



METHODICAL BIBLE STUDY AND HERMENEUTICS  
by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

## INTRODUCTION: INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Observation

Interpretation

Application

Correlation

### I. OBSERVATION

#### A. Introduction: Definition of Terms

#### B. Seeing the Whole: Going from the Whole to the Parts

1. Reading the Book
2. Categorize the Book
3. Epitomize the Book
4. Observation of Terms
5. Observation of Structure
  - a. Definition of Structure
  - b. Types of Structure
6. Observations of Literary Style
  - a. Prose Narrative
  - b. Discourse
  - c. The Epistles

- d. The Drama
- e. The Parable
- f. Poetry
- g. The Proverb
- h. The Apocalyptic

7. The Observation of the Atmosphere

8. The Observation of Words and Phrases

9. The Observation of Other Details to Look For

- a. Who is the Author and What is Known About Him?
- b. To Whom is he Writing and What can be Known About Them?
- c. Where was it Written?
- d. Why was it Written?

### C. Organizing the Clues: From Parts to the Whole

1. Identification and Definition of Important Terms

2. Grammatical and Literary Structure

a. Grammatical Structure

(1) Verbs

(a) Tense

(b) Mood

(c) Voice

(2) The Subject of the Verb

(3) The Object of the Verb

- (4) The Nouns
- (5) The Modifiers
- (6) Prepositional Phrases
- (7) Connectors
  - (a) Time
  - (b) Place Connectors
  - (c) Emphasis Connectors
  - (d) Reason Connectors
  - (e) Result Connectors
  - (f) Purpose Connectors
  - (g) Condition Connectors
  - (h) Contrast Connectors
  - (i) Comparison Connectors

b. Literary Structure

- (1) The Comparison
- (2) The Contrast
- (3) The Repetition
- (4) Introduction and Summarization
- (5) Explanation or Reason
- (6) Causation or Cause and Effect
- (7) Substantiation
- (8) Interrogation

- (9) Interchange
  - (10) Pivot or Change
  - (11) Proportion
  - (12) Purpose
  - (13) Question and Answer
  - (14) Climax
  - (15) The Specific to the General
  - (16) Generalization
  - (17) Particularization
  - (18) Instrumentation
  - (19) Illustration
  - (20) Admonitions and Imperatives
  - (21) Biographical
  - (22) Geographical
  - (23) Historical
  - (24) Chronological
  - (25) Ideological
- c. Figures of Speech
- (1) Simile
  - (2) Metaphor
  - (3) Personification
  - (4) Anthropomorphisms

- (5) Analogy
- (6) Irony
- (7) Hyperbole
- (8) The Paradox
- (9) A Synecdoche
- (10) Metonymy

d. Paragraph Structure

- (1) What is the topic of Each Paragraph?
- (2) The Development
  - (a) The Phrase
  - (b) The Clause
  - (c) The Sentence
  - (d) The Paragraph
  - (e) The Segment
  - (f) The Subsection
  - (g) Section
  - (h) Division
  - (i) The Book

**D. Questioning the Data**

- 1. The Details
- 2. The Basics
- 3. The Relationship Between Observation and Questioning the Data





## THE GAME by Norman Rockwell

Norman Rockwell was known to be a stickler for detail. Every facet of a picture was carefully researched, but there were inevitably mistakes and many readers wrote him about them. Rockwell answered every letter. In 1943, after 27 years of answering complaints, he painted an April fool cover and deliberately included 45 mistakes or incongruities. To his amusement, a man wrote claiming to have found 120 errors. *How many do you see?*

The Saturday Evening Post Cover - April 3, 1943

A list was included inside the Saturday Evening Post magazine  
of the deliberate errors Rockwell included in the painting:

the trout, the fishhook and the water, all on the stairway;  
the stairway running behind the fireplace;  
the mailbox; the faucet; the wallpaper upside down;  
the wall paper with two designs;  
the scissors candlestick;  
the silhouettes upside down;  
bacon and egg on the decorative plate;  
the April Fool clock;  
the portraits;  
ducks in the living room;  
the zebra looking out of the frame;  
the mouse looking out of the mantelpiece;  
a tire for the iron rim of the mantelpiece;  
a medicine bottle and glass floating in the air;  
a fork instead of a spoon on the bottle;  
the old lady's hip pocket;  
the newspaper in her pocket;  
her wedding ring on the wrong hand;  
the buttons on the wrong side of her sweater;  
a crown on her head;  
a Stilson wrench for a nutcracker in her hand;  
a skunk on her lap;  
she is wearing trousers;  
she has on ice skates;  
there are no checkers on the checkerboard;  
the wrong number of squares on the checkerboard;  
too many fingers on the old man's hand;  
erasers on both ends of his pencil;  
he is wearing a skirt;  
he has a bird in his pocket;  
he is wearing roller skates;  
he has a hoe for a cane;  
a billfold on a string tied to his finger;  
a milkweed growing in the room;  
a milk bottle on the milkweed;  
a deer under the chair;  
dog's paws on the deer;  
mushrooms;  
a woodpecker pecking the chair;  
a buckle on the man's slipper;  
and the artist's signature in reverse.

## II. INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

### A. Definitions

1. Hermeneutics
2. Exegesis
3. The Relationship of the Two

### B. The Purposes of Interpretation

### C. Interpretive Questions

1. Primary Interpretive Questions
  - a. Definitive
  - b. Rational
  - c. Implicational
2. Subordinate Interpretive Questions
  - a. Identifying Who or What is Involved
  - b. Modal
  - c. Temporal
  - d. Locale

### D. Interpretive Answers

1. Subjective Necessities
  - a. Spiritual Qualifications
    - (1) A Relationship with the Author
    - (2) Illumination of the Holy Spirit
    - (3) Prayer



- (4) Hunger to Know the Word of God
- (5) Willingness to do God's Will

b. Intellectual Qualifications

- (1) We Need to Study the Word
- (2) Memorization
- (3) Meditation
- (4) Common Sense
- (5) Experience
- (6) Spiritual Growth

2. Objective Necessities

a. Five Basic Things to Discover

b. The Foundational Rule

*The Golden Rule of Interpretation:* When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.

- (1) Literal
- (2) Cultural
- (3) Symbolism
- (4) Some Other Principles to Know
- (5) Terms

c. The Law of Double Reference

This law observes the fact that often a passage or a block of Scripture is speaking of two different persons or two different events that are separated by a long period of time. But in the passage itself they are blended into one picture, and the time gap between the two persons or two events is not presented by the text itself. The fact that a gap of time exists is known because of other Scriptures, though in the particular text itself the gap of time is not seen.

d. The Law of Recurrence

This law describes the fact that in some passages of Scripture there exists the recording of an event followed by a second recording of the same event giving more details to the first. Hence, it often involves two blocks of Scripture. The first block presents a description of an event as it transpires in chronological sequence. This is followed by a second block of Scripture dealing with the same event and the same period of time, but giving further details as to what transpires in the course of the event.

e. The Law of the Context

*A Text Apart from its Context is a Pretext.* A verse can only mean what it means in its context and must not be pulled out of its context. When it is pulled out of its context, it is often presented as meaning something that it cannot mean within the context.

(1) Literary Context

(2) Historical Context

(3) Cultural Context

(4) Geographic Context

(5) Theological Context

f. The Law of First Mention

g. The Law of Paronomasia

h. The Principle of Progressive Revelation

i. The Principle of the Priority of the Original Languages

j. The Etymology of a Word

### 3. Tools for Answering Interpretive Questions

#### a. Bible

##### (1) A Good Translation

(a) Old Testament - *The American Standard Version* (ASV) of 1901

(b) New Testament - *New American Standard Bible* (NASB)

##### (2) A Study Bible

(a) *The New Scofield Bible*

(b) *The Ryrie Study Bible* - NASB edition

#### b. An English Dictionary

#### c. A Bible Survey

(1) *The World's Greatest Library* - Cooper (Biblical Research Society)

(2) *Walk Through the Bible* - Boa

#### d. A Bible Dictionary

(1) *Unger's Bible Dictionary* - Unger (Moody)

(2) *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* (Zondervan)

#### e. A Bible Encyclopedia -

*The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (ISBE) (Eerdman's)

#### f. Bible Handbook - *Unger's Bible Handbook* - Unger (Moody)

#### g. Bible Atlas

(1) *The Macmillan Bible Atlas* - Aharoni and Avi-Yonah (Macmillan)

(2) *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands* - Beitzel (Moody)

- h. A Concordance
  - (1) Strong's (Abingdon)
  - (2) Young's (Eerdman's)
- i. Bible Doctrine
  - (1) Basic: *Major Bible Themes* - Chafer and Walvoord (Zondervan)
  - (2) Detailed: *Basic Theology* - Ryrie
- j. Questions and Answers - *The Chosen People Question Box* (ABMJ)
- k. Old Testament Introduction -  
*Introductory Guide to the Old Testament* - Unger (Zondervan)
- l. New Testament Introduction -  
*Introduction to the New Testament* - Thiessen (Eerdman's)
- m. Old Testament Survey
  - (1) *Bible History* - Edersheim (Eerdman's)
  - (2) *The Old Testament Speaks* - Schultz
- n. *New Testament Survey*
  - (1) Tenny's (Eerdman's)
  - (2) Gromacki's
- o. *Systematic Theology* - Chafer (DTS)
- p. *A Harmony of the Gospels* - A.T. Robertson (Harper & Row)

q. Commentaries

(1) Extremes

- (a) Those Who Never use Commentaries
- (b) Those Who Only use Commentaries
- (c) Those Who use Commentaries as a Tool - Not a Crutch

(2) Recommendations

- (a) One volume - Wycliff Bible Commentary (Moody)
- (b) Whole Bible - Jamieson, Fausset, Brown (Eerdman's) - 6 volumes
- (c) *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* - Walvoord and Zuck
- (d) Old Testament - *Commentary on the Old Testament* -  
Keil and Delitzsch (Eerdman's) - 24 volumes
- (e) New Testament
  - i) *The Tyndale Bible Commentaries* (Eerdman's) - 20 volumes
  - ii) *The New International Commentary on the New Testament* -  
(Eerdman's) - 15 volumes

E. Summarization

F. Integration

G. Specialized Areas

1. Poetry

a. Major Types of Parallelism

- (1) Synonymous Parallelism
- (2) Antithetical Parallelism

(3) Synthetic Parallelism

b. Minor Types of Parallelism

(1) Introverted Parallelism

(2) Climactic Parallelism

(3) Emblematic Parallelism

2. The Parable

3. Prophecy

a. Some Basic Principles

b. Four Types of Messianic Prophecy

c. Four Ways the New Testament Quotes the Old

d. Apocalyptic Books

4. Typology

a. Definition

b. The Rule

c. Kinds of Types

(1) Persons

(2) Event

(3) The Institution

## H. Dangers in Interpretation

1. Misinterpretation

2. Subinterpretation

3. Suprainterpretation

4. The Solution



## I. Other Interpretive Methods

1. Invalid Methods - False Hermeneutics
  - a. The Allegorical Method
  - b. The Semi-allegorical
  - c. The Theological Hermeneutics
  - d. The Authoritative or Liturgical Hermeneutics
  - e. Dogmatic Hermeneutics
  - f. Fragmentary Hermeneutics
  - g. The Typological Hermeneutic
  - h. Predictive Hermeneutics
  - i. Rationalistic Hermeneutics
  - j. Mythological Interpretation or Hermeneutic
  - k. Systematized Interpretation or Hermeneutic
  - l. Cross-Reference Interpretation or Hermeneutic
  - m. Encyclopedic Interpretation or Hermeneutic
  - n. Historical or Doctrinal Hermeneutic
  - o. Literary Interpretation or Hermeneutic
2. Valid Methods

## J. Testing the Data

1. Internal Validity
2. External Validity

### III. EVALUATION AND APPLICATION OF THE DATA

#### A. The Evaluation of the Data

1. Definition
2. The Question
3. Making Proper Distinctions
4. Necessity

#### B. Application

Cartoon: *Christianity Today* - October 26, 1992

1. Subjective Qualifications
2. Objective Qualifications
3. The Process of Application
  - a. Analysis
  - b. The Application of the Passage
    - (1) Faith
    - (2) Attitude
    - (3) Actions
    - (4) Sins
    - (5) Examples
    - (6) Challenge
    - (7) Promises
4. Kinds of Applications
5. Areas of Application

6. Guidelines
7. Some Questions to Ask
8. Look for the Principle

#### IV. CORRELATION

##### A. Aim

##### B. Means

##### C. Benefits

#### V. WORD STUDY: *KADOSH*

##### A. Etymology

1. Sources
2. Root Meaning
3. Derived Meanings

##### B. Usage

1. Sources
2. *Kadosh* is Applied to Places
3. *Kadosh* is Applied to Things
4. *Kadosh* is Applied to Times
5. *Kadosh* is Applied to People
  - a. When Man is the Active Agent
  - b. When God is the Active Agent
6. *Kadosh* is Applied to God
  - a. In Describing His Relationship to Man
  - b. In Describing His Character

### C. The Summary

1. Primary Meaning
  - a. Negatively
  - b. Positively
2. Implied Meaning

### D. Conclusions and Applications

## VI. WORD STUDY: *PARAZELO'O*

### A. Etymology

1. Sources
2. Root Meaning
3. Derived Meanings

### B. Usage

### C. Summary

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

### A. Book Study

### B. Topical Study

### C. Word Studies