



# Rules of Interpretation

HERMENEUTICS/HERMENEUTICEIT



# Definition of Hermeneutics

The art or science of the interpretation of literature. Any and all literature.



*What Kind of Hermeneutic*

HISTORICAL

GRAMMATICAL

LITERAL

# The 7 basic Rules of Interpretation

## 1. Follow the customary usage of the Language

- Written down for us.
- With normal grammatical usage of words and concepts, he communicates his word to us.
- The common use of the language.

## 2. *Commit no historical or cultural error.*

- Three different languages: Hebrew, Chaldean, Greek
- By over 40 different authors
- Over a period of 1500 years
- On 3 different continents

### 3. Make Jesus Christ central in all interpretation

- The Messiah is the central figure throughout the Bible.
- The first Messianic prophecy is in Genesis 3:15

**And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

## *4. Always remain conscious of the context*

- Psalm 14:1 There is no God.
- Matthew 4:6 The devil quotes from Psalm 91:11-12
- Some teachers do the same thing today, looking to make their point.
- John 14:14 If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.

## *5. Let the context interpret itself*

- Simply put: Let scripture interpret scripture.
- Rev. 12:1-3 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven, behold a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.



## *Who is that great red dragon?*

- Some suggest it's the Antichrist; some: the False Prophet; some suggest it's the devil; some suggest it's the One World Church.
- Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

## *The 7 candlesticks & 7 stars*

- Rev. 1: Some suggest they represent the tribulation period. Some say they are 7 of the worst Roman Emperors; some say they are the church leaders.
- Rev. 1:20 ...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

# *God is too big to Contradict himself*

- Many today believe and teach that the Bible is full of contradictions.
- The Bible is God's written word. The Bible does NOT contradict itself.
- Therefore, every interpretation we come up with must be in harmony with the uniform teaching of God's word. ALL OF GOD'S WORD !!!!

# *PERSPECTIVE vs. CONTRADICTION*

- Perspective: the state of one's ideas, the facts known to an individual.
- Crime scene: interview with 4 eye witnesses.

## *Four Gospels: Perspective*

- *Matthew*: Shows Jesus as the Messiah and true King of Israel
- *Mark*: shows Jesus as the suffering servant Messiah.
- *Luke*: shows Jesus as God being fully human; a man
- *John*: shows Jesus as fully God almighty.

## *6. Recognize the progress of revelation*

- God's word unfolds to man progressively throughout the pages of Scripture.
- Like sitting high on a hill watching the sunrise.
- Looking out and seeing mountain tops in the distance. Can't see the valleys in between.

## *7. When alternative interpretations seem plausible*

- Choose the simplest & most credible alternative.
- Must be based on the rest of Scripture.
- Must be logical, rational and valid.

## *The Bible uses symbols.*

- It's a symbol when the immediate context says so
- It's a symbol with it is truly impossible in reality

### *Examples*

- Woman riding 7 headed beast Rev. 17
- She symbolizes false religion: beast: world govt.



# *The Bible uses “Types”*

Def: An OT institution, event, person, object or ceremony which has a reality and purpose in Biblical history, but which also by divine design foreshadows something yet to be revealed.

## *Examples*

- The Passover Ex. 12, Leaven: evil or sin
- Brass Serpent Numbers 21: Jesus says: John 3:14.



*We NEVER base doctrines on*  
*“types” ALONE!!!!!!*

## *The Bible uses Analogy*

Def: Similarity in some respects between things that are otherwise dissimilar.

### *Example:*

- Jesus gives analogy of a grain of wheat being planted in the ground and dying to produce more wheat. *John 12:24* Truly, truly I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

## *The Bible uses Metaphors*

- Def: A figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another. As in “a sea of troubles.”

### *Example:*

- Luke 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again, and was lost, and is found.