

THE TEN MINUTE BIBLE STUDY AND SCRIPT ANALYSIS

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ASSUMPTION: God had prophets & apostles (His messengers) write His Word to genuinely be understood.

THE CAVEAT:

- 1) You first need to pray and submit your will to the Lord and ask Him for wisdom.
- 2) Second you need to dig deep and use all the basics of any linguistic study to understand what it says.

THE PRINCIPLE: Plain, normal, literal interpretation. I.e. Just like you speak in your daily language. The Bible gives stories, examples, & lessons. It may use metaphors like we do in ordinary speech, but the whole book or chapter or verse is not just a metaphor or allegory that you can interpret any way you want.

- 1) The writer of each book wrote to a SPECIFIC audience of his day.
- 2) What problems were that audience dealing with?. (historical and cultural background)
- 3) What did that particular author want to communicate to that audience in Plain, ordinary speech to help them with their problems. (original authorial intent)

THE GOAL:

- 1) Find out what the author intended the scripture to mean.
- 2) Once you know the meaning, then you can ask yourself how do I apply this to my life?

THE METHOD:

- 1) Determine Historical background of the book. What problems were the audience for the book dealing with in that day.
- 2) What is the author's overall message to them in the book as a whole; and then what were the overall messages of the individual chapters that the author was trying to communicate to that audience. i.e. What is the literary context of the verse. . (a text without a context is a pretext)
- 3) Study the verse in the context of the individual chapter it is in. How does it contribute to the meaning of that Chapter?
- 4) Look at the key, pivotal words (nouns and verbs) that determine the meaning of that verse and look them up in an English dictionary or a Bible dictionary.
- 5) Look at the grammar of the verse and how the individual thoughts are connected together (e.g. connectives like "because" "and" "by", the tense and voice of the verb)
- 6) Recognize any literary devices: metaphors (e.g. God takes us under His wings), repetition, contrast, comparison, cause-effect, climax or pivotal position.
- 7) Basically which ONE of three questions is this verse answering:

- **What** is something – how does the Bible define it. (e.g. sin = falling short of God's glory)
- **Why** is this happening, or should happen – (because you did this, that happens, or this should motivate you)
- **How** can you deal with this problem (this is a means to accomplish that)

- 8) What is the universal principle that we can learn from this message that still applies to us today.

CREATE A STORY TO ILLUSTRATE THE VERSE'S MESSAGE

Either use the story or parable that this verse describes as a basis for illustrating this verse. Or come up with your own story that illustrates the what, the why, or the how of this verse. e.g. the wages of sin is death = WHY death happens). Tell a story about 2 outlaws who think they can steal all they want & still cheat death. Show sin is the reason for their downfall. (eg Butch Cassidy & Sundance) Or maybe they don't die physically, but they die in other ways (e.g. relationships)

FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF STORIES TO ILLUSTRATE THE SAME PRINCIPLE:

A person - doing the right thing to start with, is tempted to do wrong, resists temptation, and is victorious. (Superman)

A person - doing the right thing to start with, is tempted to do wrong, gives in to temptation and is ruined (Godfather)

A person - doing the wrong thing to start with, has an opportunity to change, changes and is victorious. (Rocky, Juno)

A person - doing the wrong thing to start with, has the opportunity to change, does not change, and is ruined.(Butch Cassidy)

(NOTE: victory or ruin is not necessarily shown in cliché terms. E.g. Victory could simply be keeping one's integrity)