

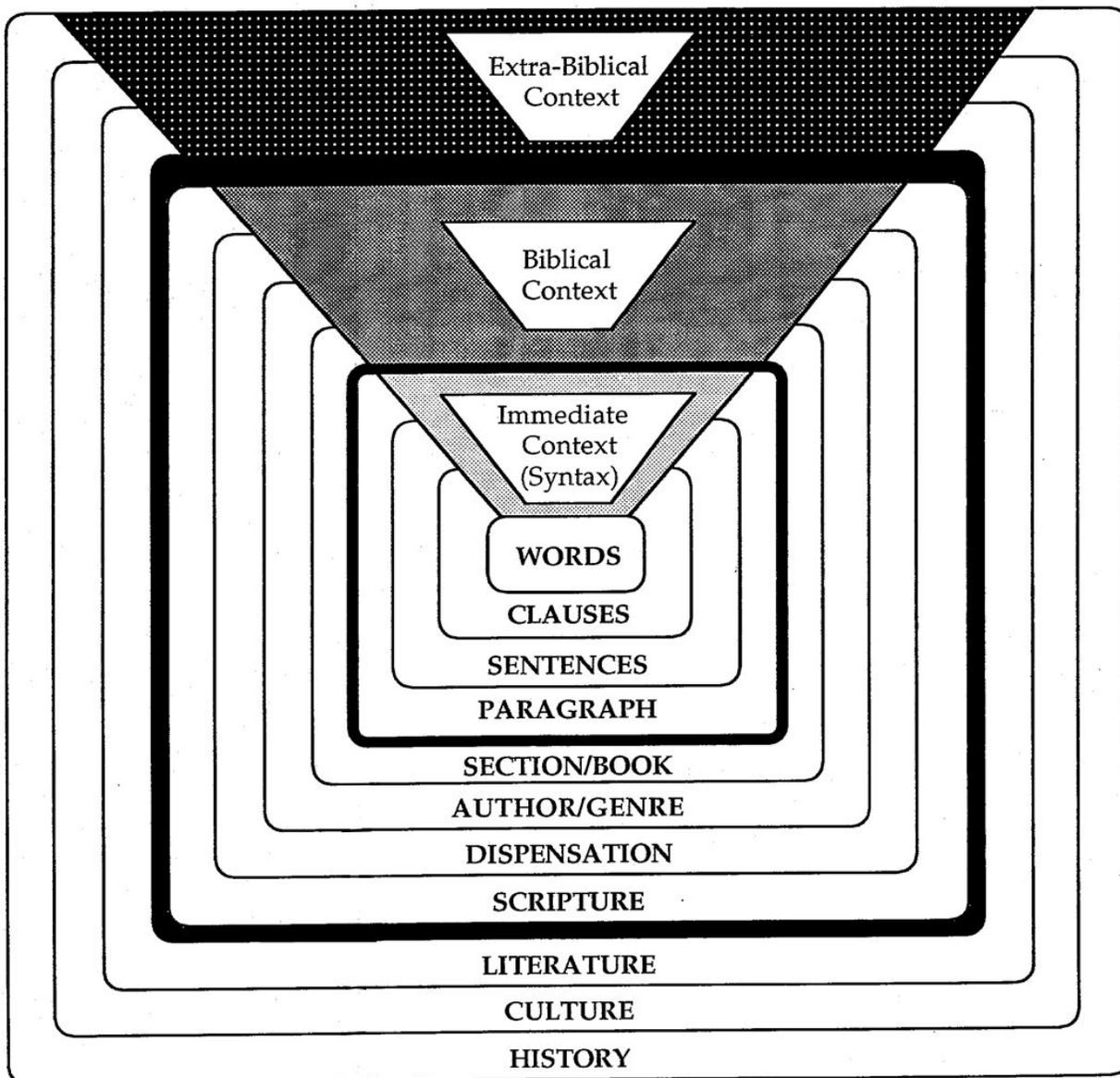
The Problem of Interpretation:

"The problem of interpretation is the problem of re-creation" Robert Traina

Webster defines "re-creation" as the giving of fresh life to something. To re-create the Scriptures, then, is to _____ them in such a way as to cause the written word to become the _____ word. This is accomplished through empathy, that is, "the imaginative project of one's own consciousness into another being." ...re-creation involves such a complete identification of the interpreter with the authors of the Bible that he relives the experiences which were entailed in its writing. It means recapturing the _____, _____, _____, and _____ of its writers and those concerning whom they wrote."

Robert Traina

THE PROCESS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION



How?

The Question as the _____ to Interpretation!

1. **Interpretive _____**: based on the observations of terms, structure, literary forms, and atmosphere

“How To Read a Book” advertisement Mortimer J. Adler. Appeared in the New York times April 10, 1940.

How To Read a Love Letter

“This young man has just received his first love letter. He may have read it three or four times, but he is just beginning. To read it as accurately as he would like, would require several dictionaries and a good deal of close work with a few experts of etymology and philology.

However, he will do all right without them. He will ponder over the exact shade of meaning of every word, every comma. She has headed the letter ‘Dear John’. What, he asks himself, is the exact significance of those words? Did she refrain from saying ‘Dearest’ because she was bashful? Would ‘My Dear’ have sounded too formal?

Jeepers, maybe she would have said ‘Dear So-and-So’ to anybody!

*A worried frown will now appear on his face, but it disappears as soon as he really gets to thinking about the first sentence. She certainly wouldn’t have written **that** to anybody!*

And so he works his way through the letter, one moment perched blissfully on a cloud, the next moment huddled miserably behind an eight-ball. He could quote it by heart. In fact, he will - to himself - for weeks to come.”

2. **Interpretive _____**: Hazards to Avoid

- _____
- _____ the Text
- _____
- _____

3. **Interpretive _____**: Weave the answers together to arrive at the main message of the passage

The Major Phases of Interpretative Questioning:

- _____ **Phase**: discovering the basic _____ of the particulars of a passage.
- _____ **Phase**: discover the _____ which underlie the particulars of a passage.
 - General reasons: Why biblical statements are made
 - Immediate reasons: Their relevance to their literary context and specific historical situations
- _____ **Phase**: A statement always _____ more than it says explicitly.

The Question as the Key to Interpretation?

	Definitive Phase <i>What does it mean?</i>	Rational Phase <i>Why is this said here?</i>	Implicational Phase <i>What is the significance?</i>
Terms <i>Term-al</i>	<p>What is meant by the term _____?</p> <p>How often does it function in this sentence?</p> <p>What keywords need study?</p>	<p>Why was this term used?</p> <p>Why was this term used here?</p> <p>Why wasn't another term used instead?</p>	<p>What are the dominant truths taught in this passage?</p> <p>What do these truths imply about how God acts or wants believers to act?</p>
Structure <i>Structural</i>	<p>What kind of sentence is this?</p> <p>What laws of structure are used? Contrast cause/effect Comparison ?/answer Repetition general/specific Proportion climax</p> <p>What are the major connecting words?</p>	<p>Why is this style of sentence used?</p> <p>What are the causes, effects, or purposes reflected in this clause?</p> <p>Why is this order of words, phrases and clauses used?</p> <p>Why are the stated relationships as they are?</p>	<p>What are the abiding truths taught in the main statements?</p> <p>What major motivations or promises do the subordinate clauses reveal?</p> <p>What major ideas are emphasized by the order of the words or phrases?</p> <p>What limitations are found?</p>
Literary Form <i>Form-al</i>	<p>What literary form is used?</p> <p>What are its characteristics?</p> <p>How does this literary form convey the meaning of the author?</p> <p>Is the language literal or figurative?</p>	<p>Why is this the best literary form for this truth?</p> <p>Why are the figures used as they are?</p>	<p>What is the significance of this form of literature as related to the truth conveyed?</p> <p>What light is shed on the truth by the figures of speech employed?</p>
Atmosphere <i>Atmospheric</i>	<p>What aspects of the passage reveal the atmosphere?</p> <p>What emotional words are used?</p> <p>How is the author's attitude developed in the text? The reader's attitude?</p>	<p>Why does this atmosphere dominate the passage?</p> <p>Are there any historical reasons for the present frame of mind for the author or readers?</p>	<p>What is the significance of atmosphere to the argument of the passage?</p> <p>What is the major tenor of the passage?</p>

Asking Interpretive Questions?

Observations		Interpretive Questions
Verse	Notes	Notes
1:8	“Holy Spirit” named for 3rd person of God head instead of another name or title	Who is the “Holy Spirit”? (D-t) Why is it used instead of another name like “comforter”? (R-t)
1:8	“Witnesses” is qualified by the possessive pronoun “my”.	What is involved in the relationship implied by “my”? (D-s) Why this emphasis on personal possession? (R-s)
1:8	“Will receive power” is unequivocal declaration	What is the nature of “power”? (D-t) Why does the author begin with this declaration of fact? (R-s) What are the implications of such a beginning? (IMP-s) What are the implications of the word “power”? (IMP-t)
1:8	Repetition of the word “and”	Why is the conjunction “and” used instead of “or”? (R-t) Why does the author repeat the word “and”? (R-s) What are the implications of this repetition? (IMP-s)
Ps 1:1	The Psalmist employs the negative “Does not” and repeats “nor” 2 times	Why does the writer start with the negative instead of the positive of vs 2? (R-s) What are the implications of starting with a negative command? (IMP-s)
Ps 1:2	Psalmist uses the word “meditates” not study	What is the nature of “meditates”? (D-t) Why the word meditate and not study or learn? (R-t)
Ps 1:2	Psalmist describes God’s word as “the law of the Lord.”	Why does the writer use “law”? (R-t) What are the implications of “law” on the atmosphere of the verse? (IMP-a)
Ps 1:3	Psalmist uses simile of “tree” to illustrate man who “delights in law”.	Why use “tree” to illustrate man who “delights in law”? (R-t) Implications of using picture of “tree”? (IMP-s)
Ps 1:3	Psalmist says the tree is “planted” in the figurative sense	What is the connotation of “planted” in the figurative sense? (D-s)
Ps 1:4	Psalmist says the tree will “yield fruit” in the figurative sense	Why the picture of “fruit”? (R-t) What is implied by a tree yielding “fruit” (IMP-s)
Acts 1:8 and Psalm 1		

Barriers:

- Historical
- Cultural
- Language
- Chronological
- Literary
- Geographical

Tools:

- Bible Handbooks
- Bible Dictionary
- Concordance/Lexicon
- Timelines
- Commentary
- Atlas

Assumptions:

- Use the cross references _____
- Read the _____ book through several times

Online Tools:

- Bibleatlas.org
- Biblehub.com
- Biblestudytools.com/concordances/
- Blueletterbible.org
- Timeline.biblehistory.com
- Logos
- Accordance