

## How To Interpret Scripture

### Lesson - 6 — Why is Interpretation Needed?

#### Memory Verse

**Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him..

#### Presuppositions

Presuppositions = A thing tacitly assumed beforehand at the beginning of a line of argument or course of action.

No one comes to the text of Scripture with a blank mind. Every reader, every student of Scripture, comes to the Bible with a particular history and personal experience that inevitably influence the process of interpretation.

**Matthew 16:21–23 (NKJV)** From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

**John 16:13 (NKJV)** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**Luke 24:19–21 (NKJV)** And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

**Acts 1:6 (NKJV)** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**Acts 3:17 (NKJV)** “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

#### On The “Lord’s day”

**Revelation 1:10 (NKJV)** I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

**Exodus 20:10** but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.

**Isaiah 58:13 (NKJV)** “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight,...

**Mark 2:28 (NKJV)** Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

#### Translation & Interpretation 3 “Truths”- 4 “Ones”

**John 17:17–22** Sanctify them by Your **truth**. Your word is **truth**. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the **truth**. <sup>20</sup> “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through **their word**; <sup>21</sup> that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may **be one** just as We are **one**:

The art and skill of carefully translating and then interpreting texts is called “hermeneutics.”

*Hermeneutics* (/ˌhɜːrməˈnjuːtɪks/) is the theory and methodology of interpretation, especially the interpretation of biblical texts, wisdom literature, and philosophical texts. Comes from the Greek word *hermeneuo*, derived from the Greek god Hermes. Hermes was considered to be an messenger of the gods, and as such was responsible for, among other things, translating divine messages for the people.

**2 Peter 1:20–21** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:7–8** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

**1 Corinthians 14:26** How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

#### The Bible and Culture

**1 Timothy 1:13 (NKJV)** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

#### Versus frequently misunderstood

##### The Rich Man and Lazarus

**Luke 23:43** (NKJV) *And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

**“Pardon not possible, to go to Siberia”**

**“Pardon, not possible to go to Siberia”**

**“No price too high!”**

**1 Corinthians 15:29** (NKJV) *Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?*

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**Acts 17:16–23** (NKJV) *Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? <sup>20</sup> For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup> For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. <sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; <sup>23</sup> for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:*

**Acts 18:24–26** (NKJV) *Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. <sup>25</sup> This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

**John 3:9–12** (NKJV) *Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?** <sup>11</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you,*

*We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*

### **Our Sinful and Fallen Nature**

**John 9:39–41** (NKJV) *And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” <sup>40</sup> Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.*

**John 12:42–43** (NKJV) *Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

### **Why Interpretation Is Important**

**Nehemiah 8:1–3, 8** (NKJV) *Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.... <sup>8</sup> So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.*

**2 Peter 3:15–17** (NKJV) *and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;*