

# Hermeneutics: The Rules of Interpretation

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**The Hermeneutic** that we use is: The Historical;  
Grammatical; Literal: Rules of Interpretation:

- **(1) *Always follow the customary use of the Language:***  
God chose the medium of written language to communicate His Word to us! So God using the normal and grammatical usage of the words and concepts.
- **(2) *Commit no Historical Blunder:*** God's Word is written in 3 different languages: Hebrew; Aramaic; Greek: It was written over a period of 1,500 years: by 40 different authors; on three different continents: so we must be careful to study the history as well as the culture to understand the context.
- **(3) *Jesus Christ must be central in all Interpretations:***  
this is what God's Word is all about. The Messiah is the central figure of the entire Bible. 1<sup>st</sup> Messianic prophecy is in Genesis 3:15
- **(4) *Always remain conscious of Context:*** There is no God: Psalm 14:1 ... when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness the devil purposely mis-quoted scripture: out of context.
- **(5) *Whenever possible: always let Scripture interpret Scripture:*** The Bible: God's Word; never contradicts itself. So any interpretation you come up with should be in harmony with the rest of Scripture.

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- **(6) *Recognize the progress of Revelation:*** God's Word; unfolds to us progressively and gradually throughout the pages of Scripture: Kind of like; sitting on a really high mountaintop: and watching as the sun rises: you see the sun slowly lighting up the valleys below.
- Another illustration I like to use is this: standing on a high mountaintop, looking out across the valley and seeing another mountaintop in the distance; and another mountain further out and then another even further away. You can't clearly see how big the valleys are between those mountaintops; but you can see those tops . . . major events.
- **(7) *If it seems to be that there could be an alternative interpretation that is equally plausible:*** the rule is to choose the simplest and most credible alternative. Based on the rest of scripture.