**HOW TO INTERPRET AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

**THE BIBLE IS MANY STORIES THAT TOGETHER MAKE ONE STORY ABOUT WHO GOD IS, HOW HE WORKS, WHO WE ARE IN RELATION TO GOD AND HOW OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WORKS.TO FULLY UNDERSTAND GOD WE MUST GROW DAILY IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GODS WORD BY READING, INTERPRETING AND UNDERSTANDING MORE OF IT FOR OURSELVES.**

**#1 RULE OF INTENTION,** USAGE AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: EACH BOOK WAS WRITTEN TO A SPECIFIC GROUP OF PEOPLE, IN A SPECIFIC CULTURE AT A SPECIFIC TIME IN HISTORY

-THIS MEANS THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS WRITTEN WHICH IN TURN MEANS THAT I MUST UNDERSTAND IT IN THE SAME WAY

**#2 RULE OF CONTEXT:** WE MUST READ SCRIPTURES IN CONTEXT

 -CONTEXT OF CULTURE

 -CONTEXT OF PURPOSE, FOCUS OR THEME OF BOOK

 -CONTEXT OF PEOPLE GROUP BEING ADDRESSED

**#3 YOU DON’T DECIDE THE MEANING OF SCRIPTURE IT’S THE WORD OF GOD HE DECIDED WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN**

**#4 YOU CANNOT CREATE A BELIEF ON ONE SCRIPTURE**

-IT MUST FIT WITHIN THE SUBJECT OF THE ENTIRE THOUGHT IN THAT SECTION OF SCRIPTURE

-YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND IT IN OTHER SCRIPTURES (SCRIPT INTERPS SCRIPT)

**#5 WE DON’T INTERPRET THE BIBLE THROUGH PARAPHRASE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE**

-THE MESSAGE, THE LIVING BIBLE OR THE PASSION TRANSLATION

-THESE MUST BE COMPARED WITH A REAL TRANSLATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE READING PROPERLY

PARAPHRASE: THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT

TRANSLATION: WORD FOR WORD

**#6 WE DON’T INTERPRET THE BIBLE BY MODERN DAY**

-MODERN DAY SYMBOLS DO NOT REINTERPRET THE BIBLE

 -MODERN DAY EVENTS DON’T INTERPRET THE BIBLE

 -MODERN DAY PEOPLE DON’T INTERPRET THE BIBLE

**#7 THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN**

 -SOMEONE SAYS THEY HAVE A NEW REVELATION ON THE BIBLE RUN AWAY

**#8 MODERN CULTURE DOESN’T REINTERPRET THE BIBLE**

-THE WORLD SAY X IS OK WE MUST REINTERPRET THE BIBLE TO AGREE WITH X

**#9 WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT IN THE BIBLE IS SYMBOLIC AND WHAT IS LITERAL**

-THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS A SYMBOLIC APOCALYPTIC BOOK

 -PROPHETIC BOOKS ARE ALSO OFTEN SYMBOLIC

**#10 THE RULE OF DEFINITION AND PRECEDENT:**

FIRST: INTERPRET BY LEARNING WHAT THE WORDS WE READ MEAN. MEANING WHEN IN DOUBT LOOK IT UP AND DON’T GUESS.

SECOND: DEFINE WORDS BY HOW THEY HAVE BEEN USED IN OTHER SCRIPTURES, DON’T FIND NEW MEANINGS, THE BIBLE IS CONSISTENT

**#11 THE RULE OF LOGIC:** WE INTERPRET THE BIBLE WITH LOGIC AND COMMON SENSE.

TWISTING THE BIBLE TO SAY THINGS IT DOESN’T GOES AGAINST INTELLIGENT THINKING.

 -THE BIBLE IS UNCHANGING AS GOD IS UNCHANGING

 -THE BIBLE IS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND CLEAR AS GOD IS CLEAR

 -THE BIBLE IS TRUTH NOT MADE-UP NONSENSE

 -THE BIBLE IS SCIENTIFIC

 -THE BIBLE IS HISTORICAL

 -THE BIBLE DOES NOT CONTRADICT

**#12 THE RULE OF UNITY: THE BIBLE DOESN’T CONTRADICT ITSELF SO DON’T MAKE IT LIE**

 -WE MUST CONSIDER WHAT THE ENTIRE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SOMETHING NOT ONE

VERSE

**#13 THE RULE OF INFERENCE:** SCRIPTURE PROVES FACT ABOUT OTHER SCRIPTURE. NOT ONLY IS THERE UNITY IN GODS WORD IT ALL FITS TOEGETHER IN A PUZZLE

**#14 THE RULE OF APPLICATION:** ALTHOUGH INTERPRETED IN IT’S HYSTORICAL CONTEXT ITS APPLICATION CAN VARY IN MODERN CONTEXT

**#15 THE RULE OF COVENANTS:** SOME THINGS IN THE BIBLE ARE SPECIFIC TO ISRAEL WHILE OTHERS ARE FOR CHRISTIANS LEARNING WHICH IS WHICH IS IMPORTANT

 -UNDERSTANDING THE COVENANT OF WHAT WE ARE READING HELPS US INTERPRET

 -WHAT ARE THE RULES OF IT

 -WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF IT

 -HOW DO WE RELATE TO GOD UNDER IT

**#16 RULE OF WRITING FORM:** WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT TYPE OF LITERATURE WE ARE READING TO PROPERLY INTERPRET IT. IS IT WISDOM, NARRATIVE, HISTORICAL, LEGAL, LETTER, POETRY, PARABLE, PROPHECY OR APOCALYPTIC?