

# How to Study the Bible

## I. Exegesis (Deductive) – To lead out or draw out. This study is determining what the scripture (text) is saying

A. General Meaning

B. Specific Meaning

C. Context - How does it relate to other surrounding scripture?

1. Historical – time period

2. Literary - meaning of words and sentence structure

3. Genre – wording effects the interpretation of scripture

- English Literature: stories, poems, novels, comedies
- Hebrew Literature: narratives, laws, poetry, prophecy

D. Content – *Hermeneutics* is the interpretation of the Bible through words and themes (i.e. Tanakh, Talmud, theological, trajectory)

- Word Study                      ex. Glory
- Chapter Study                 ex. Romans 8
- Topical Study                 ex. Spiritual battle
- Book Study                     ex. I & II Kings
- Verse by Verse
- Thematic Study                ex. A theme throughout the Bible like the love of God

## II. Elsegesis – Personality of the reader is used to gather information based upon experience.

Scripture:

- Picture it
- Pronounce it
- Paraphrase it
- Personalize it
- Pray it
- Probe it
- Plan Application
- Portable Verse

## Genres of the Bible

**Genre – the literary type or wording in a book that effects the interpretation of that book**

### **I. History or Narrative (Stories of the Bible)**

Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ester, Jonah, Acts

### **II. Law (Instructions and Principles of God given by Moses)**

Leviticus and Deuteronomy

### **III. Poetry (Rhymes)**

Psalms, Songs of Solomon, Lamentations

### **IV. Prophecy (Future events)**

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi

### **V. Apocalyptic (Vivid images and narrative about the world)**

Daniel and Revelation

### **VI. Parables (Narratives and instructions from Jesus)**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

### **VII. Epistle (Letter written to specific audiences that are practical for living today)**

Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrew, James, John