



CONTEXTUAL HORIZON EXEGESIS (HISTORICAL & TEXTUAL CONTEXT)

Goal: To discover the setting and discuss the text with others

Discover the Setting: Historical Context

Six questions (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)

Two approaches: look for the historical context of an entire book or of a specific passage

Discuss the Text: Textual Context

The microscope question: How does this word or sentence contribute to the point of my passage?

Theological words contribute to central theological concepts

Emphasized words reveal the author's argument

Connecting words display the author's logic

The telescope question: How does the point of my passage impact the rest of Scripture, and vice versa?

Use the concentric circles of context to ask:

How does the emphasis of the rest of Scripture help me interpret my passage more accurately?

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CANONICAL HORIZON SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Goal: To correctly interpret a passage of Scripture in the context of the whole Bible's unified teaching for the sake of right living

Two Questions

The import question: How does my passage fit within my understanding of the ten doctrines of systematic theology?

The export question: What does my passage contribute to the ten doctrines of systematic theology?

Principles and Process

Find good resources, read, and rummage

Answer the import question: Identify a major doctrine in your passage; read about that doctrine; summarize the big picture of the doctrine and how the teaching of your passage fits within that big picture

Answer the export question: Identify a major doctrine in your passage; summarize what particular contribution your passage makes to that doctrine



COVENANTAL HORIZON BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

Goal: To correctly place a passage of Scripture within the biblical story, so we can see and savor how it points to Jesus

Two Questions

The temporal question: When does my passage take place within the plotline of redemptive history?

The thematic question: What theme in my passage should I trace thru the plotline of redemptive history?

Principles and Process

Find good resources, read, and rummage

Answer the temporal question: correctly place your passage on the biblical timeline

Answer the thematic question: identify a theme, then explore it



CONFESSIONAL HORIZON HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Goal: To employ centuries of Christian thought to shape our interpretation of the Bible and protect us from error

Two Types of Resources

Identify markers

Read creeds, confessions, and catechisms
Reference them when studying Scripture

Ask mentors

Read great Christian authors from the past
Reference them when studying Scripture



CONTEMPORARY HORIZON PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Goal: To glorify God by responding rightly to his Word

Build a Bridge Using the First Four Horizons

Cross the Bridge in Two Directions

The relevance lane: applying the teaching of the Bible to my world

Respond to the seven types of instruction: rules, ideals, doctrines, redemptive/exemplary acts in narratives, biblical images, songs & prayers

The question lane: bringing a question from my world to the teaching of the Bible

Use Caution When Crossing

Examine the exegetical foundations
Engage with the Covenantal and Canonical Horizons
Evaluate the application's authority