

**BC-2.1**

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**BIBLE BOOT CAMP**  
**HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

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## **THE INTERPRETIVE PROCESS**

Bridging the Historical Gap

Bridging the Literary Gap

Bridging the Contextual Gap

## **SOME COMMON BIBLE STUDY METHODS:**

Lucky lotto: (eyes closed) - "I will read this verse"

Brussels Sprout: "Do I have to?"

Channel Changer: "Let's read something else"

Concord: "Watch how fast I can finish"

Baseball card: "I'm very picky"

Clint Eastwood: "I don't need anyone's help"

Magical: "Abracadabra . . . It applies to my life"

Indiana Jones: "Let's find the hidden meaning"

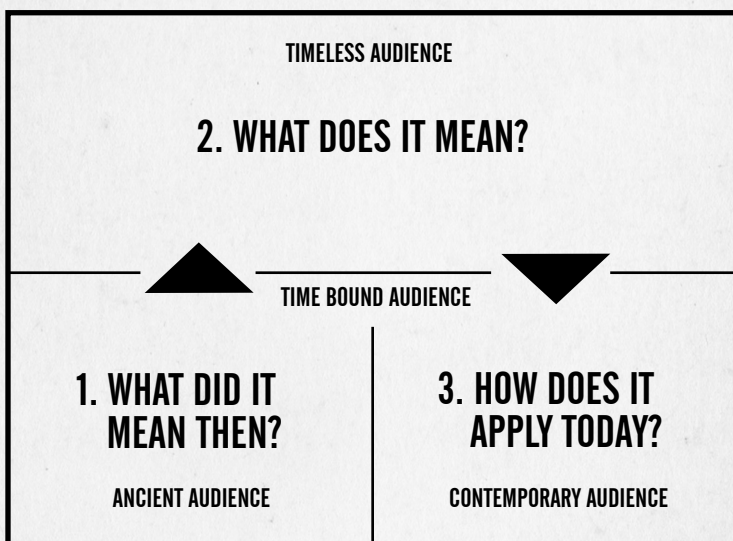


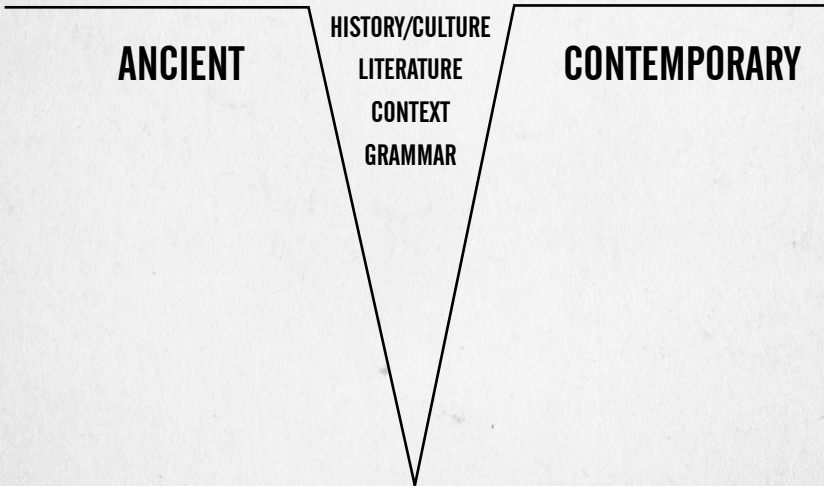
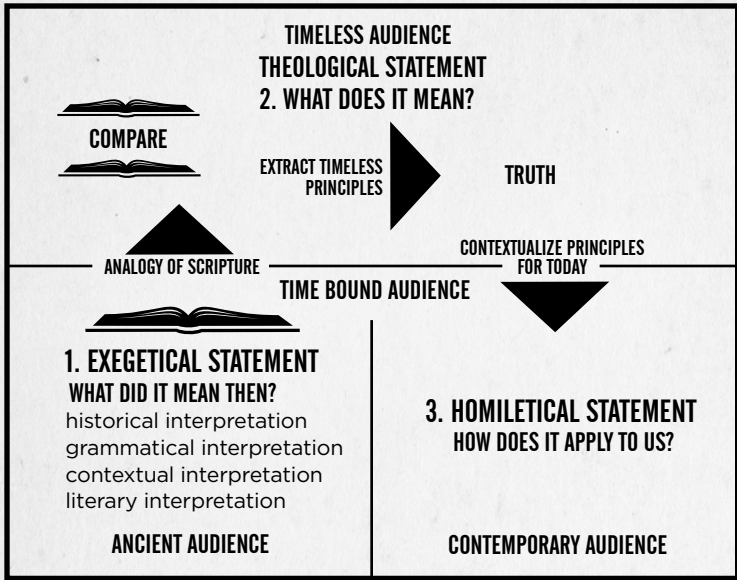
# BASIC TRAINING: THE PROCESS

**Interpretation:** The process by which the Scriptures are understood by the reader.

**Hermeneutics:** The theory, method, or rules of biblical interpretation.

**Exegesis:** Gk. ex, “out” + hegeisthai, “to lead.” The process of discovering the original meaning of the biblical text by studying the text according to the authorial intent in its historical contexts.





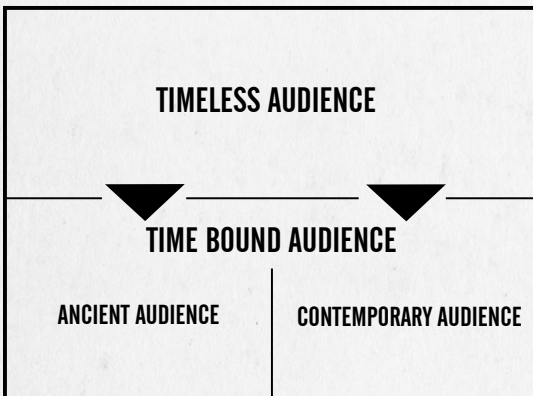


# COMBAT TRAINING: PROCESS

## THEOLOGICAL EISEGESIS FALLACY:

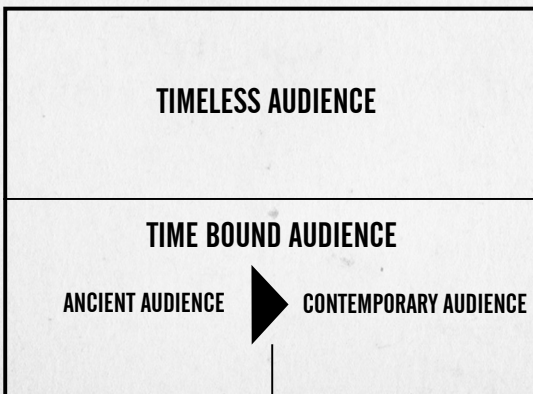
Gk. eis, "in" + hegeisthai, "to lead."

The process of conforming the text to your presupposed system of belief.



## ARCHAIC APPLICATION FALLACY:

The process of directly applying Scripture without extracting the timeless principles.





# FIELD MANUAL:PROCESS

## **2 TIMOTHY 2:15**

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

## **JOSH. 1:8**

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

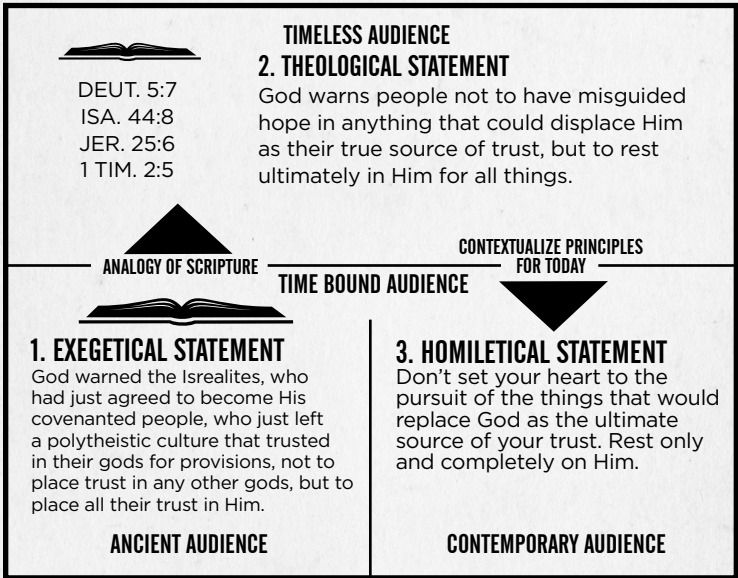


# FIELD OPS:PROCESS

## FIRST COMMANDMENT

### EX. 20:1-3

- 1 And God spoke all these words:
- 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
- 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.



## ADDITIONAL TRAINING:

Living by the Book by Howard Hendricks

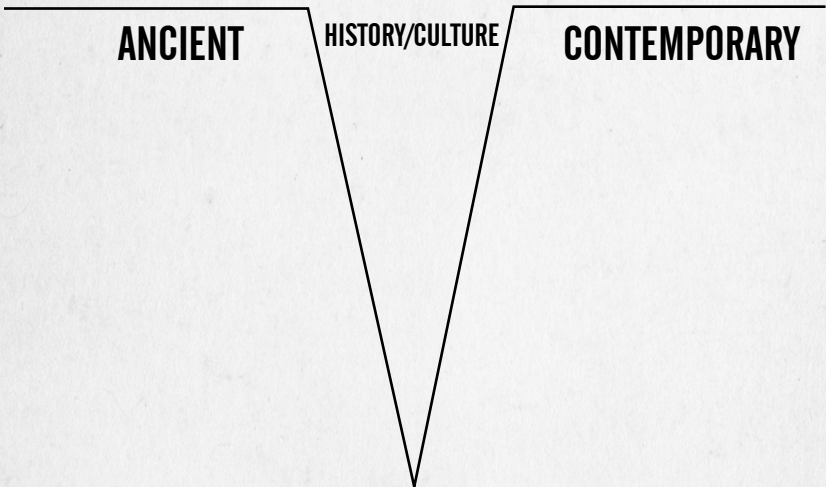
Basic Bible Interpretation by Roy Zuck

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation by Craig Blomberg

<http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2010/04/bible-interpretation-in-a-nutshell/>

## 2. BRIDGING THE HISTORICAL GAP

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# BASIC TRAINING: HISTORICAL GAP

Most of the Bible is more than two-thousand years old. There is a historical/cultural gap that must be bridged.

## **HISTORICAL ISSUE TO CONSIDER:**

Author: Who wrote the book?

Date: When was it written?

Audience: Who was it written to?

Circumstances/Purpose(s): What was going on at the time? Why was it written?

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## **TWO AVENUES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH:**

Internal Data - What can we learn from the text itself?

External Data - What extra-biblical historical evidence is available to us?

### **EXTERNAL DATA:**

Archaeology

Bible commentaries

Secondary background research

Primary background research

### **“CULTURE SHOCK”**

When you go to live in a different country, what are some of the customs that you need to be aware of?

What are some of the customs that we have that are unique to our culture?

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“When a missionary goes to a foreign land, he must know what the people in that culture think, believe, say, do, and make. He must understand their culture in order to comprehend them and thus communicate properly with them. If you have traveled to a foreign country, you have no doubt experienced some degree of ‘culture shock.’ This means you were jolted by the unfamiliar scenes and practices of the people in that nation. . . . When we go to the Scriptures, it is as if we are entering a foreign land.”

- Roy Zuck

**POLITICAL**

**ECONOMIC**

**AGRICULTURAL**

**FAMILY**

**ARCHITECTURAL**

**SOCIAL**

**RELIGIOUS**

**GEOGRAPHICAL**

**LEGAL**

**MILITARY**

**DIETARY**

**CLOTHING**

**PHILOSOPHICAL CULTURE**



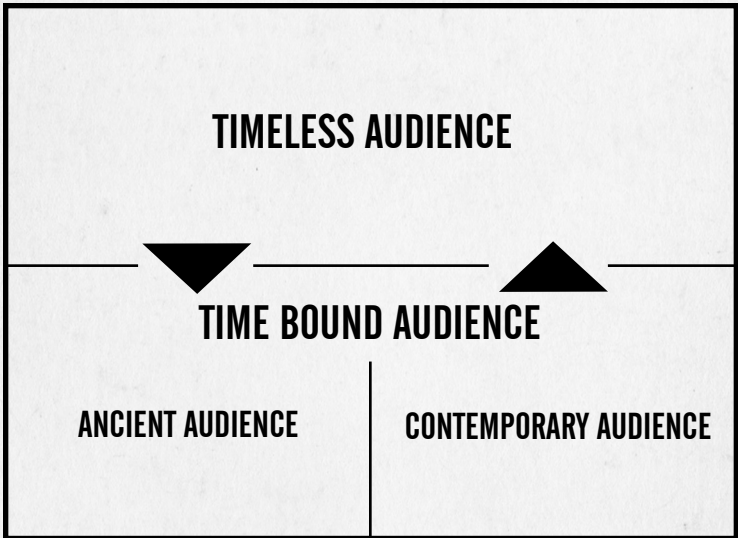
# COMBAT TRAINING: HISTORICAL GAP

## PRACTICAL EISEGESIS FALLACY:

Gk. eis, “in” + hēgeisthai, “to lead.”

Also called “reader response”

The process of conforming the text to your current circumstance, making it more relevant and applicable.





## **FIELD MANUAL: HISTORICAL GAP**

### **MATT. 8:21-22**

“And another of the disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead.’”

### **REV. 3:14-16**

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.’”

## **PLAGUE**

**NILE TO BLOOD**

**FROGS**

**GNATS**

**FLIES**

**LIVESTOCK DEATH**

**BOILS**

**HAIL**

**LOCUSTS**

**DARKNESS**

**DEATH OF FIRSTBORN**

## **GOD REBUKED**

**HAPI, GOD OF THE NILE**

**HEQET, GODDESS WITH  
FROG HEAD**

**SET, GOD OF DESERT**

**UARCHIT, FLY IDOL**

**APIS, BULL GOD**

**ISIS, GODDESS OF  
HEALING**

**SET, GOD OF STORMS**

**OSIRIS, GOD OF CROPS  
RE, SUN GOD**

**ISIS, GODDESS  
PROTECTED CHILDREN**

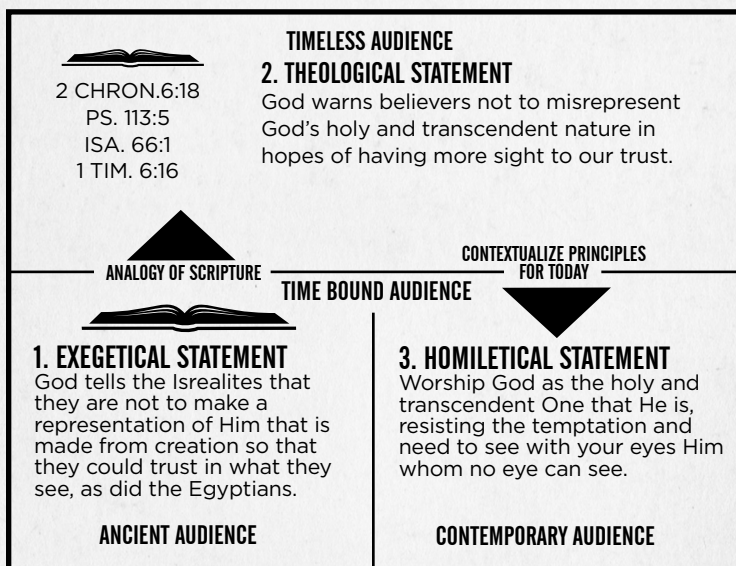


# FIELD OPS: HISTORICAL GAP

## SECOND COMMANDMENT:

### EX. 20:4-5

You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven or above, or that is on earth or under it, or that is in the water below. You shall not bow down to them or serve them.



## ADDITIONAL TRAINING:

The IVP Bible Background Commentary:  
New Testament, Craig Keener

The IVP Bible Background Commentary:  
Old Testament, John H. Walton

Manners and Customs of the Bible, J. I. Packer  
Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary  
Old & New Testaments, 9 Volumes, Clinton E. Arnold

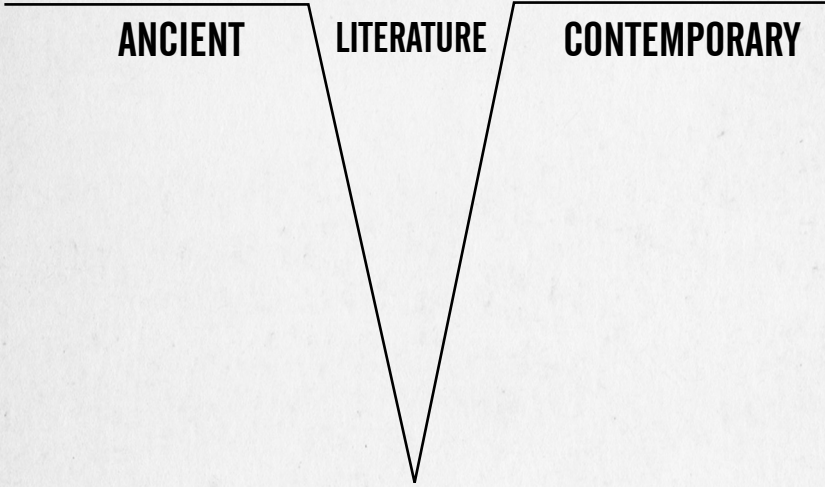
# **3. BRIDGING THE LITERARY GAP**

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# BASIC TRAINING: LITERARY GAP



“There is a...sense in which the Bible, since it is after all literature, cannot be properly read except as literature; and the different parts of it as the different sorts of literature they are.”

- C.S. Lewis

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## **PROV. 22:6**

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Genre: A category of literature which is to read and interpreted according to distinct and specific rules that are assumed upon the writing.

What types of genres do we have today?

**EDITORIALS**

**FICTION**

**FACEBOOK STATUS**

**NON-FICTION HISTORIES**

**DICTIONARIES**

**EMAILS**

**TEXT MESSAGES**

**TWITTER UPDATES**

**LOVE LETTERS**

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHIES**

**HANDBOOKS FOR “DUMMIES”**

**INSTRUCTION MANUALS**

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

**TEXTBOOKS**

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	History/Narrative	To give a theological history of Israel in narrative form
Psalms	Poetry	Emotional praises and cries to God
Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Wisdom	Instructions for wise living
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Prophecy	Call Israel to repentance
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts	History/Narrative	To give a theological history of Christ
Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude	Epistle	Didactic and Pastoral letters written to explain Theological teaching for the Church
Revelation	Apocalyptic	Message of hope for the Church

The Scriptures were not written in a “Bible” type of literature or an inspired genre. God accommodated his word into the language and literature of man.

## **TYPES LITERATURE (GENRES) IN THE BIBLE:**

History/Narrative

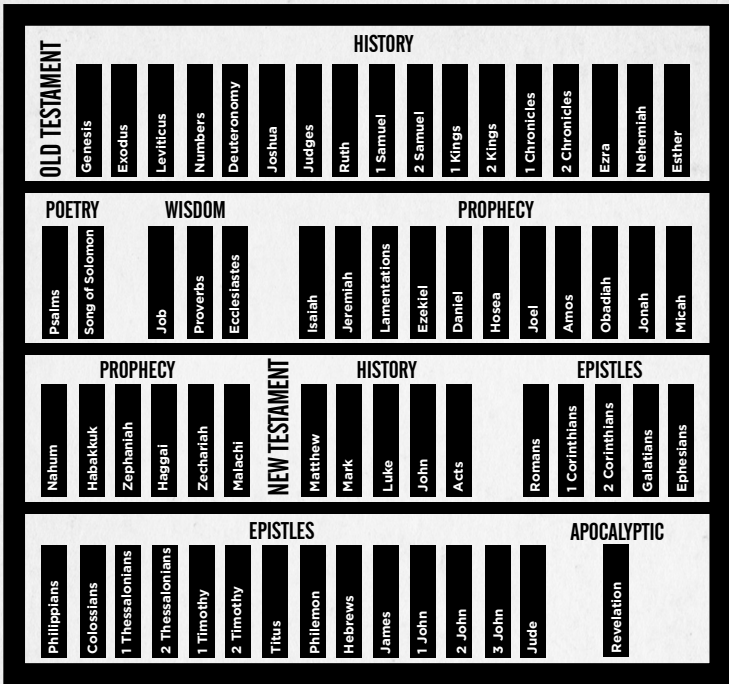
Poetry

Wisdom

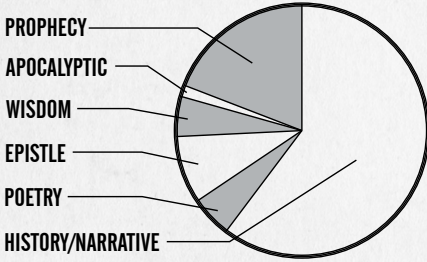
Prophecy

Epistle/Letter

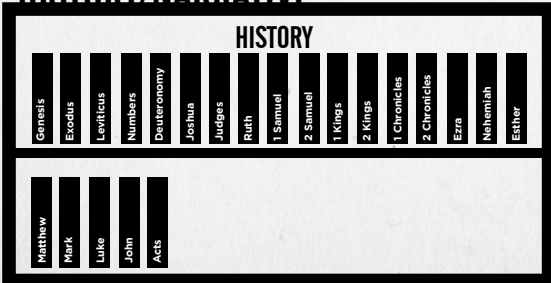
Apocalyptic



### GENRES IN THE BIBLE



### HISTORY/NARRATIVE



## CHARACTERISTICS OF HISTORY/NARRATIVE:

Telling a story about which the parts cannot be isolated from the whole.

Character development

Plot, climax, resolution

Theological in nature

Easy to remember

“Biblical narratives tell us about things that happened—but not just any things. Their purpose is to show God at work in his creation and among his people. The narratives glorify him, help us to understand and appreciate him, and give us a picture of his providence and protection. At the same time they also provide illustrations of many other lessons important to our lives”

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 79

## POETRY

Artistic writing birthed from the emotional disposition of the writer that served in prayer, worship, and praise to God.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF POETRY

Follows a rhythm

Easy to memorize

Often contains a prophetic element (Messianic Psalms)

Emotional

Parallelisms

Much symbolism

Calls for judgment (imprecatory)

Cries to God (laments)

Songs of praise

Basic Training

Lament Psalm

## LAMENT PSALM

### PSA. 13:1

“How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?”

## IMPRECATORY PSALM

### PSA. 55:15

“Let death come deceitfully upon my enemies; Let them go down alive to the grave, for evil is in their dwelling, in their midst.”

## SYNONYMOUS PARALLEL PSALM:

The second line restates the thought of the first line using different words.

### PSALM 2:4

He who sits in the heavens laughs,  
The Lord scoffs at them.”

## WISDOM

Literature intended to teach about transcendent truth and values, giving keen insights into virtuous living.

### WISDOM



## CHARACTERISTICS OF WISDOM:

Intended to produce a godly perspective and character.

Sometimes birthed in and through negative circumstances.

Normally already in principles.

General observable truths, not promises.

Often short and pithy with limited context.  
Written to convert the naïve.

Easy to misunderstand, especially in Job and Eccl.

## PROPHECY

Prophets were “covenant enforcement mediators” who spoke on behalf of God to Israel and the nations. Their writings served as announcements, calls to repentance, and warnings.

PROPHECY																
Isaiah	Jeremiah	Lamentations	Ezekiel	Daniel	Hosea	Joel	Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi
APOCALYPTIC																
Revelation																

## CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPHECY:

Closest thing in the Old Testament to an epistle.

The primary function of a prophet in the OT was “forth telling” – speaking to people for God.

Often direct announcement of God: “Thus says the Lord. . .”

Must discern whether the audience is theocratic Israel or all people.

Announcements of things both far and near  
Often highly symbolic.

Apocalyptic prophecy deals only with the end of the world.

## EPISTLE/LETTER

Epistles are letters written to an individual, group, or public audience. The main distinction between a letter and an epistle is that an epistle is a letter intended for the public in general.

Revelation

### EPISTLES

Romans  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
1 John  
2 John

## CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EPISTLE/LETTER

Greeting, body, farewell

Occasional letters often addressing one or more problems

Written in the church age to people in the church  
Logical flow: "for," "therefore," "just as"





# COMBAT TRAINING: LITERARY GAP

## **INCIDENTAL FALLACY:**

Reading incidental historical texts as prescriptive rather than descriptive.

**PRESCRIPTIVE:** Information that provides the reader with the principles that they are to apply to their lives.

**DESCRIPTIVE:** Incidental material that describes the way something was done but is not necessarily meant to encourage the reader in the same action.

## **GENESIS 2:24**

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF ABOUT NARRATIVE:**

Is there a command to be obeyed?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a promise to claim?

## **NEWSPAPER ESCHATOLOGY:**

The practice of interpreting the prophetic and apocalyptic portions of Scripture in light of current events.

## **ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION:**

The process of interpreting the Scriptures as allegory, with every passage having a hidden symbolic layer of meaning.



## FIELD MANUAL:LITERARY GAP

### **2 TIM. 2:11-14**

It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him;

If we endure, we shall also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.”

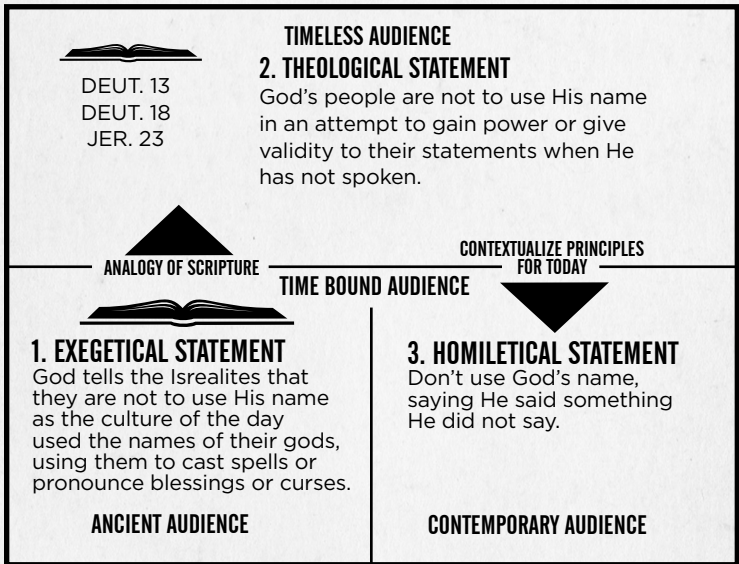


# FIELD OPS: LITERARY GAP

## THIRD COMMANDMENT

### EX. 20:7

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.



## ADDITIONAL TRAINING:

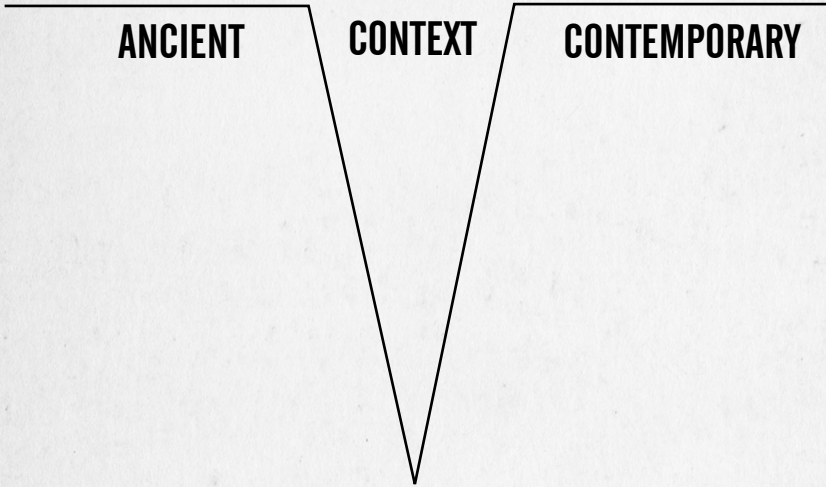
How to Read the Bible as Literature by Leland Ryken

# **4. BRIDGING THE CONTEXTUAL GAP**

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# BASIC TRAINING: CONTEXT



You can make the Bible say whatever you want it to say so long as you ignore the context.

## THE BIBLE SUPPORT ATHEISM:

**PS. 53:1**

“There is no God.”

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## **THE BIBLE SUPPORT SUICIDE:**

### **MATT. 27:5**

“He departed, and he went and hanged himself.”

### **JUDG. 9:48**

“What you have seen me do, hurry and do as I have done.”

### **JOH 13:27**

“What you are going to do, do quickly.”

## **THE BIBLE SUPPORTS CURSING GOD:**

### **JOB 2:9**

“Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”

## **THE BIBLE SUPPORTS GETTING DRUNK:**

### **GEN. 9:20-21**

“Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk.”

### **ECC. 3:1**

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”

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## **TYPES OF CONTEXT:**

Context of the Argument

Context of Authorial Disposition

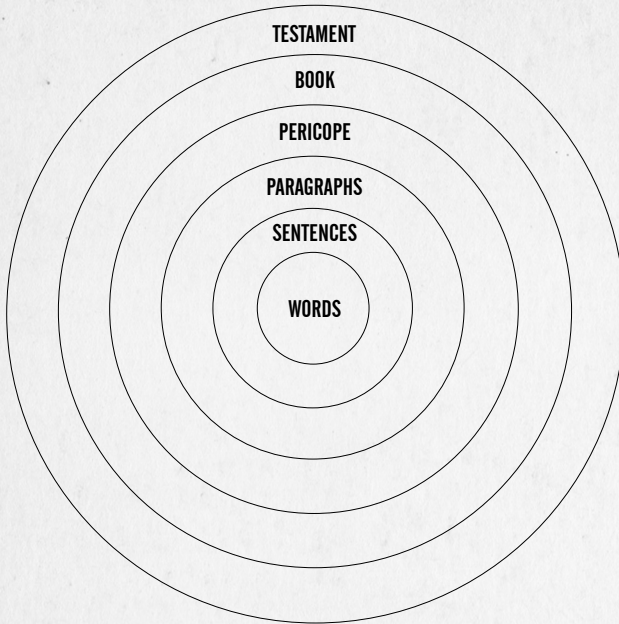
Context of Authorial Style

Context of Theological History

Context of Rhetoric

### **1. CONTEXT OF THE ARGUMENT:**

Describes that which goes before and that which comes after the text you are studying, forming the “argument of the passage.”



## **2. CONTEXT OF AUTHORIAL DISPOSITION:**

Describes the attitude of the author when the work was composed which contributes to the tone.

### **WHAT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THE AUTHOR WHEN HE WROTE?**

Defensive? (2 Cor.)

Discouraged about life? (Eccl.)

Frustrated with the situation? (Jam.)

Baffled? (Gal.)

Proud of his audience? (Phil.)

Neural toward readers, passionate about subject? (Rom., Eph.)



### 3. CONTEXT OF AUTHORIAL STYLE:

Refers to the writing style and capabilities of the author.

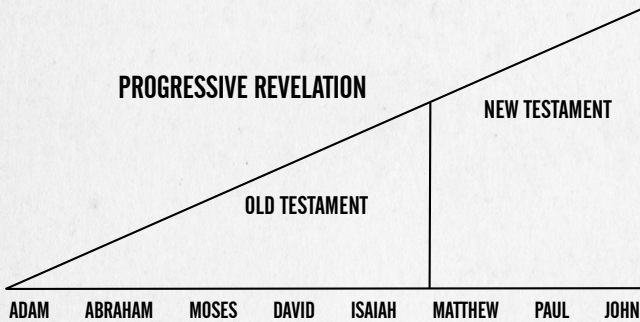
John: simple writing style, extreme use of esoteric concepts (light, dark, word, love, hate)

Paul: logical, passionate, and excited writing style

James: pastoral and often sarcastic

David: passionate and emotional

Luke: detailed and historical



### 4. CONTEXT OF THEOLOGICAL HISTORY:

Refers to the time in history when the work was composed, understanding that there was a progressive unfolding of revelation throughout history.

Does the context limit the application?

Does new revelation limit or eliminate the application?

Does the passage apply to Israel or all people?

Is the practice in harmony with the rest of Scripture?

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## **5. CONTEXT OF RHETORIC**

Refers to how the author intended one to interpret his own words considering the rhetoric employed.

Is the author/speaker using hyperbole and exaggeration?

Is the author being sarcastic?

Is the author setting up a diatribe?



## **FIELD MANUAL: CONTEXT**

### **DO THESE PASSAGES APPLY TO THEOCRATIC ISRAEL OR THE CHURCH?**

#### **JOEL 2:25**

“Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust, my great army which I sent among you.”

#### **JER. 29:11**

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

#### **2 CHRON. 7:14**

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

### **WHERE DOES THIS PASSAGE FIT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STORY OR ARGUMENT?**

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## **ROM. 2:6-7**

[God] will render to every man according to his deeds:  
to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for  
glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.

How do we know when to listen to an author and when  
not to?

Job's Friends?

Nebuchadnezzar?

King Solomon?

Peter before Pentecost?

Is this an exaggeration?

## **1 TIM. 6:3-4**

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not  
agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is  
conceited and understands nothing"



# COMBAT TRAINING: CONTEXT

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## **OBSCURITY FALLACY:**

Building theology from obscure material

## **READER RESPONSE FALLACY:**

Reading passages out of context and applying them immediately to your situation by asking “What does this mean to me?”



# FIELD OPS:CONTEXT

## **MATT. 18:20**

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

## **ROMANS 15:4**

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

# BIBLE BOOT CAMP

So many people believe the Bible is accurate, yet so few actually study it regularly. Many times this is because the reader has never been given tools to study the Bible. In this 4-session small-group study we give time-tested principles to help you better understand God's great Word.

## **Major Training Topics in Volume 2 include**

The Interpretive Process, Bridging the Historical Gap, Bridging the Contextual Gap, Bridging the Literary Gap

## **ALL VOLUMES IN THE BIBLE BOOT CAMP SERIES:**

**Volume 1: Essentials of the Faith**

**Volume 2: How to Study the Bible**

**Volume 3: Defending your Faith**

**Volume 4: History of the Church**

**Volume 5: History of the Bible**

## **INSTRUCTORS:**

### **C. Michael Patton, Th.M**

Michael received a bachelor of arts in biblical studies at University of Biblical Studies and Seminary in Bethany Ok. He received a master of theology degree in New Testament Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. Michael is the president of Credo House Ministries. He is also a Speaker on Theology Unplugged, an Internet radio broadcast found at [credohouse.org](http://credohouse.org). He currently resides in Oklahoma with his wife and four kids.

### **Tim Kimberley, Th.M**

Tim received a master of theology degree in Historical Theology and Christian Education from Dallas Theological Seminary. Tim is the Director of Credo House ministries. He is also a speaker on Theology Unplugged, an Internet radio broadcast found at [credohouse.org](http://credohouse.org). He currently resides in Oklahoma with his wife, Patty, and three kids.



**Credo  
House**  
MINISTRIES

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