

**How to Study the Bible
with Katie Arey
Week 3
(INTERPRETATION)**

RECAP of the OIA Method

- Observation:** What does it say?
- Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- Application:** How should I change?

RECAP of Observation

- Observation** is the first step in OIA
- Observation** asks the question, “What does the text say?”
- The goal of **observation** is to take a passage of Scripture and read, reread, notice details, and make note of these details in a step by step manner
- The greatest enemy to **Observation** is familiarity

HOMEWORK-> “Your Turn” Exercises

Knowable Word Chapter 3

From Presumption to Interpretation

Keys to Understanding

In the INTERPRETATION step, we discover *why* a passage says what it says.

Why we interpret...

...Don't stop with observation, but continue forward to understand the “why.” If you don't interpret well, you may miss the point of the text. And since the point is to know God through His Son Jesus and receive eternal life, I presume you won't want to miss it. Page 70

The Greatest Enemy of Interpretation is Presumption

Presumption- the fruit of familiarity- is the act of drawing conclusions from limited evidence. Page 71

Forms of Presumption

- Relativism
- Tradition
- Education
- Premature Application
- Authority

Three Steps for Interpreting the Bible

1. Ask questions of your observations
2. Answer the questions from the text
3. Determine the author's main point

1. Ask Questions of Your Observations

- Ask lots of questions about your observations from every direction
- Be as inquisitive as possible
- Don't ask every question that comes to mind
- There's no need to be clever
- Your job is not to innovate, but to uncover

2. Answer the Questions From the Text

- Begin to answer the questions you asked
- Answer questions only if they are answered explicitly or implicitly in the text
- Don't go on rabbit trails
- Don't use minor details to make the text say what you want it to say

3. Determine the Author's Main Point

- Your investigation should lead you to the main point of the passage
- Sometimes the author's main point is explicit, sometimes it is not
- The main points of the Bible represent the main things God wants us to understand

1. Ask Questions of Your Observations

The main questions are: *What? Why? So what?*

What? Questions

- What? questions* clarify or define your observations i.e. "What does that phrase mean?"
- (Who, where, when, and how questions do the same.)
- Such questions transition you from observation to **interpretation**

Why? Questions

- Why? questions* uncover the author's purpose i.e. "Why did he say that?"
- Why? questions* could be considered the essence of **interpretation**

So What? Questions

- So what? questions* draw out the implications as in "So what does he want us to do about it?"
- So what? questions* transition you from **interpretation** to application

2. Answer the Questions From the Text

- Answers assumed
- Answers addressed

Answers Assumed

- The original audience would have known these answers
- Today we need reference material to help us understand what scholars have learned about ancient cultures
- We can check Scripture to illuminate the text at hand
- Sometimes we will just have to keep reading and return to the question later

Answers Addressed

- Some answers are addressed in the text either explicitly or implicitly, either in the passage you are studying or somewhere else in Scripture
- We can check Scripture to illuminate the text hand
- Sometimes we will just have to keep reading and return to the question later

3. Determine the Author's Main Point

- You will begin to integrate your questions and answers into a coherent main point
- Integration matters because ancient authors didn't waste space with meaningless details
- Every word, sentence, and paragraph has a purpose and every section has a main point
- Once we understand how the main point directed the original audience toward the Lord, we can consider how it is directing us toward the Lord

How Do We Find the Main Point?

- Always ask "Why?"
- Account for the context
- Track the author's flow of thought

Always Ask "Why?"

- There are many pathways from the details in the text to the main point
- Most of these pathways are found by continue asking why
- We should be able to carve a path from any detail in the passage to the main point

Account For the Context

- Historical context (ie Genesis was written to people in Moses' day.)
- Literary context (What comes before and after?)
- Intertextual context (How does if fit inside all of Scripture?)

Track the Author's Flow of Thought

-Ask: *How did the author get from the first verse to the last verse?*

-Discourse; there may be a chief conclusion

-Poetry; there may be discourse/ a chief conclusion/ with evidence supporting conclusion, a proposed question and an answer somewhere in the poem, or repetition of a pattern that is the main point or a reflection of the main point

-Narrative; the main point will have something to do with the plot's climax and resolution

How to See Jesus in Any Bible Passage

... the goal of Bible study is to know Jesus. Every passage of Scripture should take us to Jesus. Page 97

Luke 24:46-47

Truth 1 The Messiah would suffer (die) and rise from the dead.

Truth 2 We must repent of our sins and be forgiven.

Truth 3 This message— that the Messiah's death and resurrection make forgiveness possible— must be proclaimed to all nations.

How to See Jesus in Genesis 1

Although passages like John 1:1-5 and Hebrews 1:10-3 clearly identify Jesus as the creator of all things, we must see him also as Redeemer god calls humanity to illuminate, shape, and fill the earth in his name, he establishes a standard we can't possibly keep perfectly. But Jesus can, and repentant sinners will find forgiveness in him. Page 99.

How to Use Blue Letter Bible

Blueletterbible.org or blb.org

Interlinear/ Strong's Definitions

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/help/conc.cfm>

Bible Dictionary

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/help/dicti.cfm>

Cross Reference/ Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/help/tsk.cfm>

Homework

Read Chapter 3

Optional: Complete the "Your Turn" parts on pages 70, 74, 77, 81, 85, 93, 97 & 102

Every Word Collective Interpretation Chart

Question 1:	Question 2:
Answer 1:	Answer 2:
Question 3:	Question 4:
Answer 3:	Answer 4:
Question 5:	Question 6:
Answer 5:	Answer 6:
Question 7:	Question 8:
Answer 7:	Answer 8:

WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE PASSAGE?

Every Word Collective Interpretation Chart (Genesis 1)

<p>Question 1: What does “In the beginning” mean?</p>	<p>Question 2: Who is God? The Spirit of God?</p>
<p>Answer 1: The natural meaning of the word is with reference to time. The primitive Greek root means "to be long," "to draw out." Thus, it is used to refer to some point of time long drawn out, or long past (Gen. 1:1). (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)</p>	<p>Answer 2: (Elohim)- The supreme God expressed in plurality ...thus the reference to the Spirit of God (Ruah)- Wind; by resemblance of breath ie a sensible (or even violent) exhalation... (Stong’s Concordance)</p>
<p>Question 3: What does “without form” mean? What does “void” mean?</p>	<p>Question 4: How did God create/ make everything in Genesis 1?</p>
<p>Answer 3: (tou)- to lie waste, a desolation (of surface) ie desert (bou)- to be empty, a vacuity, an indistinguishable ruin (Stong’s Definitions)</p>	<p>Answer 4: God spoke and it was. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Hebrews 11:3</p>
<p>Question 5: Why is creation written as a list?</p>	<p>Question 6: What is the Image of God?</p>
<p>Answer 5: The structure of the creation account being a list shows order, which mimics the order God brought to the chaos of the formless and empty earth.</p>	<p>Answer 6: The characteristics of humankind with which God endowed them at creation distinguishing them from the rest of God’s creatures. (Nelson’s Bible Dictionary)</p>
<p>Question 7: What does it mean to be fruitful and multiply? To fill the earth and subdue it? To have dominion?...</p>	<p>Question 8: Why did God rest on the 7th day?</p>
<p>Answer 7: Fruitful- bear fruit. Multiply- to become many. Fill- replenish. Subdue- to bring into bondage. Dominion- rule over. (Strong’s Definitions)</p>	<p>Answer 8: He rested because His work was done. (Sabat)- to repose, desist from exertion, celebrate (Strong’s Definitions)</p>

WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE PASSAGE?

God is the supreme and only true God who is without beginning and who created everything out of nothing by His word. He filled the formless and empty earth with His creation in 6 days, creating man in His Image on the 6th day. He rested on the 7th day because His work was done. In being created in His image, we are to follow His pattern of filling emptiness by bearing fruit, ruling over creation, and then resting from that work.