



Welcome

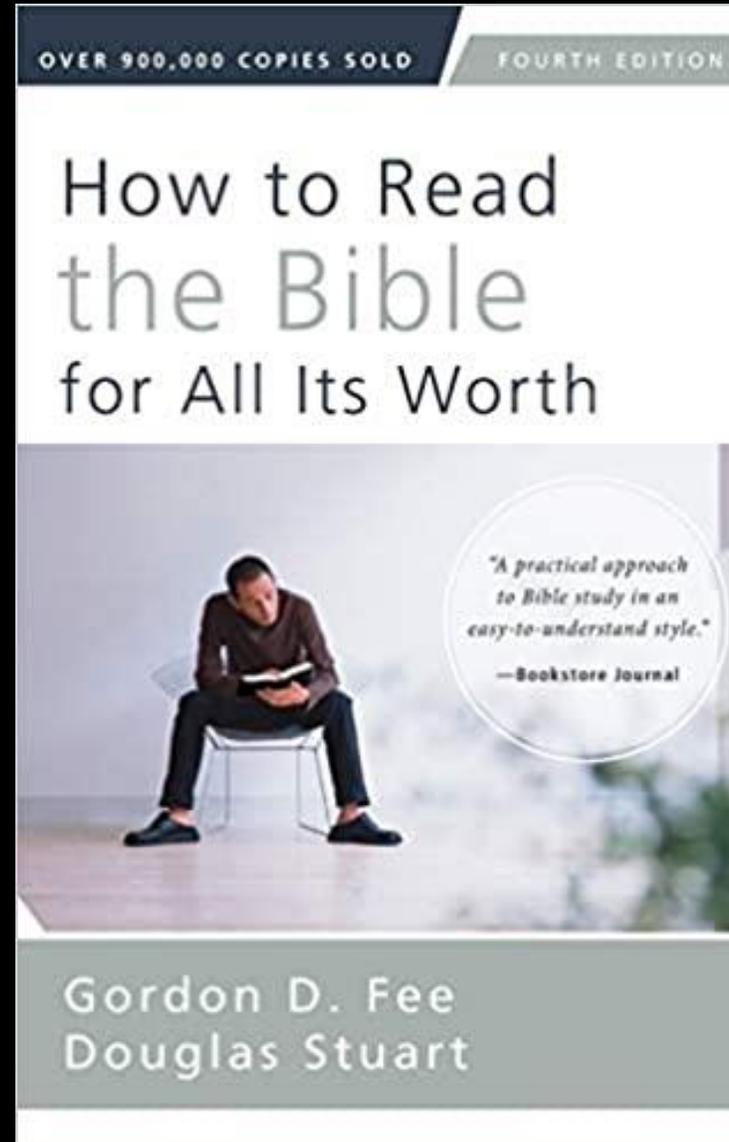
How to study the Bible

Session 2: The Epistles



How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart



ground rules:

- be present
- be interactive
- be curious

but first...
loose ends

steps to approaching the scriptures

step 1: OBSERVATION

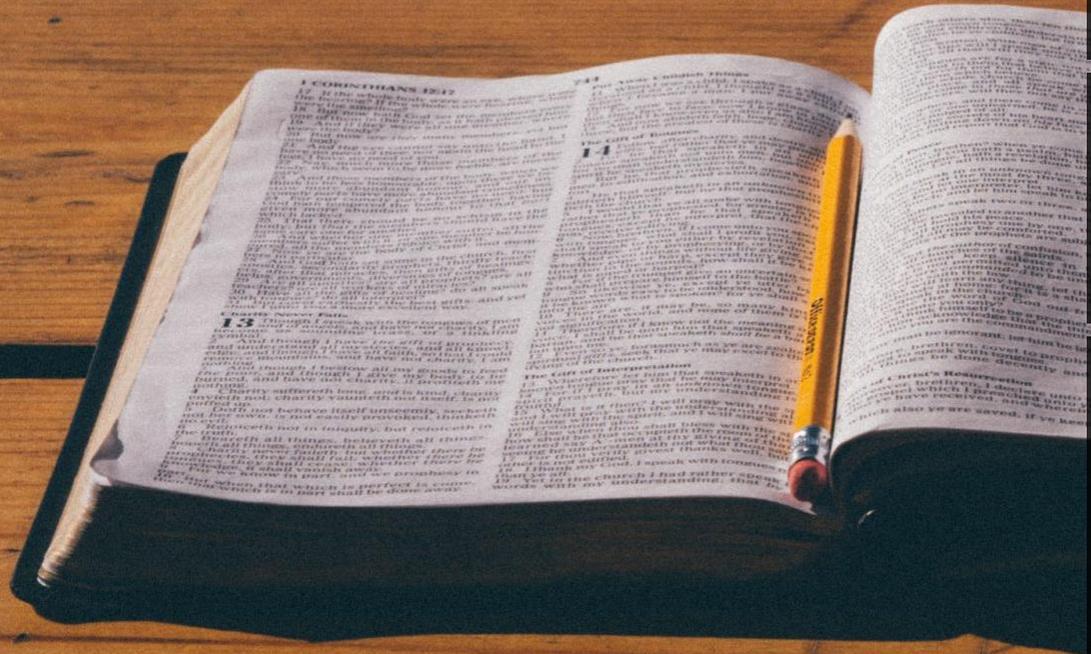
what does the passage say?

step 2: INTERPRETATION

what does the passage mean?

step 3: APPLICATION

what am I going to do about what the passage says and means?



what is an “Interlinear Bible”?

This version of the Bible includes the Hebrew and Greek texts with a direct English translation below each word.

It also includes "The Literal Translation of the Bible" in the outside column.



agenda:

- learning to think contextually
- hermeneutical questions & how do I apply them?

exegetis

is the exposition or explanation of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. It literally means “to lead out of.” The interpreter is led to his/her conclusions by following the text.

eisegeesis

is the opposite approach to Scripture. It is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word literally means “to lead into,” which means the interpreter injects his/her own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever he/she wants.

hermeneutics

the branch of **knowledge** that deals with **interpretation**, especially of the Bible or literary texts

hermeneutics

seeking contemporary meaning in ancient texts

Epistle

a book of the New Testament in
the form of a letter from an Apostle.

Epistle

1. name of the writer (e.g. Paul)
2. name of the recipient (e.g. the church of God in Corinth)
3. greeting (e.g. Grace to you and peace from God our Father)
4. prayer wish or thanksgiving (e.g. I always thank God for you)
5. body
6. final greeting and farewell (e.g. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.)

Epistle

1. occasional documents
(arising out of & intended for a specific occasion)
2. all were written in the first century

1

learning to think contextually

historical
context



take notes:

- o what do you notice about the audience?
- o what are Paul's attitudes?
- o what's the occasion of the letter?
- o what are the natural divisions of the letter?

Now concerning the matters
about which you wrote...

1 Corinthians 7:1a (ESV)

divisions in the church

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:10-12 (ESV)

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” ²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (ESV)

what's the point?



hermeneutical questions &
how do I apply them?

When you come, bring the cloak that I
left with Carpus at Troas, also the
books, and above all the parchments.

2 Timothy 4:13 (ESV)

Share in suffering as a
good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)

Does not nature itself teach you that
if a man wears long hair it is a
disgrace for him,
but if a woman has long hair, it is
her glory? For her hair is given to
her for a covering.

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 (ESV)



a text cannot mean
what it never could
have meant to its
author or readers

but when the perfect comes,
the partial will be done away

1 Corinthians 13:10 (NASB)

whenever we share
comparable particulars with
the first century hearers,
God's Word to us means
the same as it did to them



Put on then, as God's chosen
ones, holy and beloved,
compassionate hearts, kindness,
humility, meekness, and patience,

Colossians 3:12 (ESV)

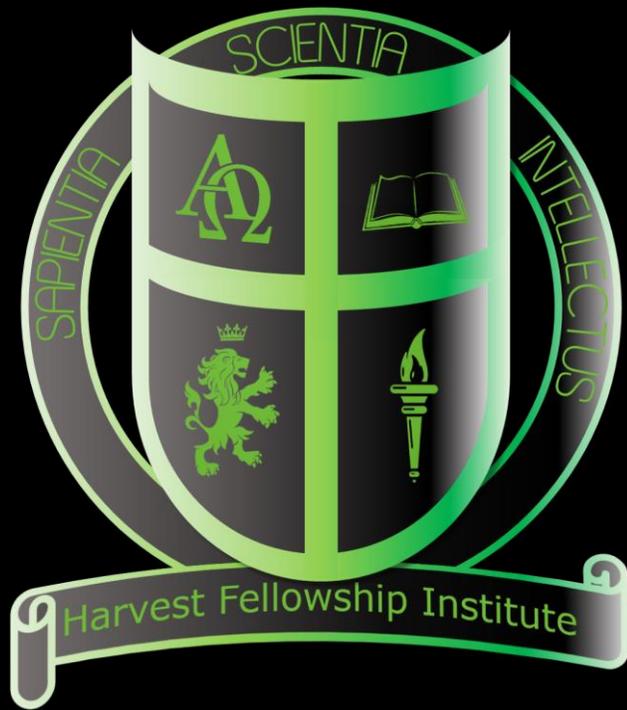
the problem of
extended application

the problem of
non-comparable particulars

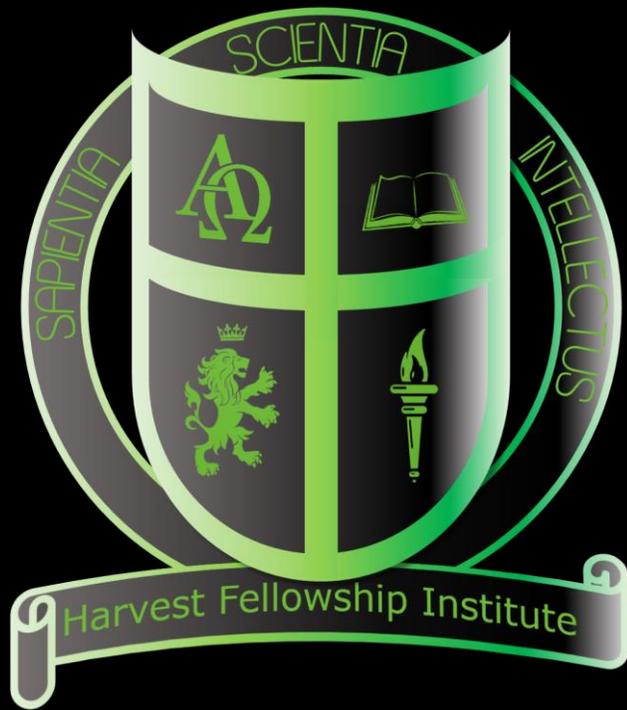
the problem of
cultural relativity

in essentials, unity;
in non-essentials, liberty;
in all things, charity

~ St. Augustine



Questions?



Week 3: The History

- the Old Testament narratives & their proper use
- the question of historical precedent