

How to Read and Study Your Bible

Lesson 9 – November 6, 2011

Step 1: What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

a. Read seriously and observe the text. What does the text say?

b. Break the passage into manageable parts.

c. Determine the context of the passage.

1) Historical-Cultural Context

a) Biblical author

b) Biblical audience

c) Other elements: geography, social customs, religion, economy, politics, etc.

2) Literary Context

a) Genre, Form

b) Surrounding context

How to Identify the Surrounding Context?

1) Identify how the book is divided into paragraphs or sections – phrasing.

2) Summarize the main idea of each section in about a dozen words or less.

a. The topic or main idea of the section – what are we talking about?

b. What the author says about the topic or main idea – what are we saying about what we're talking about?

3) Explain how the section you are studying relates to the surrounding sections.