

Session Two

BOUNDARY OR EDGE PIECES

I. REVIEW AND FEEDBACK FROM SESSION ONE

II. THE HORIZONTAL CHART

A. INTRODUCTION

The horizontal chart (note diagram) is a simple means to capture the chapter titles (for larger books) and the paragraph titles (for smaller books of six chapters or less) on one page. This allows the student to see the entire book at once.

(see preceding page)

B. VALUE OF THE HORIZONTAL CHART

To more accurately understand the mind of God as revealed in Scripture, we must see His messages in context. The horizontal chart aids us in doing just this. Its very development compels the student to see significant sections (chapters and/or paragraphs) in relation to the whole.

One will also begin to see the whole in relation to the parts. From this, the book's theme will begin to emerge. The relationship of the whole to the parts, and the parts to the whole, will "establish the boundaries" of the book being studied.

Akin to this is the aid given to the student in emphasizing the primary over the subordinate. As the study continues, the chart will "ask the student" to keep each part in harmony with the whole.



“God’s sacred Word...that inestimable treasure that excelleth all the riches of the earth.”

—PREFACE,
KING JAMES BIBLE
TRANSLATION 1611

“This book—
[THE BIBLE]
the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are lively Oracles of God.”

—WORDS SPOKEN AT THE
CORONATION SERVICE OF
EACH BRITISH MONARCH.

ACTS

Author: Luke

Date Written: A.D. 61

Key Word: Witness

Key Verse: 1:8

THE FIRST THREE DECADES OF THE WITNESS OF THE GOSPEL

ACTS OF PETER			ACTS OF PAUL		
Church is Born	1	TAKEN UP	Church Extends Overseas	13	CYPRUS
	2	HOLY SPIRIT		14	LYSTRA
Church Grows Through Testing	3	GATE BEAUTIFUL		15:1	CIRCUMCISED
	4	IN WARD		15:36	PHILIPPI
	5	ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA		17:1	ATHENS
	6	WIDOWS		18:1	CORINTH
	7	STEPHEN		18:23	EPHESUS
Church is Scattered	8:1b	PHILIP		20:1	FAREWELL
	9:1	SAUL		21:1	GIRDLE
Church Embraces Gentiles	9:32	DORCAS		21:18	ARREST
	10:1	CORNELIUS		22:1	STAIRWAY
	11	PETER EXPOUNDED		23	CONSPIRACY
	12	HEROD		24	FELIX
Church Extends Overseas	13	CYPRUS	25	FESTUS	
	14	LYSTRA	26	AGRIPPA	
	15:1	CIRCUMCISED	27	SHIPWRECK	
	15:36	PHILIPPI	28	ROME	
	17:1	ATHENS			
	18:1	CORINTH			
	18:23	EPHESUS			
	20:1	FAREWELL			
Church's Leader on Trial	21:1	GIRDLE			
	21:18	ARREST			
	22:1	STAIRWAY			
	23	CONSPIRACY			
	24	FELIX			
	25	FESTUS			
	26	AGRIPPA			
	27	SHIPWRECK			
28	ROME				

Source of chart: Irving Jensen, *Independent Bible Study*

TIP: Begin your work with a pencil. Initial observations may change as you “see more and more” throughout the observation process.

C. CHAPTER AND PARAGRAPH TITLES

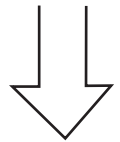
1. Assign a chapter/paragraph title to each segment. See the facing page for an example of chapter titles in a longer book like Acts.
2. Make preliminary decisions regarding the topical (theme) divisions that you have seen in your reading and observations. Indicate these below the main baseline you have drawn for your chart. Note this in the chart on the next page.

D. THE NEXT STEP...OUTSIDE HELP

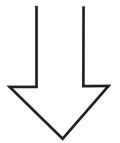
After you have completed your own survey of the book, you should seek the help of others who have gone before you. There will be some material that you cannot find in the Biblical text itself. Background material will be items such as author of the book and the book’s recipients, date of writing, geographical and cultural setting, historical circumstances of a Biblical or secular nature, theological themes, thoughts on type of literature and structure.

Don’t discount what the Holy Spirit has shown to others, but remember, this is your work and you want to move forward with fresh eyes. DO NOT consult commentaries on the Scripture text until you have completed the next step in the process (vertical charts).

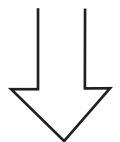
Keep in mind... during this stage, the value is in the PROCESS not the product.



Process... not product.



At this stage, Bible Study is messy.



Use pencil... get messy!

BOOK: _____

BOOK TITLE:

CHAPTER TITLES

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NOTES:

THEMATIC DIVISIONS

E. ADDITIONAL HELP FOR THIS STAGE

1. Hard Copy Resources
 - Bible Handbooks, Dictionaries
 - Bible Encyclopedia
 - See PBS (First Hand Joy), P. 75
2. Online Resources
 - soniclight.org
 - bible.org
 - preceptaustin.org

III. WORKSHOP

The survey reading(s) of a book like Colossians took about 12 to 15 minutes. The Horizontal Chart reading(s) will take longer as reflection and recording will be needed. This process may be broken up into as many sessions as needed to finish the chart. However, you are more likely to sense and capture the flow of the author's message if you push through in one, and at most two, sittings for a smaller book; three or four sittings for larger books.

Let's practice the process...right now!

Begin by filling in the chart found on the preceding page.

**YOU CAN SEE
A LOT JUST
BY LOOKING**

“Observation describes the act of taking notice, fixing the mind upon, beholding with attention, and as used in science, includes the idea of marking and recording ones findings...”

—PRECEPTAUSTIN.ORG

Observation

ASK THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS:

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?
- How?

IDENTIFY KEY WORDS:

- Repeated words
- Theological concepts
- Emotional or strong words

CREEP:

- Commands
- Rebukes
- Exhortations
- Exaggeration
- Promises

CONNECTIONS:

- Cause-Effect
- Comparisons
- Contrasts
- Lists
- Connective or linking words