



# The Inductive Bible Study: Observation

---

- Deshen School of the Spirit
- Dr. Patrick Oben
- June 13, 2020





# OBJECTIVE

- Understand what Observation means and how to effectively do it



# Housekeeping

- Website: [deshenschool.com](http://deshenschool.com) in progress, will contain all the PDFs , recordings and many more resources in one place
- No Live training this week...busy schedule but did not want to break the series
- Had a surprise comment on Zoom....

From Rojan  
Sevilla  
6/13/2020

- *I pray a covering over Brother Patrick and his household. Thank you Lord, for Your hedge and protection for Patrick and his family, and for Your provisions. Prosper him in every way, even more so, that He may bring you much more glory. I praise You for Your mighty witness in his life. May the fullness of Your plan for his life, Your good pleasing and perfect will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. In The Lord JESUS' precious and mighty name. Amen*
- Thank you for the prayer and the encouraging words

# The Inductive process



Observation



Interpretation



Evaluation



Application



Correlation

# What is Observation?

- Principle of Induction:
  - from evidence to conclusions
  - from facts to meaning
- Observation: becoming aware of the facts, the evidence
- Not just seeing the facts, but perceiving or mentally becoming aware of them



# The importance of observation

- Observation is the first step
- Most important as it is foundational
  - Wrong facts, wrong conclusions!
- It will often be the most time consuming
- It is the step many of us are not familiar with
- Pay attention to grow in this skill

# The basics: why observation in the first place?

- God has chosen to give us His Word using **human language**
- Word has come to us today as written scriptures
- The **Scripture is literature**, basic literature as any other known human literature out there
- Rules that govern human communication, and specifically written literature interpretation **MUST** be followed



# Two aspects of literary communication

- An author (like any other artist) communicates with these two aspects
  1. They have a thought/emotion they want to express or communicate : **the message, content**
  2. They use different ways to communicate that message: **the tool, the form**
- The treasure is the message, but that message is communicated through the tool or literary form used

# A rough illustration of content and form

- The Word comes to us as literature
- Every revelation or truth requires accurate interpretation of the literal means by which it comes
- No Truth or Super-revelation that goes against the basic laws of human language
- This is where the two "S" in earlier courses: Skill, Spirit
- Exegetical skills are important: in fact, expected by God when He used human language!

God: Has Water(Word, Spirit)  
to give you



The Water pipe: human  
language, scriptures,  
literature



You are thirsty  
You need the Water, but it  
comes through the pipe!

# Observation: attention to the form used

- Paying attention to note every details of the form used
- Why? Every detail matters because the author might have used it to communicate something about the message
- Good observation
  - Perceptivity: be aware of what is there
  - Exactness: be exact
  - Persistence: more things at the bottom so keep digging!

# The tools of literary communication

- Four main tools writers use that would communicate their thoughts and feelings
  1. Terms (words)
  2. Structure or arrangement of the words
  3. Literary form: the kind of writing they chose
  4. Literary atmosphere : tone
- Your job: carefully look at the writing and what the author has used to figure out what they wanted to communicate



# Terms

- Basic component of literary communication
- Individual words are the building blocks for all written literature
- Term vs word : last week's assignment
  - Term: given word used in a given context
  - Term: has only one meaning
  - Word : may have several meanings
  - Eg: flesh in John 1:14 means one thing(term) but the word flesh has many meanings, eg body, fleshly material, humanity, ancestry etc



# Structure

- Second important tool writers used to communicate meaning
- How the words are related to each other
- Very important: content is expressed through structure
- Easier to understand from painting: the arrangement of the different pieces by themselves has meaning
- In a restrictive sense: framework or skeleton of the piece of writing, how it is organized and glued together



# Literary form

- There are different kinds of written materials or literature
- Same terms and structure could be used differently
- General types: prose, poetry, parabolic, apocalyptic, etc
- Each type of literature has its style and purpose and so aids interpretation



# Literary atmosphere

- The tone or mood of the author can be seen in the writing and it also communicates content
- Eg. Joy, thankful, despair, etc
- You connect to the author's heart and mind



# Summary of Observation

- Carefully investigating the form to note what was used looking at the four basic elements of literary communication
  1. Terms
  2. Structure
  3. Form
  4. Atmosphere



# Next week....

- Assignment:
  - What is Apocalyptic literature? Characteristics?
  - Send to [Patrick@patrickoben.com](mailto:Patrick@patrickoben.com)
- A little more details about how to observe terms
- Practical: show you how to do it

# What should you do?

- The Lord has commanded me to build the Church by His Word and bring you in intimacy with the Spirit through the Word
- Your role: take this materials and feed on them
- Grow in this and teach those around you
- Send this free PDF to every believer you know would benefit from this
- Back Live next week Saturday 9AM Central time GMT-5



# Deshen School of the Spirit

By Patrick Oben Ministries Inc

[patrickoben.com](http://patrickoben.com)

[deshenschool.com](http://deshenschool.com)(coming soon)