

How to Study the Bible
Grace Bible Fellowship Church – Winter 2020

TEACHING NOTES

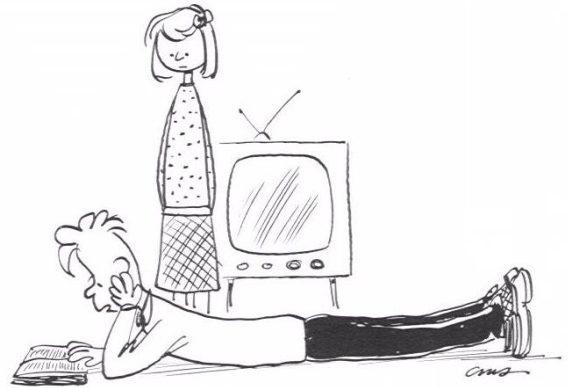
Week 4: Observation: Context

February 2, 2020 – Putting it in Context – taught by Mark Bickel

Graphic: Find Preconceived Notions

Review: OIA (see OIA Bookmark)

- Observe** - "What Does it Say?"
- Interpret** - "What Does it Mean?"
- Apply** - "What Does It Mean for Me?"



"Don't bother me . . . I'm looking for a verse of scripture to back up one of my preconceived notions!"

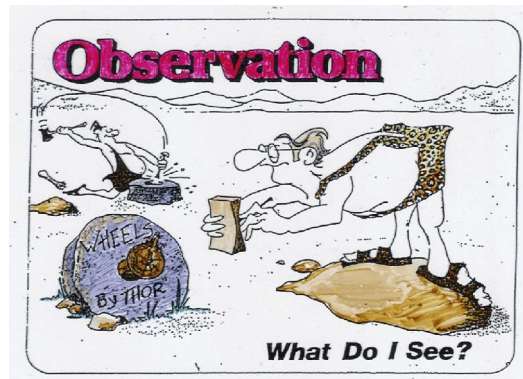
Review: Keys to Perceptive Observation:

Content

Who, what, when, where, why, how

Context

- Audience, Culture, Geography
- Genre, Structure, Tone
- Chapter, Book, Biblical Theology



Discussion: Article 3: The Groggle



CONTEXT

Word's Only Have Meaning in Context

General Examples: Run, Horn

Run a race, Nose run, Car run

Car horn, Rhinoceros horn, Priests horn, Horn of altar

The Bible is written to and about specific people in specific time, recorded in specific way and specific place in Scripture (still applicable to all people in all times)

Biblical Example: Malachi 2:17

Biblical Example: Revelation 3:14-21

- **just read 15 ; then 20 - get reactions ; then read all**
- v.15 - cold or hot - zealous Christian or hard unbeliever, not mediocre
- biblical context : does God want unbeliever as much as Christian?
- Geography / culture : cold well / hot spring - both good, but both loss effect / become nasty if luke-warm!
- v. 20 - Looks like Jesus knock on heart, if open become Christian
- But v.14 says written to church - to Christians
- We also picture as nice, kind, even begging man at door offer dinner
- v. 16 / 18 - vomit you out / expose nakedness
- v. 19 - so come Repent - then I come and eat with you
- v. 21 - overcome til end - this is not nice dinner we can choose to have
This is either life of repentance and fellowship or spitting out!

A) Cultural / Historical Context

- Audience: Who's Who

Know about church, nations, rulers, key events of the time

Ex. What was it like to live in Egypt, or Rome,
Who is Babylon, What type of city was Ninevah, what was unique about Ephesus

- Culture: What's What

Know about culture (church / society); roles of the people; traditions and expectations

Ex. Where the things Jesus said or did common or not
Are the structures Paul lays out for the family or the church normal or new.

- Geography: Where is it?

Ex. Was it far away or near, green grass or desert, jew or gentile,
Was Samaria the normal path or a forbidden route

B) Literary Context

- **Biblical Genre**
- **Grammatical / Literary Structure**
- **Tone**

Let's take a few minutes to dive into some of these in a bit more depth...

- Genre: What Type of Literature is it?

GENRE	CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLES
Apocalyptic	Dramatic, highly symbolic material; vivid imagery; stark contrasts; events take place on a global scale; frequently narrated in the first-person as an eyewitness account; portrays a cosmic struggle between good and evil.	Revelation
Biography	Close-up view of an individual’s life; subject is often portrayed in contrast to someone else; selected events reveal character development, either positively (comedy) or negatively (tragedy)	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Saul, David, Elijah, Jesus
Encomium	Sings high praise of someone or something; rehearses in glowing terms the subject’s origins, acts, attributes, or superiority; exhorts the reader to incorporate the same features into his own life.	Psalm 19 Psalm 119 Proverbs 31:10-31 Song of Solomon John 1:1-18 1 Corinthians 13 Col. 1:15-20 Hebrews 1-3
Exposition	Carefully reasoned argument or explanation; well-organized; logical flow; terms are crucial; builds to a logical, compelling climax; the aim is agreement and action.	Paul’s letters Hebrews James 1 and 2 Peter 1, 2, and 3 John Jude
Narrative	A broad category in which story is prominent; includes historical accounts; structure is conveyed through plot; characters undergo psychological and spiritual development; selected events used to convey meaning; events juxtaposed for contrast and comparison	Genesis-Ezra The gospels Acts
Oratory	Stylized oral presentation of an argument; uses formal conventions of rhetoric and oratory; frequently quotes from authorities well known to listeners; usually intended to exhort and persuade.	John 13-17 Acts 7 Acts 17:22-31 Acts 22:1-21 Acts 24:10-21 Acts 26:1-23

GENRE	CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLES
Parable	Brief oral story illustrating moral; truth frequently relies on stock characters and stereotypes; presents scenes and activities common to everyday life; encourages reflection and self-evaluation.	2 Sam. 12:1-6 Ecclesiastes. 9:14-16 Matt. 13:1-53 Mark 4:1-34 Luke 15:1-16:31
Poetry	Verse intended to be spoken or sung rather than read; emphasis on cadence and the sounds of words; vivid images and symbols; appeals to the emotions; may employ features of encomium, pastoral, and other literary styles; in O.T., heavy use of parallelism.	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon
Prophecy	Strident, authoritative presentation of God's will and words; frequently intended as a corrective; intended to motivate change through warnings; foretells God's plans in response to human choices.	Isaiah-Malachi
Proverb	Short, pithy statement of a moral truth; reduces life to black-and-white categories; often addressed to youth; frequently employs parallelism; points readers toward the right and away from evil; heavy use of metaphors and similes.	Proverbs
Satire	Exposes and ridicules human vice and foolishness; is employed by various literary styles, especially narrative, biography, and proverb; warns readers through a negative example.	Proverbs 24:30-34 Ezekiel 34 Luke 18:1-8 2 Corinthians 11:1-12:1
Tragedy	Relates the downfall of a person; uses selected events to show the path toward ruin; problems usually revolve around a critical flaw in the person's character and moral choices; warns readers through a negative example.	Lot Samson Saul Acts 5
Wisdom	A broad category in which an older, seasoned person relates wisdom to a younger; may use parable; gives observations on fundamental areas of life-birth, death, work, money, power, time, the earth, and so on; appeals on the basis of human experience.	Job Proverbs Psalm 37 Psalm 90 Ecclesiastes

For additional help with literary types in the Bible, see Leland Ryken's excellent book *The Literature of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974). **See also:** List on back of OIA Bookmark

- **Structure: How is it constructed?** (*we covered some of these 2 weeks ago*)

Word Connections:

Ex. Repeated Words, Contrasts, Cause & Effect....

Grammatical Structure:

Ex. Subjects, Verbs, Objects, Prepositions, Modifiers...

Literary Structure:

Ex. Parallelism, Lists, Chiasms...

- **Figures of Speech: How do I read correctly?**

Example: God is a Roaring Lion : does he have mane, tail, etc. - no
Picture of power and majesty, need to see it poetically

Anthropomorphism

The attribution of human features or actions to God.

"The Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1).

Apostrophe

Addressing a thing as if it were a person, or an absent or imaginary person as if he were present.

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:55).

Euphemism

The use of a less offensive expression to indicate a more offensive one.

"Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves"
(Galatians 5:12).

"...and Saul went in to cover his feet" (1 Samuel 24:3, KJV only. This was introduced by the translators.)

Hyperbole

Exaggeration to say more than is literally meant.

"I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to serve you" (2Corinthians 11:8).

Hypocatastasis

A comparison in which likeness is implied rather than stated directly.

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (Luke 12:1).

Idiom

An expression peculiar to a particular people.

"And [Samson] said, 'I will go in to my wife in her room'" (Judges 15:1).

Merism

A substitution of two contrasting or opposite parts for the whole.

"Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up" (Psalm 39:2).

Metaphor

A comparison in which one thing represents another.

"You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

Paradox

A statement that seems absurd, self-contradictory, or contrary to logical thought.

"Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25).

Personification

Ascribing human characteristics or actions to inanimate objects or animals.

"The moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed" (Isaiah 24:23).

Rhetorical question

A question that requires no response, yet forces one to answer mentally and consider its ramifications.

"In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:11).

Simile

A comparison using like or as.

"He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water" (Psalm 1:3).

- Tone: How is it told?

Ex. : joyful, angry, grieved, defense, positive, negative ...

C) Biblical Context

- Verse and Paragraph

Be sure to read all verses and paragraphs around this phrase
Get the complete story, feel for all that is being said

- Chapter and Book

Where does this story or teaching fit in the larger picture

- Larger Biblical Theology

How does the theology of this fit with the rest of Scripture
Redemptive-Historical context
Where in story: before or after Jesus died and rose again...
Theological context
How does this fit with teaching and themes of rest of scripture

Warning: use Word Study with caution

Review: Keys to Perceptive Observation:

Content

Who, what, when, where, why, how

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Today's Study: Ephesians 2:1-10 {Page 3, Line 31 – Page 3, Line 43}

Home Study: Ephesians 2:11-22 { Page 3, Line 43 – Page 4, Line 60}

Read: Article 4 “Bypassing Scriptural Authority”

Week 4: Ephesians 2:1-10

February 2, 2020 – But God... – taught by Mark Bickel

Ephesians 2:1-10 {Page 3, Line 31 – Page 3, Line 43}

INTRO

- 1st half chapter 1
 - Looked at Who, What, When, Where, How and Why
 - Also gained a lot by noting repeated words / phrases
 - Saw the importance of Tone

- 2nd half of chapter 1
 - Importance of structure – is a prayer – Intro (thanks), Main Prayer (that you know in heart) 3 Parallel points in prayer (hope of calling, riches of inheritance, greatness of power), expound last point (power)

 - Why expound last? – context, first 2 already covered earlier

- 1st half of Chapter 2
 - Today – look for comparison and contrast
 - look for key connecting words (therefore, and, or, but)
 - ask questions about logic – what is dead, what is normal order of death and life, how normally progress from one to the other ... is that order here?

OBSERVATION

* Watch for AND, BUT, THEREFORE

1) AND - Along with everything from chapter 1

God showed power - by raising Christ .. By raising us

HE made Alive

YOU were dead

2) DEAD

You **Once Walked** in :

Trespases

Sins

You Followed :

Course of World

Prince of the power of the air

Who is Spirit - now working in

Sons of Disobedience

You Lived among these sons of Disobedience

When lived in passion of your flesh

Desires of Body

Desires of Mind

SO you were **BY NATURE** Children of Wrath

(Sons of disobedience get wrath of father)

Like the rest of mankind

INTERPRETATION

If you by **NATURE** deserve wrath, what can you do about it?

If you are **DEAD**, what can you do to become alive?

{even if pill created to reverse death, dead person could not take it!}

NOTHING - the situation is as grave as it can get, with no way out.

OBSERVATION

3) BUT GOD

Should say AND GOD set his face against us; AND GOD destroyed us

BUT GOD ...

Which God ?

- God of chapter 1
- rich in mercy
- with great love

What did God do ?

- Came to act when we were DEAD, through our transgressions

3 verbs

- Made us Alive with Christ - Saved us by grace
- Raised us up with Christ
- Made us sit with Christ - in heavenly places

Why?

- So he might show:
 - Immeasurable riches of grace
 - Kindness toward us
 - Shown in Christ
- (Painter / portrait illustration)

How Saved?

- Salvation
- By grace
- Through faith
- Not our doing, Gift of God
- Not because of works, Nothing we can boast in

Who are We?

- Already seen Alive, not Dead
- Now see we are God's workmanship
- Created in Jesus, Created for Good Works

Works God has already prepared

For us to walk in.

INTERPRETATION

- When we were DEAD, GOD acted
- Do you see **magnitude of God's act** :
Save, Make Alive, Raise us up, Sit us with Christ in heaven
- **Do you see God's hand** - He created, He saved, He has prepared good works for us
all to show his grace
- **His Party** again, and He has chosen to make it so that his character, his grace, his glory is shown by doing amazing things for us! **Things we could never do for self.**

APPLICATION

- Think of Lazarus, would raise from dead affect him at breakfast next morning?

- Notice **WALK**.

Used to WALK in trespasses,

now WALK in good things God has prepared

- Two walks / Two masters : God and Satan

- How should we then live ?

- see chapters 4 - 6

- **ALSO** : Live life with a new purpose.

Live life in remembrance and worship.

Finally: Note that this passage is **CORPORATE**, not individual! Apply that way.