God who is communicating.
2. **Read the Bible passage “fresh”**, as if you had never read it before. Ex. Study Bibles vs. wide margin Bibles
3. Observe the text carefully **one word at a time**, substitute words to give meaning and freshness.

(Rom 8:28) And we **know** [**Not**; think, suppose, doubt, guess, hope] that **all** [**Not**; most, a few, some, many] things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
4. Look at the text **from a different perspective** each time you read, noticing all the people, places and events in the text.
5. Notice any **repeated words or phrases** in the text.
6. **Notice the context** as it relates to the verse, chapter, book and the whole of Scripture.

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7. Look for the **spiritual resources** being made available to give comfort and encouragement.
8. Read the text in **different translations** or paraphrases.
9. Meditate and **pray through the text**.

VI. Ask the following questions as you read through the text:

“Who” wrote it? Who said it? Who are the major characters? Who are the people mentioned? To whom is the author speaking? About whom is he speaking?

“What” are the main events? What are the major ideas? What are the major teachings? What are the spiritual resources available? What are these people like? What does he talk about the most? What is his purpose in saying that?

“When” was it written? When did this event take place? When will it happen? When did he say it? When did he do it?

“Where” was this done? Where was this said? Where will it happen?

“Why” was there a need for this to be written? Why was this mentioned? Why was so much or so little space devoted to this particular event or teaching? Why was this reference mentioned? Why should they do such and such?

“How” is it done? How did it happen? How is this truth illustrated?

Vii. Example of Observation — Acts 1:8

(Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

“But” — indicates contrast

1. Start with Terms (words).

Q = What does the word “But” cause me to do?... To go back to the preceding context and find out what’s being contrasted because we are

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breaking into this passage at verse 8.

NOTE: You NEVER want to study something in isolation, but always in relation to something else.

CONTEXT: Verses 1-7

(v. 1) What does he mean by “former treatise”?

Right away we discover that this is Volume 2 of something.

Who is “Theophilus”?

(v. 3) When does this take place?

(v. 4-5) What were Jesus’ instructions?

(v. 6) What is the question the disciples are asking?

(v. 7) What is Jesus’ response?

(v. 8) Then Jesus says, “But...” Verse 8 is part of a dialogue in which the disciples ask Jesus a question, and He is answering them.

(v. 9-11) Then you see what *follows!*

“*you*” — notice the word repeated

2. Who are the people involved?

Who are these people?...

Once answered, I could make a list of information I already know about these people from other Scriptures that I’ve studied.

“*shall receive*”

What tense is the verb here?... _____. So, this will take place later than this place in the narrative. When does it happen?...

What is action of the disciples here?... _____ (NOT earning, working for, laboring for, etc.)

“*power*”

What kind of power is Jesus talking about here?...

This is where Greek study helps can be beneficial.

“*when the Holy Spirit has come upon you*”

3. Watch for Cause-Effect Relationships.

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Cause: _____.

Effect: _____.

NOTE: We see another Person in the Text — *“the Holy Spirit”* — and this Person is linked with the power.

Another term — “upon”

The source of this power is not from within, but is from an outside source.

KEY: Jesus is saying that there will be an invasion of supernatural ability on otherwise ordinary human beings by the Person of the Holy Spirit!

“and you shall be witnesses unto Me”

It is NOT saying that you are going to be witnesses and then receive power, but the other way around! Being a witness is the RESULT of receiving power.

A misinterpretation of this verse would be to say, “You need to go witnessing and evangelize!” There are other Scriptures that command that, but not this verse.

NOTE: The Text does NOT say “go witnessing,” but *“be witnesses”*.

Being a witness is something you ARE, *not* something you do.

Q = Who’s *witnesses*?... _____

4. Define terms.

Q = What is a “witness”?...

Q = What does the next phrase begin with?... “both in Jerusalem”

The word “both” in English speaks of two (2), but in Greek, it just begins a series. There are actually four (4) places mentioned here in series.

“both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

5. The Importance of Places.

“Jerusalem”

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Q = Where is it located? What else do we know about Jerusalem?...

“Judaea”

Q = Where’s that?

“Samaria”

Q = What do we know about Samaria?... cf. John 4

“unto the uttermost part of the earth”

Q = Where’s that?

6. Related the Verse to the Book as a Whole.

When you read through the whole book, you can note the geographical places mentioned in the book, and you begin to realize that the Book of Acts is actually the fulfillment of this verse.

Acts 2–7 = Happens in Jerusalem.

Acts 8–9 = Happens in Judae and Samaria

Acts 10-28 = Happens in the uttermost parts of the earth

THERE IS **NO LIMIT** TO OBSERVATION! ...LOOK...LOOK... KEEP LOOKING!...

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Homework Assignment #2

Observation: John 13:1-15

1. **OBSERVE** carefully what the text says about Jesus. Learn to be a Bible consumer.
 - a. Read over and around the text many times.
 - b. Circle all the names and pronouns for Jesus. (about 40)
 - c. Box all action words to get an idea of the action taking place. (about 45)
 - d. Number each time an event, thought, or action changes. (about 10)
 - e. Ask yourself the following questions: Who did what; when, where, why and how.
 - f. Observation: Record 30 questions from the text.

2. **INTERPRET** what the text means
 - a. What was Jesus' hour? (Bible and concordance)
 - b. Why did Jesus say that they were not all clean? (Bible and concordance)
 - c. How were they configured around the table? (Bible encyclopedia)
 - d. Tell the story in your own words.

3. **APPLY** the text to your life personally
 - a. How might Jesus wash our feet today?
 - b. What would be a modern day application of a believer washing someone's feet?
 - c. How can Peter's refusal be applied to us today?
 - d. Explain the plan of salvation using John 13:1-15
 - e. Explain the plan of sanctification using John 13:1-15

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John 13:1-15 NKJV

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.