

## Hermeneutics 101: How Do We Interpret the Bible?

Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. <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. (Nehemiah 8:7-8)

### Definition:

- Hermeneutics: The study of the \_\_\_\_\_ of interpretation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ person has a system of hermeneutics whether aware of it or not.
- Few figure out “\_\_\_\_\_” of interpreting the Bible before doing so.

### 2 Main Options for Bible Interpretation:

#### \_\_\_\_\_ Hermeneutics:

- Words have \_\_\_\_\_ meaning determined by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Regards the literal sense to have a second, more \_\_\_\_\_ sense.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is placed on this spiritual sense while the normal sense is ignored. The normal meanings of words become irrelevant.
- The authority is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the interpreter. Text is not interpreted, but the meanings are replaced by whatever the interpreter gives.

*The actual words, then, are not understood in their normal sense but in a symbolic sense which results in a different meaning of the text, a meaning which, in the strictest sense, the text never intended to convey. (Ryrie, 110)*

### Dangers:

1. Approaches the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ any other book or text.
2. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ conclusion (every person’s whim).
3. What is said is ignored in favor of what is \_\_\_\_\_ said.

#### \_\_\_\_\_ Hermeneutics:

Words are understood in their plain, \_\_\_\_\_ sense determined by the words and their context. *“that method that gives to each word the same exact basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary, customary usage, whether employed in writing, speaking or thinking.”* (Pentecost)

The words \_\_\_\_\_ what they \_\_\_\_\_. The authority is the text itself.

Figures of speech are based upon literal speech.

### Need for Literal Hermeneutics (Ryrie):

1. Without literal (normal) interpretation there is no \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of language at all.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of language itself seems to require literal interpretation. Words are used to convey a defined meaning in its normal sense.  
*“The Scriptures do not call for some special use of language, implying that they communicate on some ‘deeper’ or special level unknown to other avenues of communications.”*
3. The Bible uses literal fulfillment of OT \_\_\_\_\_.

### Principles of Literal (Normal) Hermeneutics:

1. **Begin with \_\_\_\_\_:** Study the meaning of the words and their relationships in a sentence.
2. **Understand the \_\_\_\_\_:**
  - a. Textual:
    - Immediate: What do verses say before and after the verse or passage being studied?
    - Book: What is the purpose and meaning of the book?
  - b. Historical:
    - What \_\_\_\_\_ surrounded the writer & readers at the time of writing?
  - c. Cultural:
    - How would the \_\_\_\_\_ and writers have understood the text as written then?
  - d. Geographical:
    - Do the \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned or implied influence the meaning?
3. **Let \_\_\_\_\_ Interpret Scripture**  
Though having many human writers, the Bible has one Divine Author. The Bible is a single book that is written in such a way as to explain itself.
4. **Recognize that God Revealed Truth \_\_\_\_\_**
  - a. What people knew \_\_\_\_\_ over time as God revealed truth.
    - People in earlier parts of the Bible did not know or have the information found in parts of the Bible given later.
    - People did not have all the information then that we do now.
  - b. What people were required to do \_\_\_\_\_ over time...
  - c. God more fully \_\_\_\_\_ truth over time.