



### **ALLEGORIZING**

Instead of concentrating on the clear meaning of passage, some relegate the text to merely reflecting another meaning beyond the text. No historical narrative is ever intended to be allegory. Assume the writing intended the clear meaning of a passage unless there are indications otherwise.

### **DECONTEXTUALIZING**

Ignoring the historical and literary context, and sometimes the narrative itself, some people focus on small units only and thus miss interpretational clues found in the larger context of a passage. If you take things out of context enough, you can make almost any part of Scripture say anything you want it to, and people do.

### **MORALIZING**

This is the assumption that principles for living can be derived from all passages. The moralizing reader, in effect, asks the question of any and every passage, what is the moral of this story? (i.e. "What can we learn about handling adversity from how the Israelites endured Egyptian slavery?")

### **PERSONALIZING**

This is supposing that any or all parts of Scripture apply to you or your group in a way that they do not apply to everyone else. (i.e. "God is telling us through the story of the building of Solomon's temple that we need to build a new church building.")

### **MISAPPROPRIATION**

Taking a passage of scripture and applying to a situation that the original passage was never intended to be applied to. (i.e. People use the story of Gideon and the fleece as a full-proof method of figuring out God's will for their life.)

## **FALSE APPROPRIATION**

This is reading into a passage ideas that come from contemporary culture that are foreign to the narrator's purpose and contradictory to his point of view. (i.e. Some suggest that the Bible hints at a homosexual relationship between David and Jonathan because the text says that "[Jonathan] love him" and "they kissed each other" (1 Sam. 20:17, 41). This completely misrepresents their love being compared with God's love (vss. 14 & 42) and a culture in which men regularly kissed each other on the cheek as a sign of friendship.)

## **RECONTEXTUALIZING**

Out of a desire to see God work the same way in our lives, culture, and nation, as He did at another time and place in history, many will take a promise made to a limited people in a limited time and claim it as equally true in their place and time. (i.e. In 2 Chr. 7:14-15, God promised to Solomon to "hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land" if they would repent. Many people have claimed that God will heal the United States if the church will perform some sort of collective repentance. This is simply a promise God has not given us.)

## **INSTEAD**

- Follow instructions given directly to Christians as a whole
- Learn from great living examples of faith
- Learn about the nature of who our God is by what He has done in the past and what He has said about Himself