

# Session Four

## I. REVIEW

- What do I see?

LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_

- What does it mean?

LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_

- How does it work?

LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_

- Where does it fit?

LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_

- How do I share?

LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_

## II. LAW OF OBSERVATION

### A. Look for... (?) (?) (?)...

Fundamental Questions

### B. Look for...Key Words

See Practice: previous page

Look for Repeated Key Words

See Practice: previous page

## 5 Laws of Bible Study

Fundamental  
Questions

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?

### *In the beginning*

WHAT BEGINNING?

### *God*

WHO?

WHAT WORD IS THIS?

EL? ELOHIM? YHWH?

### *created*

HOW? WHEN? WHAT  
DOES THE WORD MEAN?

### *the heavens*

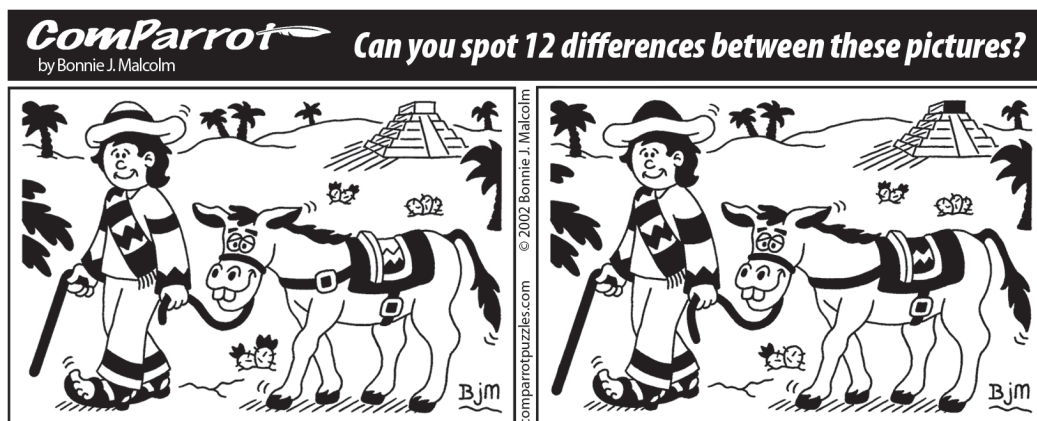
WHAT IS THIS?  
ANCIENT COSMOLOGIES?

### *and the earth.*

THE GLOBE?  
THE LAND? WHAT?

—GENESIS 1:1

# Comparison and Contrast Exercise



Find 12 Differences:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

SOLUTION: 1. Buckle on saddle is missing. 2. Tree on horizon is missing. 3. Flower on cactus is missing. 4. Top of sombrero is colored in. 5. Top of saddle pattern is colored in. 6. Top of pyramid is colored in. 7. Cactus has moved. 8. Top leaf on branch at left has moved. 9. Brim on sombrero is wider. 10. Stripe on shirt sleeve is taller. 11. Rope is longer. 12. Walking cane is taller.

**C. Look for “CREEP”** (feeling the “pull” of the passage upon us)

Ⓒ →

Ⓓ →

Ⓔ →

Ⓔ →

Ⓟ →

**D. Look for “Cause-Effect”**

“If...then...”

“Because...then...”

**E. Look for “Comparison/Contrasts”**

**F. Look for Lists**

**CREEP**

Resist the devil...

—JAMES 4:7

Therefore, rebuke them sharply...

—TITUS 1:13

Encourage one another...

—1 THESSALONIANS 5:11, 4:18

—2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

—HEBREWS 3:13

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out...

—MATTHEW 5:29 ESV

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you...

—JAMES 4:8

**COMPARISONS**

Similes?

- “like”
- “as”

Metaphors?

- not using like or as

# Practice Connectives

Discover a connective, linking word in each of the following passages.  
What does it seem to introduce?

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17 NASB**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

## **2 Timothy 4:2-3 NASB**

*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,...*

## **Psalms 95:1-3 NASB**

*O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.<sup>2</sup> Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.*

### III. OBSERVATION

#### A. Connectives

Connectives are linking words that “connect” ideas and relationships. They might be prepositions or conjunctions.

##### CONTRAST

###### **Proverbs 28:1 NASB**

*The wicked flee when no one is pursuing,  
(But) the righteous are bold as a lion.*

##### CONDITION

###### **1 John 1:9 NASB**

*(If) we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

##### REASON OR RESULT

###### **1 Peter 5:7 NASB**

*...casting all your anxiety on Him, (because) He cares for you.*

##### PURPOSE

###### **Psalms 119:11 NASB**


*Your word I have treasured in my heart,  
(That) I may not sin against You.*

Strive to not simply see, but **OBSERVE.**

“but” – contrast

“if” – conditional sentence

“for”  
“because”  
“therefore”  
“so that”



reason  
or  
result

“that”  
“in order that”



purpose

Insert the phrase,  
“in order that,”  
to observe purpose.

# Practice Verbs/Verbals

## **Exodus 2:23-25**

*During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. <sup>24</sup> God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup> So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.*

- Underline the verbs related to the Israelites.
- Double-underline the verbs related to God.
- What thoughts come to mind (in light of this)?

## **1 Samuel 5:1-5**

*After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup> Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon. <sup>3</sup> When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. <sup>4</sup> But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. <sup>5</sup> That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.*

## B. Verbs, Verbals

The action of a sentence can be found in the verb or verbals that explain what is happening.

Read carefully the following passage. Underline the verbs and reflect upon the meaning/choice of these action-words.

### Psalm 78:72

*And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.*

Reflect: How do these verbal words help us understand David's leadership?

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### Psalm 42:1-2a

*As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.  
<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

### Nehemiah 4:1

*When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews...*

Some time later  
God tested Abraham...

“Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering...”

—GENESIS 22 :1-2

*The underlined verbs are imperative commands in Hebrew.*

David's question of Saul who was pursuing to kill him:

“Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

—1 SAMUEL 24:14-15

*Note/underline the verbal ideas*

# Observation Practice

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

## **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

*This is what the Lord says:*

*“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, <sup>24</sup>but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.*



### C. Practice: What Do You See?

Try making observations on **Philippians 2:1-4**:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,

if any comfort from his love,

if any fellowship with the Spirit,

if any tenderness and compassion,

<sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded,

having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,

but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Each of you should look <sup>4</sup>not only to your own interests,

but also to the interests of others.

Try making observations on **John 3:16**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

#### “Look for...” CHECKLIST

- ☐ Questions
- ☐ Key Words
- ☐ Repeated Key Words
- ☐ Commands
  - Rebutes
  - Exhortations
  - Exaggerations
  - Promises
- ☐ Cause–Effect
- ☐ Comparisons/  
Contrasts
- ☐ Lists
- ☐ Connectives
  - but
  - if
  - for/because
  - therefore/so that
  - that/in order that
- ☐ Verbs/Verbals

*continued from following page 61*

“Then how did you know?”

“I see it, I deduce it. How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet lately, and that you have a most clumsy and careless servant girl?”

“My dear Holmes,” said I, “this is too much. You would certainly have been burned, had you lived a few centuries ago. It is true that I had a country walk on Thursday and came home in a dreadful mess, but as I have changed my clothes I can’t imagine how you deduce it. As to Mary Jane, she is incorrigible, and my wife has given her notice; but there, again, I fail to see how you work it out.”

He chuckled to himself and rubbed his long, nervous hands together.

“It is simplicity itself,” said he. “My eyes tell me that on the inside of your left shoe, just where the firelight strikes it, the leather is scored by six parallel cuts. Obviously they have been caused by someone who has very carelessly scraped round the edges of the sole in order to remove crusted mud from it. Hence, you see, my double deduction that you had been out in vile weather, and that you had a particularly malignant boot slitting specimen of the London slavery. As to your practice, if a gentleman walks into my rooms smelling of iodoform, with a black mark of nitrate of silver upon his right forefinger, and a bulge on the right side of his top-hat to show where he has secreted his stethoscope, I must be dull, indeed, if I do not pronounce him to be an active member of the medical profession.”

I could not help laughing at the ease with which he explained his process of deduction. “When I hear you give your reasons,” I remarked, “the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours.”

“Quite so,” he answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair. “**You see, but you do not observe.**”

## IV. CONCLUSION

The First Law of Bible Study is “The Law of Observation.”

Read the following excerpt from the life of that astute “observer,” Sherlock Holmes.

### Lessons from Sherlock Holmes

One night—it was on the twentieth of March 1888—I was returning from a journey to a patient (for I had now returned to civil practice), when my way led me through Baker Street. As I passed the well-remembered door, which must always be associated in my mind with my wooing, and with the dark incidents of the Study in Scarlet, I was seized with a keen desire to see Holmes again, and to know how he was employing his extraordinary powers. His rooms were brilliantly lit, and, even as I looked up, I saw his tall, spare figure pass twice in a dark silhouette against the blind. He was pacing the room swiftly, eagerly, with his head sunk upon his chest and his hands clasped behind him. To me, who knew his every mood and habit, his attitude and manner told their story. He was at work again. He had risen out of the drug-created dreams and was hot upon the scent of some new problem. I rang the bell and was shown up to the chamber, which had formerly been in part my own.

His manner was not effusive. It seldom was; but he was glad, I think, to see me. With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an armchair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner. Then he stood before the fire and looked me over in his singular introspective fashion.

“Wedlock suits you,” he remarked. “I think, Watson, that you have put on seven and a half pounds since I saw you.”

“Seven!” I answered.

“Indeed, I should have thought a little more. Just a trifle more, I fancy, Watson. And in practice again, I observe. You did not tell me that you intended to go into the harness.”

*continued on previous page*

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,  
“A Scandal in Bohemia,”  
in *The Original*  
*Illustrated Sherlock*  
*Holmes*

“You see [Watson], but  
you do not observe.”  
*the big idea of the story*

## 5 Laws of Bible Study

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|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Law 1:</b> | OBSERVATION:    | “What Do I See?”     |
| <b>Law 2:</b> | INTERPRETATION: | “What Does It Mean?” |
| <b>Law 3:</b> | APPLICATION:    | “How Does It Work?”  |
| <b>Law 4:</b> | CORRELATION:    | “Where Does It Fit?” |
| <b>Law 5:</b> | COMMUNICATION:  | “How Do I Share?”    |

Law of Observation: Session 1-4 in *Personal Bible Study*

Law of Interpretation: Session 5-6

## Literary Context

1. Narrative
2. Legal
3. Poetry
4. Wisdom
5. Logical discourse (epistles/letters)
6. Prophetic