

Hermeneutics Week 3 - How to Read in Context (Handout)

Things to Look for in Paragraphs

1. _____ & _____
 - a. Galatians 5:16-21a = _____ → _____
 - b. Romans 12:9-13 = _____ → _____
2. _____ & _____
 - a. Romans 3:1, 5, 9, 27-31; 4:1, 9; 6:15; 7:1, 7, 13; 8:31-31; 11:1, 7, 11.
 - b. Mark 2:1-3:6
3. _____
 - a. Questions to ask of the dialogue.
 - i. Who are the participants? Who is speaking to whom? What is the setting?
 - ii. Are other people around? Are they listening? Are they participating in the dialogue?
 - iii. Is the dialogue... an argument?...a discussion?...a lecture?...a friendly chat?
 - iv. What is the point of the dialogue?
 - b. The Woman at the Well (John 4), Jesus washing Peter's feet (John 13:6-10), Habakkuk.
4. _____ / _____ Statements
 - a. Phrases or sentences that describe the reason, result, or consequence of some action.
 - b. They are frequently introduced by conjunctions like "that," "in order that," or "so that."
 - i. "For God so loved the world **that** he gave his one and only Son."
Reason → "that" → Consequence
5. _____ (by which something is accomplished)
 - a. When an action, a result, or a purpose is stated, look for the means that brings about that action, result, or purpose.
 - i. How is the action or result brought into reality?
 - ii. How is the purpose accomplished?

- b. Romans 8:13 - Means = The *means* by which the misdeeds of the body are put to death in *the Spirit*.
- c. Psalm 119:9 - The purpose or action desired is for a young person to stay on the path of purity. What is the *means*? Living according to God's Word.

6. _____

- a. These are clauses that present the condition whereby some action, consequence, reality, or result will happen.
 - i. The conditional aspect will usually be introduced by the conjunction "if." The resultant action/consequence will be introduced by "then."
 - ii. "If" *this*, "then" *that*.
- b. 1 John 1:6 "*If* we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, [*then*] we lie and do not live out the truth."
 - i. Condition: If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness...
 - ii. Result/Consequence: We lie and do not live out the truth.

7. The _____ / _____ of People & the _____ / _____ of God

- a. Questions to ask:
 - i. What does God (Father, Son, or Spirit) do in this passage?
 - ii. What do people do in this passage?
 - iii. Are there any connections between what God does & what we do in this passage?
- b. Ephesians 5:1-2
 - i. Our role: imitate God the Father as a child imitates and live a life of love like the Son.
 - ii. God's role: Father/Son are to be imitated and the Son offered himself up to the Father for us.

8. _____

- a. The Bible is a book about relationships, primarily relationships between God and people.
- b. Galatians 4:12-16
- c. Jeremiah 3:9-20

9. _____
 - a. Colossians 3:1-4 vs. Galatians 3:1-4
 - b. In Colossians, Paul is using a calm, explanatory tone, however in Galatians he is chiding or scolding.

How to Read the Book - Discourses

1. _____ refers to units of connected text that are _____ than _____.

Things to look for in Discourses

1. Connections between _____ & _____
 - a. Mark 8:22-26,
2. Story Shifts: Major _____ & _____
 - a. Ephesians 1-3 = _____
 - b. Ephesians 4-6 = _____
3. _____ - a literary device, used primarily in narrative, that involves contrasting or comparing two stories at the same time as part of the overall story development.
 - a. Acts 1-7 = Peter, 7:58-8:1-3 = Paul, 8:14-25 = Peter, 9:1-30 = Paul, 11:19-30 & 12:1-19 = Peter, 13-28 = Paul
4. _____ - a literary feature that consists of a list of items, ideas, or events structured so that the first item parallels the last item, the second item parallels the second to last item, and so on.
 - a. Simple: Psalm 76:1
 - b. Complex: Genesis 11:1-9
5. _____ - literary technique in which a passage has the same or a similar word, statement, event, or theme at the beginning and at the end.
 - a. Psalm 8

Further Study: Journey Into God's Word: Your Guide to Understanding and Applying the Bible by Duvall and Hays—we are using this book and the longer version of it Grasping God's Word significantly. Consider purchasing Journey Into God's Word.

Genesis 11:1-9

1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.

4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.

6 And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."

8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.