

Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture

Session One

The Vine Illustration

Read **John 15:1-8** What is the secret of success?

Read **John 4:32-35** What is Jesus' food?

Interpreting Scripture and Applying Correct Meaning

Why is it important to give correct meaning to scripture?

What are the many things that affect the meaning we attach to things?

1: _____

2: _____

Story/Narrative (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah, and possibly Acts); **Psalms/Song/Poetry** (Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations); **Wisdom/Proverb** (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes); **Letter/Epistle** (Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, (possibly Hebrews), James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John and Jude. **Prophecy** (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi); **Gospel** (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John); or **End Times/Apocalyptic** (Daniel and Revelation of Jesus Christ).

3: _____

4: _____

5: _____

What are the six words that are questions?

1: _____ 2: _____

3: _____ 4: _____

5: _____ 6: _____

Read **Matthew 7:15-23** Who are the people in these verses? _____

Who is talking? _____

Who is He talking to? (Read Matthew 5:1) _____

Who is He talking about? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Matthew, the New Testament and the whole Bible?

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

What are the main points we need to keep in mind when applying correct meaning to scripture?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

5: _____

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Session Two

Style of Writing

Story/Narrative/Parable

(Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah and possibly Acts).

What makes these books that style?

God in His wisdom used the same method of communication the people of that time were using. Through the Bible, God is telling His story, revealing who He is and His plan since before the beginning of the world.

What are the three levels of communication within the stories/narratives in the Bible?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

Read **Genesis 1:1-2:3**. **Who** are the people in these verses? _____

Who is talking? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What did God create each day?

1: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____

4: _____ 5: _____ 6: _____

What is the system in the order that God created? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Genesis, the Old Testament and the whole Bible?

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

Read **Genesis 1:26** and **Genesis 3:22** and **Genesis 11:7** and **Isaiah 6:8**

How does God refer to Himself in these four verses of scripture? _____

What do we think God is revealing to us? _____

What is God and man's relationship in **Genesis 1:6-28**, **Genesis 2:8-9** and **Genesis 2:15**?

What is God and man's relationship in **Genesis 3:22-24**?

What is God and man's relationship in **Genesis 11:1-8**?

What is God and man's relationship in **Isaiah 6:8-10**?

Read **John 1:1-14** and **1 John 1:1-4** and **Matthew 28:19** and **1 John 5:6-7**

What do we learn about God from these scripture verses?

Back to **Genesis 1:1-2:3** What do we learn about God from this scripture verse?

What is the level of communication within this story? _____

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Study 1: The Story of the Two Trees. Genesis 2:3-24. Study 2: The Story of the Fall of Man. Genesis 3:1-24. Study 3: The Story of the Tower of Babel. Genesis 11:1-9. Study 4: The Story of the Call of Abraham. Genesis 12:1-9. Study 5: The Story of Abraham and Isaac. Genesis 22:1-18.

Who are the people in these verses? _____

Who is talking? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

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What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Genesis, the Old Testament and the whole Bible?

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from the scripture? _____

What is the level of communication within this story? _____

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Psalms/Songs/Poetry.

(Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations).

What makes these books that style?

What are the 8 types of Psalms/songs/poetry?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

5: _____

6: _____

7: _____

8: _____

Read **Psalm 3**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 12**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 23**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 47**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 67**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 49**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 78**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 100**. What type of Psalm is it? _____

Read **Psalm 1**

Who are the people in these verses? _____

Who is talking? _____

Who is he talking about? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Psalms, the Old Testament and the whole Bible?

Where did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from the scripture? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture

Session Three

Style of Writing

Wisdom

(Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes).

What makes these books that style?

Read **Proverbs 8:22-32**. **Who** are the people in these verses? _____

Who is talking? Read **Proverbs 1:1** _____

Back to **Proverbs 8:22-31**

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Proverbs. Read **Proverbs 8:12-22** and

Proverbs 1:1-7 _____

What is the context of the Old Testament and the whole Bible? _____

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from this scripture?

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Prophecy/Prophets

(Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi).

What makes these books that style?

What is the main role of a prophet? _____

What period of time do prophets mostly deal with? _____

In reading prophecy it is important to remember Jesus fulfils the mission and the destiny of Israel.

Read **Isaiah 49:1-13** **Who** are the people in these verses? _____

Who is the servant? _____

Who is talking? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Isaiah? Read **Isaiah 1:1**, **Isaiah 6:8-13** and **Isaiah 42:1-9**, **Isaiah 48-49**, and **Isaiah 53** _____

Back to **Isaiah 49** and especially verse 6.

What is the context of the Old Testament and the whole Bible?

Read **Genesis 12:1-3** and **Genesis 22:18** Whose call does the servant fulfil? _____

Read **Exodus 19:5-6** Whose call does the servant fulfil? _____

After Jesus' death and resurrection God's eternal plan is carried on by His Spirit through the apostles. Read **Acts 13:47** and **Acts 26:22-23**.

Jesus fulfils the mission of Israel and the destiny of Israel. Jesus fulfils the mission of the Gentiles and the destiny of the Gentiles.

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from this scripture?

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Jesus fulfils the mission of Israel and the destiny of Israel.

Read **Isaiah 11:1-9** **Who** are the people in these verses? _____

Who is the Rod and **who** is the Branch? _____

Who is talking? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the main role of the prophet? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, book of Isaiah? **Isaiah 10** _____

Isaiah 12 _____

What is the context of the Old Testament and the whole Bible? _____

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? Read **Isaiah 1:1**, **2 Kings 15:32-37** and **2 Kings 16:2-6** _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from this scripture?

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

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Session Four

Style of Writing

Gospels

(Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

What makes these books that style?

Why are there differences in each Gospel? _____

Many believe that the Gospel of Matthew was written to the Jews because of the content.

Read **Matthew 1:1** Why do you think Matthew would start with David and Abraham?

Read **Matthew 4:5** Why do you think Matthew does not say what the holy city is?

What are some of the content in the Gospel of Matthew that is from a Jewish viewpoint?

What is a summary of Matthew's portrait of Jesus?

According to the Gospel of Matthew what is the title used for Jesus that reflects Jesus as the Jewish King?

Many believe Mark was written to Gentile Christians because of the content.

Read **Mark 1:1-8** Why do you think Mark uses two quotes of scripture together to reveal John the Baptist's role and witness?

Read **Mark 7:2-4** Why do you think Mark explains the Jewish custom?

Read **Mark 13:3** compare with **Matthew 24:3** and **Luke 21:7**. What are the differences?

Mark does not include any genealogy or origin of Jesus.

What is a summary of Mark's portrait of Jesus?

According to the Gospel of Mark what is the title used for Jesus that reflects Jesus as the anointed servant of God?

Many believe that Luke was written to Gentiles and Jews because of the content. (Luke was not an eyewitness but used eyewitness testimony).

Read **Luke 1:1-4** What do we learn about Luke's reason for writing and Theophilus from this passage? _____

Luke includes a genealogy of Jesus as a man.

What is a summary of Luke's portrait of Jesus?

According to the Gospel of Luke what is the title used for Jesus that reflects Jesus as the compassionate, anointed man of God?

Read **John 20:31** Why has John written The Gospel of John? _____

The Gospel of John is a powerful presentation of Jesus as God who became flesh and blood. John is concerned about right belief and revealing who Jesus is and the Father.

Read **John 1:1-2** Who is the Word? _____

Compare **John 1:1** with **Genesis 1:1** What do both verses have the same? _____

Notes on the word *God* _____

'...and the Word was with God.' What does this statement show us about God? _____

Read **John 1:14** Who became flesh? _____

Notes on the word *begotten* _____

Read **John 8:48-59** Who is Jesus talking to? _____

Read **verse 58** again and **Exodus 3:14** Who does God say He is? _____

In **John 8:59** Why do you think the Jews wanted to stone Jesus? Read **Leviticus 24:16**

Notes on context _____

In the context of the Gospels Jesus received worship and forgave sins both of which only God can do. John is concerned with correct believing... believing that Jesus is the Son of God. His intended meaning of the Son of God is: God became flesh and blood in that moment in history, to be our flesh and blood sacrifice, so we can be born of Spirit. John also wanted to reveal the relationship within the Godhead, to reveal the Father and Holy Spirit.

John includes origin of Jesus as eternal.

What is a summary of John's portrait of Jesus?

According to the Gospel of John what is the title used for Jesus that reflects Jesus as God?

Each Gospel is part of God's story and plan. Together with Luke's portrait of the *Son of Man*, with Matthew's portrait of the *promised Jewish King*, Mark's portrait of the *anointed Servant* and John's portrait of *God who became flesh* we get a greater revelation of who God is and what He has done.

Why is it important to know who the intended reader is and the purpose for writing the Gospel?

The Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven

What is the Kingdom of God? _____

First scripture referring to the Kingdom in the New Testament in each Gospel

Read **Matthew 3:2** and **Matthew 4:17**. Kingdom of? _____

Read **Mark 1:14-15** Kingdom of? _____

Read **Luke 4:43** Kingdom of? _____

Read **John 3:3-6** Kingdom of? _____

Is the Kingdom of God the same as the Kingdom of Heaven? _____

Read **Luke 4:18-19** **Who** are the people? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

For the context of the Gospels read **Matthew 11:3-5**. Remember John the Baptist said, repent the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Jesus said He must preach the Kingdom of God.

What is the context of the Old Testament? **Isaiah 61:1-2**

What did Jesus tell John was the evidence that the Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven had come on earth? _____

Where did this happen? _____

What is historical context? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from this scripture? _____

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

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Session Five

Style of Writing

Letters/Epistles

(Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, (possibly Hebrews), James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John and Jude.)

What makes these books that style?

- 1: _____
 - 2: _____
 - 3: _____
- _____

What is important to do when interpreting the letters? _____

Read **Ephesians 5:21-33**.

Who are the people? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What do we know about the church at Ephesus?

Read **Acts 18:18-21** _____

Read **Acts 19:5-10** _____

Read **Acts 19:18-20** _____

Read **Acts 19:26-28** and **19:35-36** _____

Read **Acts 20:28-30** _____

Read **Revelation 2:1-7** _____

What is the style of writing of Ephesians? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, the book of Ephesians? Read **Ephesians 1:9-10**

What is the context to the rest of the New Testament and the whole Bible? Remember God wants to reveal Himself and His plan.

Read **Genesis 2:19-20** Did God create man and woman equal or unequal? _____

Read **Genesis 3:16-17** After the fall are man and woman equal or unequal? _____

Read **Genesis 4:7** **What** does *desire* mean in this context? _____

What does *rule over* mean in this context? _____

Back to **Ephesians 5:21-33**

What does *submit* mean in this context? _____

What does *love* mean in this context? _____

Where did this happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from the scripture? _____

What is specific for that culture and what is still relevant to us today? _____

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Read **1 Timothy 2:8-14**

In the Jewish culture of the times, women were not taught, or allowed to teach. However the early church, through Paul's ministry, was growing into the revelation of the Kingdom of God here on earth, where both Jew and Gentile, male and female in Christ are equal. Paul was giving instruction to Timothy regarding such issues.

In **verse 11** what does Paul instruct Timothy to do? _____

In what attitude of heart is Paul saying women should learn? _____

In **verse 12** what does Paul say he does not permit? _____

What does *have authority over* mean in this context? _____

Remember Paul's main concern about the church in Ephesus is false teaching. In this context in verse 14 why does Paul link creation and the fall of man with the present situation?

What is one thing we can learn about God from the scripture? _____

What is specific for that culture and what is still relevant to us today? _____

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

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Session Six

Style of Writing

End Times/Apocalyptic

(Daniel and The Revelation of Jesus Christ).

What makes these books that style?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

What are some problems with interpreting end times writing?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

We need to read Daniel to help us try and understand the book of The Revelation of Jesus.

The book of Daniel is written to proclaim the God of Israel is sovereign and God's ultimate plan for His Kingdom. The book of Revelation is written to reveal Jesus, it is the Revelation of Jesus and God's plan for His Kingdom.

Read **Daniel 7:9-14**

Who are the people? _____

How do the people interact? _____

What is the style of writing? _____

What is the context of the chapter/s, the book of Daniel, the book of The Revelation of Jesus and the whole Bible? Remember God wants to reveal Himself and His plan. _____

Read **Daniel 7:10 Revelation 20:11-12** What is the same in both verses? _____

Read **Daniel 7:13 Revelation 1:7 (Matthew 24:30)** **Who** is coming on the clouds? _____

Read **Daniel 7:14 Revelation 5:8-14 Revelation 17:14 Revelation 19:16** **Who** is the King of this kingdom? _____

Read **Daniel 7:17-18, 7:21-22 and 7:25-28** **Who** shall be given the kingdom by the king?

Revelation 2:26-27 **Who** shall be given the kingdom, by the king and have power over the nations? _____

Where did the prophecy given to Daniel happen? _____

Where did the prophecy given to John happen? _____

When did it happen? The historical context? _____

Why was it written? _____

What is one thing we can learn about God from the scripture? _____

What are some of the things that are the same today? _____

What does that mean for us today? _____

Style of Writing

Style of Speech

List some of the speech styles used in the Bible to communicate the intended message.

1: _____ Example: **Luke 10:3**

2: _____ Example **Luke 19:11-27**

3: _____ Example **Isaiah 40:11**

4: _____ Example **Luke 5:31-32**

5: _____ Example **Ephesians 6:10-17**

6: _____ Example **Numbers 21:4-9**

_____ Example **John 3:14-15**

Summary and Basic Principles

What are the main points we need to keep in mind when applying correct meaning to scripture?

- 1: Relationships - The person speaking, the person spoken to and the person spoken about.
- 2: The Literary Style or Style of Writing.
- 3: Part of God's Story – Small part of the big picture.
- 4: The Culture – At time of writing.
- 5: The Writers Reason For Writing The Text.

How do we find out these things?

Ask these questions of the text

- 1: Who are the people? How do the people interact?
- 2: What is the style of writing and the method of interpreting to apply?
- 3: What is the rest of the chapter saying, the chapter before, the chapter after, the whole book and the whole Bible?
- 4: Where did it happen?
- 5: When did it happen?
- 5: Why was it written?
- 6: What is one thing we learn about God from the scripture?
- 7: What are some of the things that are the same today?
- 8: What does it mean for us today?