

Interpretation

What does it mean?

From

Methodical Bible Study, by
Robert A. Traina and others.





Purpose of Interpretation

Purpose of Interpretation



“The historian must strive by the closest insight to identify himself with the past...”

–G.G. Coulton

from *Five Centuries of Religion*, Volume I, p. xxxi.

Purpose of Interpretation



“The problem of interpretation is the problem of re-creation.”

—From the man, Robert A. Traina (MBS, p.93)

Purpose of Interpretation



One should desire to bring the *original, intended* meaning of God's Word into the 21st Century.

Purpose of Interpretation



“This can be accomplished only through *empathy*, that is, ‘the imaginative projection of one’s own consciousness into another being.’”

(MBS, 93).

Purpose of Interpretation



The *imagination* is what is needed to empathize and interpret Scripture well.

Purpose of Interpretation



The *imagination* is what is needed to empathize and interpret Scripture well.

Passages come alive.

Meaning is extracted.

Purpose of Interpretation



The *imagination* is what is needed to empathize and interpret Scripture well.

The imagination may be used for the fantastic, fictional, & subjective,

BUT

The imagination may also be used in legitimate Bible interpretation.



Major Phases of Interpretation

Major Phases of Interpretation



- A. Definitive Phase:
Discovering the basic meaning of the particulars of a passage.

Ex. Deut 6:5

Love: Deep affection for, to long for, to desire.

Major Phases of Interpretation



B. Rational Phase

Concerned with two factors:

- 1) The *general reasons* why biblical statements are made—wherein they are true and necessary.

Major Phases of Interpretation



B. Rational Phase

Concerned with two factors:

2) The *immediate reasons or purposes* for their expression.

Major Phases of Interpretation



- 1) The *general reasons* why biblical statements are made—wherein they are true and necessary.

Deut. 6:5

The Israelites should love YAHWEH.

Major Phases of Interpretation



2) The *immediate reasons or purposes* for their expression.

Deut. 6:5

The *purposes* for the exhortation to love YAHWEH is the concrete setting in which it was made (this involves the context).

Major Phases of Interpretation



C. Implicational Phase

“Facts are so intertwined that a person cannot accept one without accepting many others with it. Thus if one would understand fully the significance of [a passage of Scripture], one needs to search for the widespread implications of the [passage]” (MBS, p. 96).

Major Phases of Interpretation



C. Implicational Phase

Deut. 6:5

One needs to search for the widespread implications of the exhortation (or urgent appeals) to love YAHWAH.



Purpose of Interpretation

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To accurately know what God meant as He used the biblical writer (original author) to communicate the original audience.

Purpose of Interpretation



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Major Phases of Interpretation

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- A. Definitive Phase
- B. Rational Phase
- C. Implicational Phase

Major Phases of Interpretation



A. Definitive Phase:

Discovering the basic meaning of the particulars of a passage.

Ex. Deut 6:5

Love: Deep affection for, to long for, to desire.

Major Phases of Interpretation



B. Rational Phase

Concerned with two factors:

- 1) The *general reasons* > why necessary
- 2) The *immediate reasons* > historical situation

Major Phases of Interpretation



C. Implicational Phase

“Facts are so intertwined that a person cannot accept one without accepting many others with it. Thus if one would understand fully the significance of [a passage of Scripture], one needs to search for the widespread implications of the [passage]” (MBS, p. 96).

Major Phases of Interpretation



C. Implicational Phase

Deut. 6:5

One needs to search for the widespread implications of the exhortation (or urgent appeals) to love YAHWAH.

Interpretation



1. Growth 1 Cor. 2:9-3:2
2. Humility Matt. 11:25-26
3. Obedience Heb. 5:11-14
4. Dependency 1 John 2:27
5. Hard Work 2 Tim. 2:15

Interpretation



The purpose of interpretation is
“to know what God meant by what
He said.” -Mark Bailey

Interpretation



Chronological Gap

Geographical Gap

Cultural Gap

Linguistic Gap

Literary Gap

Supernatural Gap

The
Biblical
World

Interpretation

The
Present
World





Specific Process of Interpretation

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- A. Interpretative questions
- B. Interpretive Answers
- C. Interpretive Integration and Summarization

Specific Process of Interpretation



A. Interpretative questions

“The interpretive question is in reality the intermediate step between observation and interpretation (MBS, p.97).”

Specific Process of Interpretation



A. Interpretative questions

“Interpretive questions are those questions arising from and based on the observations of terms, structure, general literary forms and atmosphere whose answers will result in the discovery of their full meaning” (MBS, p. 97).

Specific Process of Interpretation



- A. Interpretative questions
- B. Interpretive Answers
- C. Interpretive Integration and Summarization

Historical Background



- A. Authorship
- B. Date
- C. Readers
- D. Circumstances
- E. Purpose

Sources of Historical Background



- A. Biblical Text
- B. Study Bible Notes
- C. Extra-biblical Sources

Who Was the Author?



- A. Family Heritage
- B. Educational Background
- C. Occupational Skills
- D. Cultural Advantages
- E. Religious Experiences

Who Was the Audience?



- A. Who is the audience?
- B. Where are they located?
- C. When did the writing take place?
- D. What is the situation?
- E. What is the purpose(s) of the book?*

What is the purpose(s) of the book?



- A. Explicit references
- B. Implicit references
- C. Repetition of themes
- D. Collection of imperatives

Four Considerations from Culture



- A. What people *think*
- B. What people *say*
- C. What people *do*
- D. What people *make*

Twelve Categories of Culture



Political

Family

Geographical

Dietary

Economical

Architectural

Legal

Clothing

Agricultural

Social

Military

Religious

Cultural Context



The Issues of
Normativeness in
Cultural Interpretation

Cultural Context



4 Questions to Test Normativeness

1. Does context limit the application?
2. Does new revelation limit or eliminate the application?
3. Is the practice in harmony with the rest of Scripture?
4. Is the reason for the norm given?

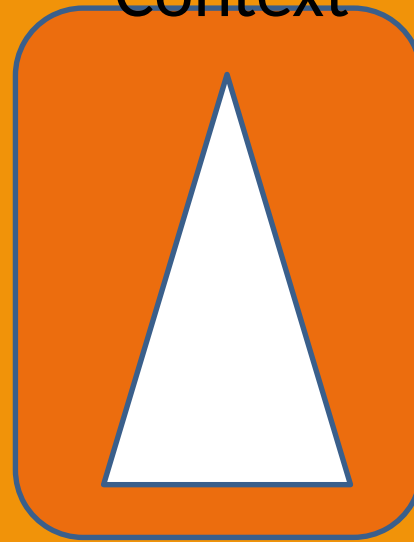
Cultural Context



Interpretive
Process



Meaning in
Context



Timeless
Truth

