

The Inductive Bible Study: Interpretation

- Deshen School of the Spirit
- Dr. Patrick Oben
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OBJECTIVE



- Understand the basic principles for correct Interpretation

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Introduction to the Inductive
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Deshen is the a transliteration of the Hebrew word used for "fatness" in Ps. 36:8.

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The Inductive process



OBSERVATION



INTERPRETATION



EVALUATION



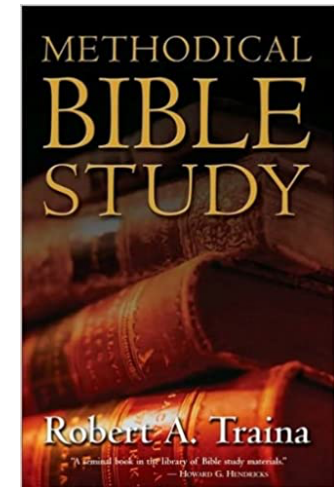
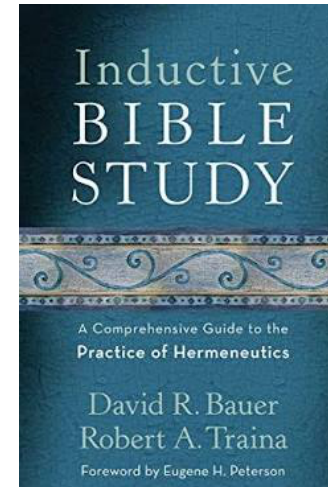
APPLICATION



CORRELATION

Resources I Use

- Logos Basic is FREE
- Heard is slows down some computers before, but not experiencing this
- I have the The Collector's Edition(Paid), I see the Value in the Word and in this Software
- No business dealings with them. I think they have created a fantastic software the Church should be proud and thankful for!
- Others: Accordance Bible software, scripture4all, blueletterbible.com , etc



The image is a screenshot of the Logos Bible Software website. At the top left is the 'Faithlife' logo. To the right are links for 'Tools' and 'Sign in'. Below this is the 'LOGOS' logo in blue. To the right of the logo are a phone icon with the number '800-875-6467', a flag icon for 'EN', and an orange button that says 'Download Logos'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a shopping cart icon. The main content area features a large background image of a young woman with glasses sitting on a wooden bench outdoors, looking at a tablet. Overlaid on this image is the text 'Free Bible Software' in a large, white font. Below this, a smaller white font describes the software: 'Logos 8 Basic is free Bible software that helps you discover life-changing biblical truths wherever you are. Study Scripture and consult commentaries, devotionals, Bible dictionaries, and more—all from your computer, tablet, or phone.' Below the text is an orange button that says 'Get Basic free'. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a small line of text: 'We'll send you an email explaining how to access Logos on all your devices.'

What is Interpretation?

- Interpretation is ascertaining the sense of the Bible *text* by identifying the intent of the author using the evidence collected in Observation
- Three key phrases
 - Sense of the Bible text
 - Intent of the author
 - Evidence collected in Observation



Sense of the Bible text

- In linguistics, sense is one of the meanings of a word
- It is the idea that is intended
- A word often has many meanings, but only one is intended in every text
- Term: the word as used in a specific passage

Intent of the Author

- Critical piece
- What did the author have in his mind/heart to communicate and what did he/she want the audience to get
- Scriptures: authors communicating **content** to readers using written literature(**form**)
- Our job is to find out the author's intent(content), and not to tell them what they should or should not have written

Evidence from Observation

- Interpretation should interpret the facts from the text
- This is the critical step and the pivot of the Inductive process
- Find the meaning of the facts in the text, not from facts which are not there
- Inductive Process: discipline of moving from facts to conclusions
- Deep revelations or truths from scriptures not supported by literary facts? NEVER!



Why Interpretation in the first place?

- Bible texts: written out of a culture that is strange to us and also thousand of years before us
- Scriptural texts are deep and thick in meaning
- Some passages are obvious by just reading and others require a systematic approach

Interpretive questions

- Interpretation is best carried out by answering questions
- Questions wake up the mind from sleep
- Interpretation answers questions raised during Observation
- Major literary evidences from Observation in
 - Terms
 - Structure
 - Form
 - Atmosphere

Observation-Interpretation link

- Interpretation is essentially seeking the meaning of the terms, structures, forms and atmosphere collected during Observation
- As noted in previous lessons, I often focus on terms and structures and sometimes form and atmosphere
- I want you to start with terms and structures to learn the basics and progress from there



Introduction to the Interpretive process

- Introduction only for the sake of this course with basics that will allow you to start the process right away
- As you start, further need for more will arise and will encourage you to consult appropriate resources to learn more
- Two major aspects to cover: general phases of interpretation and types of evidences to use

Major phases of Interpretation

- Three phases of Observation
- I go through them every time for the past 15 years at least!
- Phases
 1. Definitive
 2. Rationale
 3. Implicational

Definitive phase

- Discovering the basic meaning of the particulars of the passage as collected in Observation
- Defining the meaning of terms and explaining the structures you noted
- Questions:
 - What does the term - mean?
 - What does this structural relationship such as contrast mean?

Definitive phase example

- Therefore being justified by faith.....(Romans 5:1)
- What is the meaning of the term justified here?
 - Being justified: verb, aorist, passive, participle, plural
- The term "therefore" is a conjunction, logical meaning structure: it serves as a logical conjunction
- Your task is: what is the meaning of this logical inferential conjunction?
- It is telling you there is a relationship between Rom 5:1 and the last verses of Romans 4

The Rational Phase

- Asking the “why” questions
- After clarifying the meaning of the author
- Rom 5:1
 - Why do we need to be justified?
 - Why are we justified by faith?
 - Why is Paul even saying this here ?

Implicational phase

- Every statement always implicates more than it says explicitly
- There are other truths that are connected with what is being said
- Implicational question: what does this imply?
- Rom 5:1,if we have therefore been justified by faith, what does this imply?
 - If we have been justified by faith, we do not need to be justified any more
 - Faith in Christ is so powerful that it can make a person to be justified before God
 - etc



Practice makes perfect

- Before getting into any thing more complex, these are the basics you should begin with
- Discipline yourself to go through this phases always
- Write the questions and the answer down!
 - What does justify mean in this verse: your answer
 - What is the meaning of the logical inference implied by “therefore”? Your answer
 - Why this or that?
 - What are the implications
- You should to this during your devotions or more in-depth Bible studies

How do you answer the Interpretive questions?

- Two major categories of determinants
 1. The person
 2. Objective criteria
- The Person: remember the two "S" from the first lesson of this course
 - Spirit: Holy Spirit's influence
 - Skill: sound exegetical skills, experience
- Objective: many determinants
 - Interpretation is not based on what you think
 - It is based on **literary evidences** that justify the conclusions

Listing of Interpretive determinants

- Listing here for brevity: please study more as needed
- Preliminary definition : Dictionaries, Lexicons
- Literary context: what comes before and after, literary structure, use of the term elsewhere in the book
- Word usage: use of a term outside of the Biblical book, and sometimes extra-biblical
- Scriptural testimony: topical bibles such as the Nave's to finding similar passages dealing with the same subject

Listing of Interpretive determinants

- Kinds of terms: literal and figurative
- Inflections and Syntax: grammatical structure
- Historical background, history of terms
- History of the text(finding the original form, text criticism)
- Commentaries: important to consult, do it at the end!
 - Logos Basic, blue letter Bible, Bible study tools,

This is what I encourage you to do

- Make this your routine
- As you start practicing it, you will find the need to grow and learn more. Use resources, reach out to me!
- Please always remember why I am doing this and why you are doing this in the first place
 - Experience the Presence and the Power of the Spirit in the scriptures
- Please TEACH this to every believer you find as you master it
 - The next move of God MANDATES a foundation(knowing,living) on the Word which most believers and congregations do not yet have

Assignment

- I want you to
 1. Choose one of your favorite verses in scripture
 2. Observe the scripture
 3. Inteprete it
 4. Write down all of your findings
 5. Send to me before Friday at patrick@patrickoben.com



Course Materials

- The PDF and Video will be uploaded shortly to deshenschool.com after the live session
- Please visit <https://deshenschool.com>
- Create an account, enroll in the Course and you see all previous lessons with the videos and PDF
- It is FREE!!!



Questions?