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# *Observation*



*What do I see?*

From Notes of Dr. Mark Bailey,  
Methodical Bible Study by Robert A. Traina,  
How to Read the Bible as Literature by Leland Ryken, and others.

# Affect of Methodical Bible Study

- 1) Rightly handle all segments of the Word of God
- 2) Appreciate the various literary genres chosen by God to communicate His mind and will to humanity.
- 3) Commit to the diligence necessary to be a qualified interpreter of the Scriptures

# Observation

Dr. H.T. Kuist

“The art of seeing things as they really are.”

“The act of...taking notice.”

“[Seeing] impartially, intensely, and fearlessly.”

Robert A. Traina, MBS, pg 31

# The will to observe

*Wisdom from J. H. Jowett (MBS, 32)*

“Unwilled observation is soon [satisfied] and goes to sleep. Willed observation, vision with executive force behind it, is full of discernment, and is continually making discoveries which keep the mind alert and interested. Get a will behind the eye, and the eye becomes a searchlight, the familiar is made to disclose undreamed treasure.”

# Exactness in Observation

“To truly observe is to be mentally aware of what one sees. Observation transcends pure physical sight; it involves perception. Thus, for example, one may see a particular term used in the preceding sentence, namely, ‘perception.’ But unless one is conscience that this term has certain peculiar connotations and that an attempt must be made to discover them, one has not really observed its presence. Observation, then, is essentially *awareness.*” --*Traina*

# Persistence in Observation

Consistency in any discipline is a must. To be truly great at something is to first be persistent at the thing. One must first *understand* proper techniques then *persistently* execute those techniques to obtain success.

### III. Analysis of Observation (pg. 33)

The Four Main constituents of any Biblical passage are:

- A. Terms
- B. The relations and interrelations between terms  
(structure)
- C. The general literary form (or forms)
- D. Atmosphere

## A. Observation of Terms

### 1. Definition of a term

- a. “A term is a *given* word given in *given* context.”
- b. “trunk”

### 2. Kinds of terms

#### a. Routine and non-routine terms

- i. Every term should be noted
- ii. The process should be effecting
- iii. Therefore, distinction must be made

#### b. Literal and figurative (tree; Rom 11:24 & Gen 1:12)



### 3. Identity and Inflections of Terms

#### a. Grammatical categories

- i. Noun & verbs
- ii. Adjectives and adverbs
- iii. Etc.

b. Inflections: a change in form undergone by terms to indicate their tense, gender, number, voice

Note: Inflections are especially significant in relation to nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives.

# Rules For Reading

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Repeatedly  
Thoughtfully  
Patiently  
Prayerfully  
Reflectively  
Purposefully  
Selectively (6 W's)

# Rules for Reading

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Who

What

When

Where

Why

Wherefore

# Who

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Who are the people?

What do they say?

What is said about them?

Who are the characters  
of the text?

# What

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What truths?

What events?

What subjects?

What sequences?

What is happening?

# When

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What days?

What years?

Under whose reign?

In what era?

Under what covenant?

# Where

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Locations

Territories

Geography

Regions

# Why

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Why here?

Why now?

Why this instruction?

Why does the author tell  
us this?



# Wherefore

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What difference does it  
make?

or, So What?

# Components of Observation

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Terms

Structure

Literary Form

Atmosphere

# Structure

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*“Structure involves all of the relations and interrelations which bind terms into a literary unit, from the minutest to the broadest, from the least significant to the most significant.”*

– Robert A. Traina, p. 36.

# Two Types of Structure

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Grammatical



Literary



# Two Types of Structure

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## Grammatical

Terms

Phrases

Clauses

Sentences

Paragraphs

## Literary

Segment

Subsection

Section

Division

Book

# Two Types of Structure

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Grammatical

Within  
the  
Paragraph

Meaning

Literary

Between  
the  
Paragraphs

Unity

# Two Types of Structure

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## Grammatical

Within  
the  
Paragraph

What God  
Said

## Literary

Between  
the  
Paragraphs

How God  
Said It

# Two Types of Structure

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Grammatical

Within  
the  
Paragraph

Analysis

Literary

Between  
the  
Paragraphs

Synthesis



# Two Types of Structure

---

## Grammatical

Terms

Phrases

Clauses

Sentences

Paragraphs

## Literary

Segment

Subsection

Section

Division

Book

# Two Types of Structure

---

Grammatical

Within  
the  
Paragraph

What God  
Said

Literary

Between  
the  
Paragraphs

How God  
Said It

# Two Types of Structure

---

Grammatical

Within  
the  
Paragraph

Analysis

Literary

Between  
the  
Paragraphs

Synthesis

# Structure

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## ***Luke 15***

*Lost Sheep, vv. 4-7*

*Lost Coin, vv. 8-10*

*Lost Son, vv. 11-32*

# What is the Purpose of Reading the Bible?

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2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

# Rules For Reading

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All Scripture is useful:

For Teaching

For Rebuking

For Correcting

For Training in righteousness

# Rules For Reading

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The purpose of the Scriptures is to equip us to do the good work of God.

# Rules For Reading

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Routine vs. non-routine words

Unusual Words

Difficult Words

Main Verbs

Main Nouns

Recurring Words



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## Isaiah 6:3

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

# Types of Structure

# Types of Structure

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Two main types:

1. Comparative ease of their discovery

2. Their relative importance

# Types of Structure

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## I. Comparative ease of their discovery

A. Certain facts should be noted in connection with the distinction between surface and subsurface structure:

# Types of Structure

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1. “First, it does not necessary involve the difference between the less profound and the more profound, but rather, is concerned with the more obvious and the less obvious.”

--Robert A. Traina

# Types of Structure

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2. Second, not all passages have both explicit and implicit structure. In some passages, if one observes their surface structure and delves thoroughly into its meaning, one will arrive at the author's intended message (p. 38 MBS).

# Types of Structure

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- II. Another distinction should be made on the basis of the relative importance of structural elements within a given passage (i.e., some connections are primary and others are secondary or subordinate.) At times interpretation might need to take place before these distinction may take place.

# Laws of Structure

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# Laws of Structure



# Laws of Structure

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The Bible is artistic literature.

“All one needs to do, therefore, is to observe the composition of various artistic productions and by so doing discover the means used by artists in effecting the structural unity of their works.”

-- by Leleand Ryken p. 69, 76

# Words of Connection

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# Words of Connection

# “TELL” Words of Connection

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T Temporal

E Emphatic

L Local

L Logical

# Temporal

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after, as, before, now,  
then, until, when,  
while, *words of time*

# “TELL” Words of Connection

---

T Temporal

E Emphatic

L

L

# Emphatic

---

indeed, only, verily  
(truly), I tell you  
*words of emphasis*

# “TELL” Words of Connection

---

T Temporal

E Emphatic

L Local

L

# Local

---

where, at, in, on, upon,  
*words of location*



# “TELL” Words of Connection

---

T Temporal

E Emphatic

L Local

L Logical

# Logical

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- Comparison
- Condition
- Contrast
- Purpose
- Reason
- Result
- Series of Fact

# Logical: Comparison

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as, just as, so also, likewise,  
as-so

# Logical: Condition

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if, except, unless (since)

# Logical: Purpose

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in order that, so that, that

# Logical: Result

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so, so then, therefore, thus,  
that

# Logical: Series of Fact

---

first of all, last of all, finally,  
and, or, nor

# Logical: Comparison

---

As, just as, so also, likewise,  
as-so



# Logical: Comparison

---

As, just as, so also, likewise,  
as-so

# “TELL” Words of Connection

---

T Temporal

E Emphatic

L Local

L Logical

# Exercises

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John 3:16

Rom . 9:33

John 8:24

“ 11:27

“ 16:27

1 John 5:1