

Session Six

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORDS

The grammatical layout will bring to your attention key words and parts of speech that you will want to explore further. This session will point you to some resources that will keep you moving toward adding the fine detail and richness of meaning to be found in the Biblical text.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Words Count... A definition of “Inerrancy”

“God’s superintendence of human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man IN THE WORDS of the original autographs.”
(*Ryrie Study Bible*, p. 1956, capitalization my own)

B. View of inspiration

1. “Verbal” Inspiration: the inspiration extends to
THE VERY WORDS.
2. “Plenary” Inspiration: the inspiration extends equally to all parts
of the Scriptures;
EVERY WORD.

**WORDS ARE
IMPORTANT!**



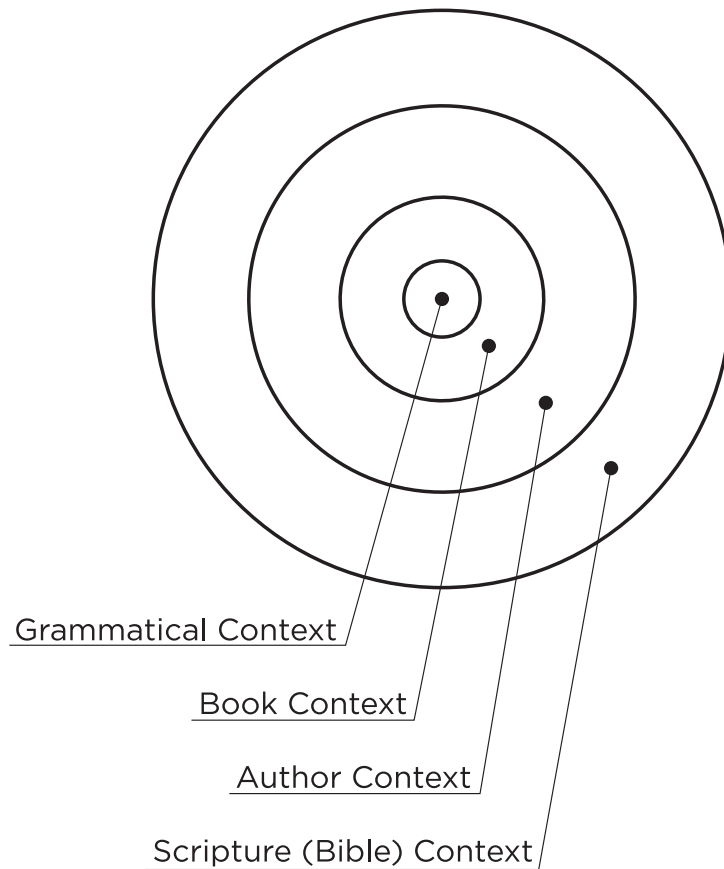
“The treasures
of the Word of
God are great
beyond compare;
But if we do not
search them out,
we cannot use
what is there.”
—SPER

Broad Interpretive Context

Interpretive Context

To interpret (therefore, understand), first, look at the type of literature...
(Historical? Prophetic? Poetic?)

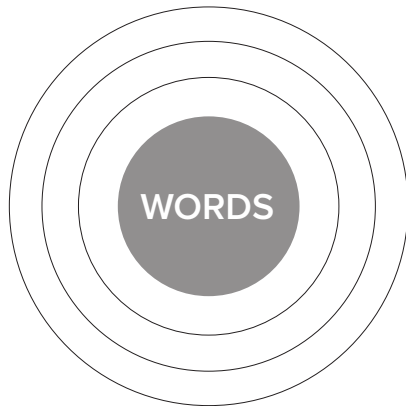
Next, note the grammatical structure of the passage.
Understand that it is part of a wholistic look at the passage
in its much greater scripture-wide context.



II. WORD STUDIES: THE “DEVELOPING” PICTURE

A. Word Meanings and Relationship

1. Word Meanings
 - a. Historical
 - b. Etymological
 - c. Comparative
 - (1) Synonyms
 - (2) Antonyms
 - (3) Cross References



WORD STUDY RESOURCES

Inductive
Bible Study

Greek Word Studies
(in English)

—PRECEPTAUSTIN.ORG

*Expository Dictionary
of NT Words*

—VINE, ED.

*New Unger's
Bible Dictionary*

—MOODY PRESS

Word Study Resources

BY SPIROS ZODHIATES

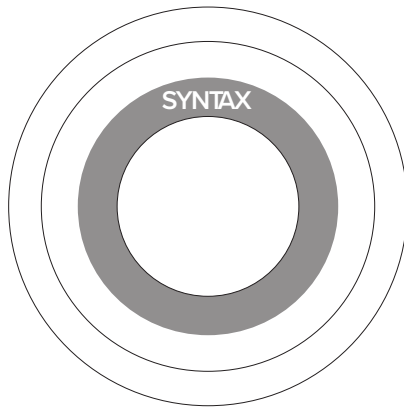
Translation Comparison

<p>MORE LITERAL</p> <p>LESS INTERPRETATIVE MORE WORD FOR WORD</p>						<p>MORE PARAPHRASE</p> <p>MORE INTERPRETATIVE** MORE THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT</p>		
NAS	ESV	KJV NKJV	NRSV	NIV	ICB	NLT	TLB	Msg
<p>NAS = New American Std. ESV = English Standard Ver. KJV = King James Ver. NKJV = New KJV</p>			<p>NRSV = New Revised NIV = New International Ver. ICB = International Children's Bible</p>			<p>NLT = New Living Translation TLB = The Living Bible Msg = The Message</p>		
<p>** NOTE: For the most objective and "pure" inductive study, do not use paraphrased versions as your primary resource. The more literal versions such as NAS, ESV, KJV, NKJV more accurately render the words of the original Biblical authors and are therefore recommended for inductive Bible study.</p>								

2. Word Relations: Syntax

Note: The process is to move from the meaning of words to the relation of words to one another.

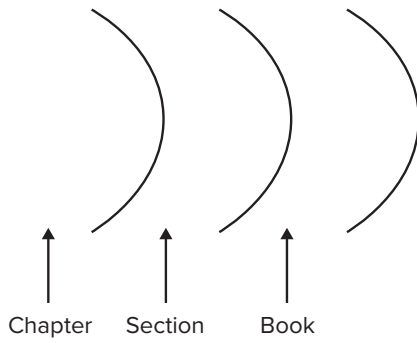
- a. Learn to diagram a sentence.
- b. Don't ignore little things (connectives).
- c. Give special attention to verbs.



“The Bible speaks with the authority of God. The Bible’s authority resides in what God has to say about subjects...”

—DR. ELLIOT JOHNSON

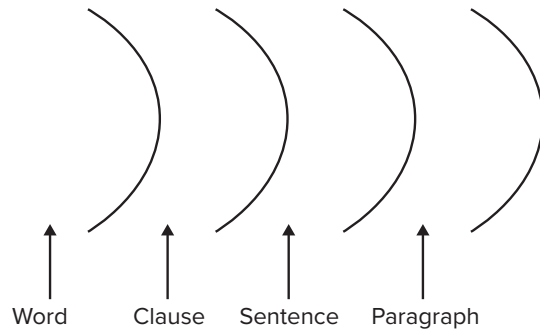
Book Context:



Interpretive Clues:

- Look for themes
- Look for breadth or development of main ideas
- Look for "broad" structure (far context)

Grammatical Context:

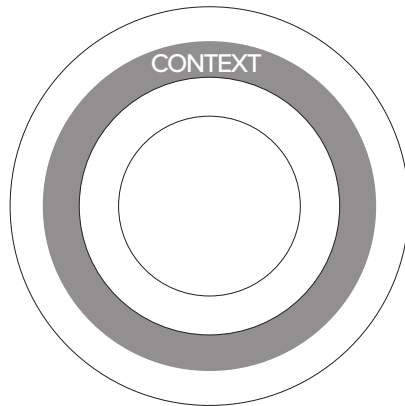


Interpretive Clues:

- Look for structure
- Look for central idea (key words)
- Look before and after (near context)

B. Context

1. The need to consider context:
The Bible is no mere collection of good texts or verses put together without any relation to one another. To interpret contrary to the context is to teach falsehood for truth. Any Scripture text without a context is a pretext.
2. There are four contexts of any text:
 - a. The immediate context [paragraph(s)]
 - b. The context of the book
 - c. The context of the Bible
 - d. The cultural context



Who is the greatest Old Testament prophet not named in the Old Testament?

ANSWER: JOHN THE BAPTIST

“Historical” Toolbox

1. *The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook* (Hays and Duval, eds.), Baker [Recent, helpful].
2. Norm Geisler, *A Popular Survey of the OT*, Wonder Book.
3. Robert Gromacki, *New Testament Survey*, Baker.
4. *Bible Knowledge Commentary* (2 vols), Walvoord and Zuck, (eds.), Victor.
5. soniclight.com (search for Tom Constable notes on all the Bible—free download)

“Geographical” Toolbox

1. *Baker’s Encyclopedia of the Bible* (2 vols), W. Elwell (ed.), Baker.
2. *NIV Atlas of the Bible*, C. Rasmussen, Zondervan.
3. Bible Maps (in the back of most Bibles)

“Cultural” Toolbox

1. Commentaries (books that explain the meaning of the Bible by referring to language, culture, history, theology, et al.—from easy to read to highly technical)
2. *IVP Bible Background Commentary* (Old and New Testament available), Keener (ed), IV Press.

C. Historical setting

“The true sense of the Bible cannot be found in an idea of thought historically untrue.” (Mass)

The books of the Bible were written in a specific historical setting. We must carefully guard against transferring the author to the present day and making him speak today's language.

We have to first engage His thoughts expressed in His words to His culture.

1. Historically, where does the text fall in the progress of revelation?

Where is the recipient in the history of God's revelation?

Compare Matthew 10:5-7* with Matthew 28:16-20**.

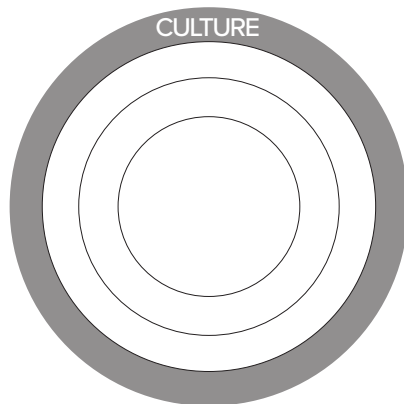
2. What is the prevailing culture? Secondary Culture?

a. Spatial background (geography)

“To try to interpret the Bible without a basic geographical understanding of Bible land is like trying to watch a drama with no scenery.” (Ramm)

b. Progress of history?

c. Social background (customs)?



*

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

“Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any towns of the Samaritans.

⁶Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.

⁷As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’”

—MATTHEW 10:5-7 NIV

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Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations,**

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

²⁰And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

—MATTHEW 28:16-20 NIV

Piece by Piece...
Word by Word...
Precept upon Precept...
We get a picture of the whole.

