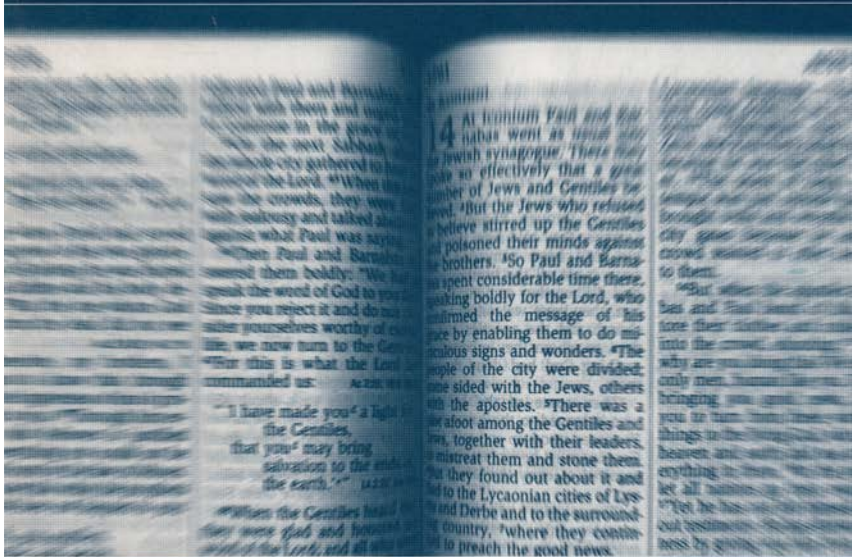


INTERPRETING THE SCRIPTURES SELF STUDY GUIDE



KEVIN J. CONNER

Interpreting the Scriptures

Self Study Guide

Kevin J. Conner



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Interpreting the Scriptures

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Foreword — Interpreting the Scriptures

1. What is one of the root causes of theological differences and divisions in the body of christ?

2. Fill in the answers:

The problem is not over _____ and _____ so much as it is over _____ and _____.

3. The burning desire in this text book is to rediscover“ _____”

4. What is the foundational proposition upon which this textbook is built?

“ _____

_____”

5. Fill in parallel arguments:

“The way a thing is _____ is the way it can be _____.”

“The way the Bible _____ indicates the way it _____.”

6. Answer in your own words:

What is the analogy between universal laws and Biblical hermeneutical laws?

Chapter One — An Introduction to Hermeneutics

1. What is the definition of “hermeneutics” according to:
 - A. Webster -
 - B. Classical Greek -
 - C. Hebrew - (from a summary of Hebrew words) -
 - D. Greek - (from a summary of Greek words) -

2. Modern theologians define hermeneutics as both “a science and an art” of Biblical interpretation.
 - A. A science because _____
_____.
 - B. An art because _____
_____.

3. Fill in the five words necessary to general hermeneutics.

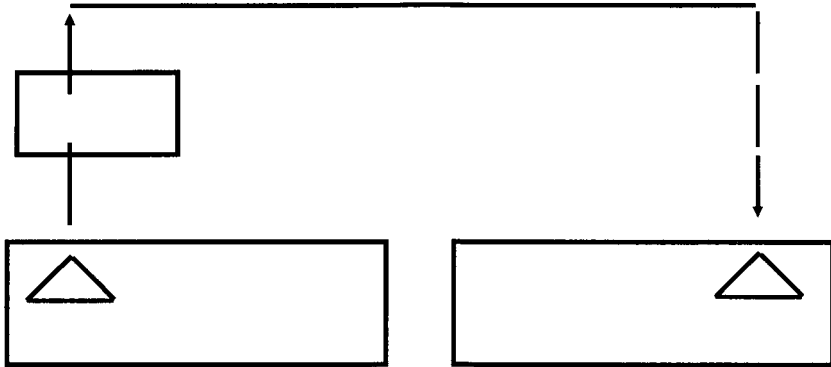


4. Because the sender and receiver may have different frames of reference, what has to be bridged?

Fill in the appropriate answer from the diagram:

5. What is “Biblical Hermeneutics?”

6. Fill in the details of the following chart which applies the principles of the communication of scripture:



7. Why is it important to interpret Scripture?

8. List the twenty ways which God has spoken to man.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A. _____ | K. _____ |
| B. _____ | L. _____ |
| C. _____ | M. _____ |
| D. _____ | N. _____ |
| E. _____ | O. _____ |
| F. _____ | P. _____ |
| G. _____ | Q. _____ |
| H. _____ | R. _____ |
| I. _____ | S. _____ |
| J. _____ | T. _____ |

9. Give a brief definition of the Biblical sciences related to hermeneutics.

A. Canonology -

B. Historical Criticism -

C. Textual Criticism -

D. Hermeneutics -

E. Exegesis -

F. Biblical Theology -

10. Divide these six sciences into their two groupings.

A. The Infallible Materials

B. The Use of the Materials

(1) _____

(1) _____

(2) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(3) _____

11. What is the threefold result of A plus B as above?

12. Write in your own words a summary statement of the relationship of hermeneutics to Church divisions.

Chapter Two — The Qualifications of an Interpreter

1. The relationship between the *science* and the *art* of hermeneutics is seen in the fact that:
 - A. The _____ has to do with the rules of interpretation.
 - B. The _____ has to do with the skill of the interpreter.
2. Does a knowledge of hermeneutical rules make one a good interpreter?
Why?
3. Give a brief summary statement concerning each of the three categories of interpreters.
 - A. Legal Interpreters -
 - B. False Interpreters -
 - C. True Interpreters -
4. List the sixteen qualifications of an interpreter of Scripture.
 - A. The Interpreter _____

 - B. The Interpreter _____

 - C. The Interpreter _____

 - D. The Interpreter _____

 - E. The Interpreter _____

 - F. The Interpreter _____

 - G. The Interpreter _____

H. The Interpreter _____

I. The Interpreter _____

J. The Interpreter _____

K. The Interpreter _____

L. The Interpreter _____

M. The Interpreter _____

N. The Interpreter _____

O. The Interpreter _____

P. The Interpreter _____

5. What is the balance between depending on the Holy Spirit's illumination and the applying of one's intellect to study resources?

6. Fill in the words:
"A delicate balance must be constantly maintained between the _____ and the _____."

7. Define the following words:

A. Revelation -

B. Inspiration -

C. Illumination -

Chapter Three — The Methods of Interpretation

1. What is a “method” of interpretation?

2. Write a brief summary statement of each of the five most prominent methods as to their origin, definition, and evaluation.
 - A. The Allegorical Method
 - 1) Origin -
 - 2) Definition -
 - 3) Evaluation -

 - B. The Mystical Method
 - 1) Origin -
 - 2) Definition -
 - 3) Evaluation -

 - C. The Devotional Method
 - 1) Origin -
 - 2) Definition -
 - 3) Evaluation -

 - D. The Rationalistic Method
 - 1) Origin -
 - 2) Definition -
 - 3) Evaluation -

E. The Literal Method

- 1) Origin -
- 2) Definition -
- 3) Evaluation -

3. Fill in the appropriate words:

- A. The literal sense does not _____.
- B. The literal sense does not _____.
- C. The literal sense does not _____.
- D. The literal sense does not _____.

4. Why is the literal method the only sound, safe, and sensible approach to the interpretation of Scripture?

Chapter Four — A Brief History of Hermeneutics

1. In your own words, write out what is the major benefit one can receive by studying the history of Biblical hermeneutics.

I. Jewish Hermeneutics

1. Who is called “the Father of Hermeneutics?”
2. What was the problem faced by the remnant of the Jews returning from the Babylonian captivity, and how was it solved?
3. In relation to the synagogue, answer the following:
 - A. What was a synagogue?
 - B. What was the purpose of its existence?
 - C. Of what did “the Great Synagogue” consist?
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
4. Fill in the answer:

“The danger of centralized ecclesiastical authority is that the same walls that _____ in may also _____ out.”
5. Why did Christ denounce the scribes of his day?
6. What was “the good example of Ezra” that the Palestinian Jews followed?
7. What great mistake did the Palestinian Jews make?

8. Explain and evaluate the two kinds of interpretation in the Mishna.

A. Halakah -

B. Hagadah -

9. Explain in your own words the accompanying chart on these above commentaries.

10. Define the following:

A. Letterism -

B. What is wrong with it?

11. What was the Qumran community's basic problem that so greatly affected their hermeneutics?

12. Fill in the words:

"The Palestinian Jews are to be commended for their acceptance of the _____ and _____ of the Scriptures and their development of sound _____ in relation to _____ . However, a failure to produce _____ was caused by their yielding to _____ and _____."

13. How did the Alexandrian Jews originate the Allegorical School of Interpretation?
14. Fill in the words:
“Alexandrian Jews were ‘sons of _____’ in _____, but became ‘sons of _____’ in _____.”
15. Under what two points can Philo’s principles of interpretation be summarized?
A. _____
B. _____
16. What is the major problem with allegorization?
17. What did the Karaites contribute to the science of hermeneutics?
18. What was the error of the Cabalists?
19. What rule of interpretation is Aben Ezra famous for?
20. List four points which show why modern Jewry will never be able to interpret their scriptures properly.
A.
B.
C.
D.

II. Apostolic Hermeneutics

1. What “method” prevailed in apostolic times?
2. Who is (A) the only perfect and infallible interpreter of Scripture, and (B) why could he be that?
 - A.
 - B.
3. What did false hermeneutics cause the religious leaders of Christ’s time to do?
4. How did the apostles become the infallible interpreters of the Old Testament writings?
5. Respond and reply to the following statement:

“If we can discover the principles of apostolic hermeneutics given to them by Christ, and accept them and use them, then this would help to bring about ‘the unity of the faith’ that was once delivered to the saints.”

III. Patristic Hermeneutics

1. What methods were used in this period of history?
2. What was the main concern of the Fathers during the second century A.D.?
3. Give a brief summary statement of the “strengths” and/or the “weaknesses” of the following Fathers:
 - A. Clement of Rome -
 - B. Ignatius -
 - C. Barnabas -

- D. Marcion -
 - E. Justin Martyr -
 - F. Iranaeus -
4. Where did the School of Alexandria get their methods of interpretation?
 5. What were Clement's five meanings of scripture?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 6. Explain Origin's threefold sense of scripture.
 7. How did the School of Antioch differ from the School of Alexandria?
 8. Give a brief summary statement of the "strengths" and/or the "weaknesses" of the following Fathers of this period:
 - A. Diodorus of Tarus -
 - B. Theodore of Mopsuestia -
 - C. Chrysostom -

9. What was the great concern that brought about the great division of the Churches into eastern and western divisions?
10. In the Eastern Division several Fathers are noted. Name the appropriate one with the following statement

Name

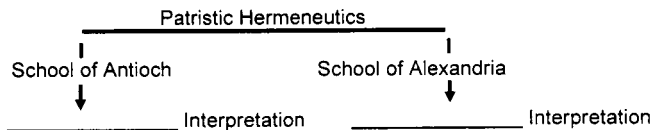
- A. He held to a threefold sense of scripture. _____
- B. He was called “The Father of Orthodoxy.” _____
- C. He embraced asceticism and monasticism but was basically a sound interpreter. _____
- D. He followed the literal method. _____

11. In the Western Division several notable Fathers are mentioned. Name the appropriate one with the following statement:

Name

- A. He held Church tradition and Church authority above reason and conscience _____
- B. He treated the historical sense of scripture as being irrelevant and exalted the mystical sense of Scripture. _____
- C. He started the heretical trend of exalting the authority of the Church in interpreting the Scriptures. _____
- D. He emphasized the literal and grammatical sense of Scripture but in practice often followed the allegorical. _____
- E. He was one of the greatest theologians of his time. _____

12. In summarizing the Patristic Period of Hermeneutics, two major streams are seen. What method of interpretation characterized them?



IV. Medieval Hermeneutics

1. Explain the four senses attributed to scripture during this period.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

2. List four things that were the major hindrances to progress in the field of hermeneutics during this period.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

3. Place the appropriate name alongside the following statements:

	Name
A. He helped to "seed" the reformation.	_____
B. He was a mystical allegorizer.	_____
C. He accepted the fourfold sense of scripture.	_____
D. He assumed a sevenfold sense of scripture.	_____
E. He was known as "the Morning Star" of the Reformation.	_____

4. Evaluate the great problems seen in Catholic hermeneutics.

5. What caused the chains of ignorance, superstition, and tradition to be snapped near the close of this period?

V. Reformation Hermeneutics

1. What method was re-discovered in this period?

2. Why was “sola scriptura” the battle cry of the Reformation?

3. Write fully the seven rules of interpretation that the Reformers contended for.

- A. _____

- B. _____

- C. _____

- D. _____

- E. _____

- F. _____

- G. _____

4. Comment briefly on Martin Luther’s hermeneutical principles.

- A. _____

- B. _____

- C. _____

- D. _____

- E. _____

- F. _____

5. Comment briefly upon John Calvin’s hermeneutical principles.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____

6. What did the “battle lines” between Catholicism and Protestantism cause the scholars to do?

7. What happened in this “battle” to the field of hermeneutics?

VI. Post-Reformation Hermeneutics

1. What was the major method of interpretation during this period?
2. What other method rose to prominence in this period?
3. How did the Reformation “go sour”?
4. Explain the role of Pietism during this period.
5. Was Phillip Spener’s belief that “purity of heart was more important than purity of doctrine” correct?

If not, why not?
6. What is the main danger and weakness to be found in the devotional method of interpretation?
7. How did Biblical criticism begin to develop?
8. What important element did John Ernesti bring to Biblical hermeneutics?
9. What was the fatal error of Rationalism?
10. Write a brief statement of something that you have personally learned from these four groupings of interpreters.
 - A. Dogmatism -
 - B. Pietism -
 - C. Criticism -
 - D. Rationalism -

VII. Modern Hermeneutics

1. Fill in the words:

"The _____ of the Post-Reformation prepared the way for the _____ of the Modern Era."

"On the other hand, the _____ of the Post-Reformation laid the ground for the _____ of the Modern Age."

2. Write in your own words the sevenfold problem of "liberalism" in interpreting the scriptures.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____

3. Why is Karl Barth's theology faulty?

4. What is meant by "conservatism" as used here?

5. List out the sevenfold approach of conservatives to interpreting scripture.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____

6. What are the three charts endeavoring to convey? Write a summary statement concerning each.

A. The Progress of Hermeneutics -

B. History of Hermeneutics -

C. Jewish Hermeneutics -

Chapter Five — Foundations for Interpretation

1. What is the **goal** of hermeneutics?
2. What is the foundational **means** for reaching this goal?
3. Answer the questions relative to the basic fourfold gap that has to be bridged.

A. The Linguistic Gap

1) In what three languages was the Bible written?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

2) How do we bridge the linguistic gap?

3) Vocabulary — what is meant by the following:

a) The etymological study of a word?

b) The comparative study of a word?

c) The cultural study of a word?

d) The study of a word in cognate languages?

4) Grammar — what is meant by the following:

a) The study of grammar?

b) Analytic languages?

c) Synthetic languages?

- 5) Why is it important that both vocabulary and grammar be studied together?
- 6) Genre — what is meant by the following:
 - a) Genre?
 - b) Literary style?
 - c) Literary expression?
 - d) Figures of speech?

B. The Cultural Gap

- 1) What is the problem that has to be bridged by this gap?
- 2) How can it be bridged?
- 3) What is meant by the following:
 - a) Material culture?
 - b) Social culture?

C. The Geographical Gap

- 1) What is the problem that necessitates the bridging of this gap?
- 2) How may it be bridged?
- 3) What is meant by the following:
 - a) Political geography?
 - b) Geological geography?
 - c) Botanical and zoological geography?

D. The Historical Gap

- 1) What is the problem here that necessitates the bridging of this gap?

- 2) How may it be bridged?

- 3) What is meant by the following:
 - a) The political background?

 - b) The economic background?

 - c) The religious background?

Chapter Five — Foundations for Interpretation

Assignments

Take the following scriptures, bridge the foundational gaps, and then briefly interpret them. Use separate sheets of paper.

The format must be as follows:

1. The scripture reference _____.
2. The _____ gap.
3. The brief interpretation of the scripture _____
_____.

Jeremiah 2:13

I Peter 5:4

I Corinthians 16:22 (K.J.V., "Anathema" AND Maranatha").

I Kings 18:42-46

2 Kings 5:10-12

Proverbs 30:19-31

Song of Solomon 2:1-3

Hosea 12:1

2 Thessalonians 2:7 (K.J.V., "Letteth")

Acts 11:27-29

Acts 19:28, 34

I Corinthians 11:5

Ezekiel 21:21

Proverbs 23:5

Isaiah 10:28-32

I Samuel 13:12 (K.J.V., "Forced").

Chapter Six — The Context Principle

1. Define the Context Principle.

2. What is meant by the following:
 - A. Fresh Revelation Context?
 - B. Woven Revelation Context?

3. What is the best interpreter of scripture?

4. Why is the context principle called “the first principle of hermeneutics”?

5. What are the four “contexts within contexts”?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

6. Why should the old adage “a text out of context is a pretext” be rephrased?

7. Why is it that Matthew 10:9-10 cannot be used to teach that ministers must never take provisions when travelling?

8. Why is it that Luke 24:49 cannot be used as a “proof text” for Pentecostal “tarrying meetings” for receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Chapter Six — The Context Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Following the outline as under *Demonstration*, interpret James 2:14 in the light of its *fourfold* context.

Assignment #2

Following the same outline as above, interpret Hebrews 7:17 in light of its *fourfold* context.

Chapter Seven — The First Mention Principle

1. Define the First Mention Principle.

2. List the five things that the First Mention Principle is:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.

3. Why is it incorrect to refer only to the first mention of a word in using the First Mention Principle?

4. Are the following statements true or false?

“No subsequent mention of a subject should be used to contradict the first mention.”

“The first mention is insufficient of itself for a full interpretation.”

Chapter Seven — The First Mention Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Locate the first mention of the following, giving the scripture reference:

1. The principle of eternal life in relation to man.
2. The event of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
3. The first mention of fish which is used as a symbol in due time.
4. The person of Enoch who was translated.
5. The place of Babel.
6. The prophecy of Noah over his sons.

Assignment #2

Using the First Mention Principle, interpret the following scriptures, following these steps:

- A. Locate the first mention.
- B. List observations from it.
- C. Relate these to the verse being interpreted.
- D. Using this information, briefly explain the meaning of the verse.

Scriptures

1. Revelation 22:14 — The Tree of Life.
2. I Peter 5:8 — The Devil.
3. Colossians 2:11 — Circumcision.

Chapter Eight — The Comparative Mention Principle

1. Define the Comparative Mention Principle.

2. What is the difference in meaning in the following words:
 - A. Comparison -
 - B. Contrast -

3. When should this principle be used?

4. Are the following statements true or false?

“Doctrine should not be formulated on the basis of one verse only.”

“We always begin with the obscure Scripture and then proceed to the clear.”

“Sometimes we need to bring in another verse or passage of Scripture to help clarify two apparently contradictory Scriptures.”

Chapter Eight — The Comparative Mention Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Using the Comparative Mention Principle, do a brief comparison/contrast, as per chapter format, on each of the following Scripture passages. Use other sheets of paper.

1. Principle of unbelief and faith - Hebrews 3:7, 4:1-11
2. Events of the days of Lot and days of Christ's coming - Luke 17:28-32
3. Symbol of sheep/serpents/doves and believers - Matthew 10:16
4. Person of Aaron and Christ's priesthood - Hebrews 5:1-5
5. Place of Jerusalem and Sodom and Egypt - Revelation 11:8
6. Prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled in John - Isaiah 40:3-8 with Matthew 3:1-3
7. Parable of Good and Bad Fish - Matthew 13:47-50

Assignment #2

Using the Comparative Mention Principle, read Matthew 16:27-28; 17:1-8 with Mark 8:38; 9:1-8 and Luke 9:26-36. Make a list of the major comparisons and/or contrasts in each of the accounts. Place your observations in column format.

Matthew	Mark	Luke

Chapter Nine — The Progressive Mention Principle

1. Define the Progressive Mention Principle.

2. What is meant by “progressive revelation?”

3. What are the six major areas which involve the use of this principle?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
 - F. _____

4. The Progressive Mention Principle is seen as:
 - A. An extension of _____
 - B. A part of _____

5. Are the following statements true or false?

“No doctrine can be built upon only one verse of Scripture.”

“No Scripture should be used to contradict any other Scripture.”

“The Progressive Mention Principle can be used on it’s own.”

Chapter Nine - The Progressive Mention Principle

Assignments

Using the Progressive Mention Principle and the First Mention Principle, do the following assignments.

Follow these steps:

- A. Locate the first mention.
- B. Gather the links in the chain by using the Progressive Mention Principle (as in the Bible books mentioned).
- C. List your observations.
- D. Give a summary interpretation of the assigned verses in your own words.

Scripture Assignment #1

Interpret Revelation 22:3a concerning "**The Curse**," taking references only from the book of Genesis.

Scripture Assignment #2

Interpret John 6:56 on "**The Blood**," using all the references to this theme from the books of Genesis and Exodus only.

Chapter Ten — The Complete Mention Principle

1. Define the Complete Mention Principle.
2. What is meant by “complete mention”?
3. Fill in the answer.

“The Complete Mention Principle is seen as the ultimate of:

- A. _____, and
- B. _____, and
- C. _____.”

4. What symbol is used to illustrate the threefoldness of these principles working together?
5. Why is this principle so important?

Chapter Ten - The Complete Mention Principle

Assignments

Using the Complete Mention Principle, complete the following assignments by following these steps:

- A. Discover the First Mention.
- B. Use the Progressive Mention.
- C. Use the Complete Mention.
- D. List your observations.
- E. Give the interpretation of the verses in your own words in light of the whole Bible on these subjects and your use of the “threefold cord”.

Assignment #1

Use this principle to interpret Revelation 20:2 concerning “The Serpent”.

Assignment #2

Use this principle to interpret Proverbs 11:1. Do the Complete Mention on the two related words “balance” and “scales”.

Chapter Eleven — The Election Principle

1. Why are “The Divine Program Group of Principles” grouped together?
2. Define the Election Principle.
3. What does the word “election” mean?
4. What is the difference between “The Election of Time” and “The Election of Eternity”?
5. What is meant by “Election in Redemption”?
6. What is meant by “Election in Revelation”?
7. Fill in the answer:
“ The distinction between _____ of _____ and
the _____ of _____ must be constantly
kept in mind.

Chapter Eleven — The Election Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Using the Election Principle, interpret I Samuel 10:24 as to whether “Election of Time” or “Election of Eternity” is involved.

Use I Samuel 12:13 to 2 Samuel 21:6 with I Chronicles 10:13, 14 to help you in discovering the answer.

Assignment #2

Using the Election Principle, interpret Ephesians 1:4-5 stating whether these verses refer to “Election of Time” or “Election of Eternity,” and why.

Chapter Twelve — The Covenantal Principle

1. Define the Covenantal Principle.

 2. Give a summary definition of the word “covenant” from the following:
 - A. English -
 - B. Hebrew -
 - C. Greek -

 3. Who is the initiator of the covenants between God and Man?

 4. Can man change the covenants presented to him by God?

 5. What are the two kinds of covenants in the Bible as made by God?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

 6. Define these two kinds of covenants.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

 7. Which covenants involve:
 - A. Creation’s plan? _____
 - B. Redemption’s plan? _____

 8. What are the three basic parts to any valid covenant?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
-

9. Fill in a brief summary in the following diagram of the parts of the nine covenants (as per sample in the Edenic Covenant).

	Edenic	Adamic	Noahic	Abrahamic	Mosaic
Words	Fruitful Dominion over all				
Blood	Blood of Adam				
Seal	Tree of Life				

	Palestinian	Davidic	New	Everlasting
Words				
Blood				
Seal				

10. Which do you think is the most important point in "qualification" and why?

Chapter Twelve — The Covenantal Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Using the Covenantal Principle, determine which covenants are being referred to in Ezekiel 16:59-62. List them out, and then give your reasons as to why you believe they are the covenants you listed.

Assignment #2

Using the Covenantal Principle, determine which covenants are being dealt with in Acts chapter 15. Remember! Look for “covenantal language” and not necessarily the word “covenant”. List them out, and give proof as to why you believe they are the covenants listed.

Chapter Thirteen — The Ethnic-Division Principle

1. Define the Ethnic-Division Principle.
2. What does the word “ethnic” mean in:
 - A. English -
 - B. Hebrew -
 - C. Greek -
3. What are the three basic ethnic divisions in the Bible?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
4. Which nation was the chosen nation under Old Testament times?
5. Give the threefold reason for God’s choice of this nation.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
6. When was the Chosen Nation divided into two kingdoms?
7. What were the designations of these two kingdoms?
8. Fill in all of the “two’s” from Section C concerning the division of Israel.

Two _____	Two _____
Two _____	Two _____
Two _____	Two _____
Two _____	Two _____
Two _____	Two _____
Two _____	Two _____

9. Who is the term "Gentile" applied to in Scripture?

10. List the eightfold condition of the Gentile nations.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____

11. Give one Scripture from the Old and New Testaments which clearly show that the Gentiles would come into blessing through Christ.

- A. Old Testament _____
- B. New Testament _____

12. Define the word "Church."

13. Fill in the following words:

"The threefold use of the word 'church' is used in its two basic senses:
_____ and _____."

14. What ethnic divisions is the New Testament Church composed of?

15. Who is "The Nation" in I Peter 2:9, Matthew 21:43, Isaiah 26:2, and Isaiah 65:1?

Give proof or reason as to your answer.

16. Using the five questions from Qualification A, answer the following:

- A. Which ethnic division does Jeremiah 3:6 refer to?
- B. Which ethnic division does Jeremiah 3:8 refer to?

- C. Which ethnic division does Jeremiah 31:31 refer to?
 - D. Which ethnic division does Joel 3:9 refer to?
 - E. Which ethnic division does Zechariah 2:11 refer to?
17. The name "Israel" is used in scripture to refer to:
- A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
18. Is "the Church" to be found in Old Testament prophecies?
19. What is "the key" to finding the Church in the Old Testament?

Chapter Thirteen — The Ethnic-Division Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Using the Ethnic-Division Principle, prove how Paul can justify his use of Isaiah 54:1 in Galatians 4:27 (verses 21-31, context) as referring to the New Testament Church.

Assignment #2

Using the Ethnic-Division Principle, study Genesis 12:3 with Galatians 3:8-29 and prove how Paul can justify his statement that “the seed of Abraham” refers to Christ and the Church.

Assignment #3

Using the Ethnic-Division Principle, determine which ethnic divisions are referred to in the following verses. Briefly explain why this is so.

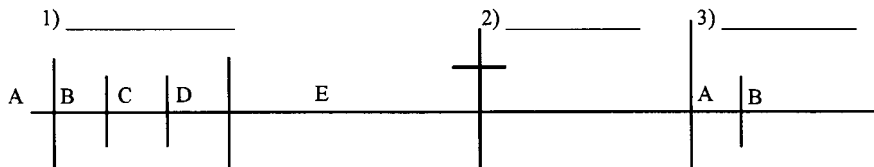
A. Romans 9:4-8

B. Galatians 6:15-16

C. Revelation 21:12

Chapter Fourteen —the Chronometrical Principle

1. Define the Chronometrical Principle.
2. What is the meaning of the word “chronometrical” as used in this principle of interpretation?
 - A. English -
 - B. Hebrew -
 - C. Greek -
3. Fill in the following diagram depicting God’s plan of the ages from the subheadings in this chapter.



God's Plan of the Ages

4. Explain how each age is greater than the previous ages.

Chapter Fourteen — The Chronometrical Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

Which “Age” (or ages) is referred to in the following scriptures?

A. I Corinthians 10:11

B. Ephesians 3:4-6

C. Mark 10:30

D. Hebrews 6:5

E. Ephesians 3:21

F. Ephesians 2:7

G. Matthew 13:39,40,49

H. Luke 20:27-38

Assignment #2

Using Colossians 2:14-17; Luke 20:34-36, and Acts 15:1-11 as a study guide, answer the following question:

Why is it that animal sacrifices, the Aaronic Priesthood, circumcision, marriage, mortality, and death, cannot be carried into a future age?

Chapter Fifteen — The Dispensations Re-defined

1. Why does this word "dispensation" need to be re-defined?
2. What does the word "dispensation" mean?
3. Does it have any reference to "time"?
4. Fill in the following words.

"Therefore the word "dispensation," as used here, refers to the _____
of _____ with _____ under their respective _____."

5. Align the covenants with their respective dispensations. Place the appropriate covenant on the appropriate line (not just the number).

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| A. Innocence | _____ | 1. Everlasting Covenant |
| B. Conscience | _____ | 2. Mosaic Covenant |
| C. Human Government | _____ | 3. New Covenant |
| D. Promise | _____ | 4. Abrahamic Covenant |
| E. Law | _____ | 5. Edenic Covenant |
| F. Grace | _____ | 6. Noahic Covenant |
| G. Kingdom | _____ | 7. Adamic Covenant |

Chapter Sixteen — The Breach Principle

1. Define the Breach Principle.
2. What is the basic meaning of the wide variety of Hebrew words which speak of "the breach" in Scripture?
3. What is meant by "a breach of promise"?
4. Write a brief summary of the most important lesson that you learn from each of the following breaches of promise:
 - A. Breach of Promise Concerning Entering the Land
 - B. Breach of Promise Concerning Dominion in the Land
 - C. Breach of Promise Concerning Remaining in the Land
 - D. Breach of Promise Concerning the Scepter
 - E. Breach of Promise Concerning the Nazarite's Vow

5. What is meant by “a breach of time”?

6. What is the basic difference between “a breach of promise” and “a breach of time”?

7. Refute the statement as expounded by some Bible expositors that ‘God’s prophetic time-clock stopped” because of Israel’s unbelief.

8. Write a statement in your own words that shows there was a breach of time as to total fulfillment of these prophecies.
 - A. First and second comings of Messiah - Isaiah 61:1,2

 - B. Pre-existence, incarnation and crucifixion of Messiah - Micah 5:1,2

 - C. The two resurrections - John 5:29; Acts 24:15

9. Fill in the following statement:

“The breaches of _____ are caused by _____,
while the breaches of _____ are caused by the
_____ separated events as
_____.”

Chapter Sixteen — The Breach Principle

Assignments

Assignment #1

What “breaches” are dealt with in the following passages of Joel?

- A. What “breach is especially dealt with in Joel 1:1-20; 2:21-27? Use the “lost years” of 2:25 to help you in interpreting the answer, along with Deuteronomy 11:10-17 with I Kings 8:35-38. Explain why as to your answer.

- B. What “breach” is dealt with in Joel 2:28-32. Use these verses along with Acts 2:16-21 and Revelation 6:12-13 to help you in your answer. Explain clearly as to how you arrived at your answer.

Assignment #2

What “breach” is dealt with in Isaiah 66:5-10 and Isaiah 66:21-24 (read these along with Revelation Chapter 12 and Revelation Chapters 21-22 to help you to discover the answer)?

Explain why as to your answer.

Chapter Seventeen — The Christo-Centric Principle

1. Define the Christo-Centric Principle.

2. What is the basis for this principle?

Assignments

From III Qualification, list one example of each point under B and explain “why” as done under IV Demonstration.

1. Christ characteristically seen in:
Why?
2. Christ typically seen in:
Why?
3. Christ symbolically seen in:
Why?
4. Christ prophetically seen in:
Why?
5. Christ historically seen in:
Why?
6. Christ doctrinally seen in:
Why?

Chapter Eighteen — The Moral Principle

1. Define the Moral Principle.
2. What is the meaning of the word “moral” as defined by Webster?
3. What is the danger that can arise if Scripture is only ‘moralized’?

Assignments

The text has illustrated that ‘practical lessons’ (a moral, or morals) can be drawn from history, poetry, proverbs and parables.

Draw out at least one major moral from each of the areas and Scriptures listed below.

1. History - 2 Kings 4:1-7
2. Poetry - Job 9:32,33
3. Prophecy - Isaiah 52:8
4. Proverbs - Proverbs 10:26
5. Parables - Luke 5:36-39

Chapter Nineteen — The Symbolic Principle

1. Define the symbolic principle.
2. What is Webster's definition of the word 'symbol'?"
3. What is meant by the statement, "the language of creation becomes the language of the symbol which in turn becomes the language of redemption"?
4. True or false?
 - A. Sometimes the same symbol may represent different characteristic aspects.
 - B. Sometimes symbols have good and evil aspects to them.

Assignments

Assignment #1

Search the Scriptures, give one example of each of the following (supplying reference) using the format in this chapter, and then briefly interpret it. Do not use any that are specifically used in this chapter, but discover others from the Bible itself.

Symbol	Common Characteristics	Interpretation
1. Symbolic Object -		
2. Symbolic Creature -		
3. Symbolic Action -		
4. Symbolic Number -		
5. Symbolic Name -		
6. Symbolic Color -		
7. Symbolic Direction -		

Assignment #2

Look up Daniel 7:1-7 with Revelation 17:3,4, list the most prominent symbols in these verses, and classify them according to Assignment #1 numbers 1-7.

Chapter Twenty — The Numerical Principle

1. Define the Numerical Principle.

2. What are the two ways in which numbers are to be found in Scripture?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

3. True or false?
 - A. Numbers generally have good and evil aspects to them.
 - B. Numbers often change their meaning with many uses in Scripture.

Assignments

Assignment #1

Make a list of all the “two’s” named or implied in Genesis 19, and give a summary interpretation of the number two as used therein.

Named

Implied

Assignment #2

Make a list of all the “two’s” named or implied in Matthew 7, and give a summary interpretation of the number two as used therein.

Chapter Twenty-one — The Typical Principle

1. Define the Typical Principle.
2. What is Webster's definition of the word 'type'?
3. Fill in the answer.

From the Greek definition, we see that a type is "an _____ figure
a _____ symbol."

4. What are several of the major distinctions between a symbol and a type? Give at least three differences.

A. _____
B. _____
C. _____

5. True or false?
 - A. Types are to be viewed as prophetic symbols.
 - B. All symbols are not types.
 - C. Types may involve symbols.

6. What are the four main classifications of types?

A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____

7. True or false?
 - A. The typical sense of Scripture is always solidly based on the literal sense of Scripture.
 - B. Because types generally involve symbols, the symbolic and typical principles must be used together.
 - C. Generally, the "key" to interpreting types is found in the Bible itself.
 - D. Doctrines can be built upon types.
 - E. One type can be used to interpret another type.

- F. There are many "perfect types" in Scripture.
- G. Types have one major interpretation but may have several applications.

Assignments

Assignment #1

Using the Typical Principle, draw out an extended analogy in the following. Also supply Scripture references used in these analogies.

- A. Typical Person - Moses and Christ
- B. Typical Office - David as King
- C. Typical Institution - Tabernacle of David
- D. Typical Event - The Days of Lot

Assignment #2

Using the Typical and Symbolical Principles, make a brief analogy of the following type and list out the symbols used in the type.

- A. Typical Event - Numbers 21:4-9 with John 3:14-16

<u>Type</u>	<u>Analogy</u>	<u>Antitype</u>
-------------	----------------	-----------------

- B. Symbols used in the type.

Chapter Twenty-two — The Parabolic Principle

1. Define the Parabolic Principle.

2. What is the dictionary definition of the word ‘parable’?”

3. What is the theological definition of the word ‘parable’?”

4. What was Christ’s twofold purpose in using parables in his teaching?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

5. Name the two sources from which Christ took his parables.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

6. Give a brief definition and explain the difference between:
 - A. Short Parables -
 - B. Extended Parables -

7. True or false?
 - A. Every parable has one fundamental spiritual truth to convey.
 - B. All the details of a parable have some bearing on this one fundamental truth.
 - C. Parables often involve symbols.
 - D. Doctrines can be established on parabolic teaching.

8. What other principles must be used in interpreting parables?

Chapter Twenty-two -- The Parabolic Principle

Assignments

Using the Parabolic Principle, do an analogy on the following parables and give a summary of the main spiritual lesson found therein.

Support your interpretation of the parts of the parable with suitable scripture references.

Assignment #1 - Matthew 5:14-16. Parable of the light.

Short Parable

Interpretation

Main Lesson —

Assignment #2 - Matthew 25:1-13. Parable of the virgins.

Extended Parable

Interpretation

Main Lesson —

Chapter Twenty-three — The Allegorical Principle

1. Define the Allegorical Principle.
2. Give Webster's dictionary definition of the word 'allegory'.
3. Give the Greek definition of the word 'allegory'.
4. What is the main distinction between an allegory and a parable?
5. What is the difference between "inspired allegory" of the Scriptures and the great dangers of "allegorization" of the Scriptures that the Church suffered from under previous centuries from some of the 'Church Fathers'?
6. What group of principles should be used along with the Parabolic Principle in interpreting parables?
7. True or false?
 - A. Allegories often involve symbols.
 - B. Allegory may be used to illustrate doctrine but doctrine must not be formulated on allegory.
 - C. In interpreting an allegory, cultural background involving manners, customs, and material things do not really need to be taken into consideration.

Chapter Twenty-three — The Allegorical Principle

Assignments

Using the Allegorical Principle, do an extended analogy of the following allegories, giving Scriptures to support your interpretation and its parts.

Assignment #1 - Old Testament

Allegory of the Vine Out of Egypt. Psalm 80:1-15.

Allegory		Interpretation
The Symbols Used	Symbols Interpreted	Lessons Learned

Assignment #2 - New Testament.

Parable (vs. 1-5) and allegory (vs. 7-16) of the Good Shepherd. John 10:1-16.
(Note- not "parable" as used generally in Matthew 13).

Allegory		Interpretation
The Symbols Used	Symbols Interpreted	Lessons Learned

Chapter Twenty-four — The Interpretation Of Prophecy

1. Why is the interpretation of prophetic Scripture far more complex than the interpretation of historical or poetical scripture?
2. Define the word “prophecy” from the Hebrew words.
3. Define the word “prophecy” according to the Greek concept.
4. What is the twofold nature of prophecy?
 - A.
 - B.
5. What is the difference between these two in your answer to Question 4?
 - A.
 - B.
6. Define the following:
 - A. The Spirit of Prophecy -
 - B. The Gift of Prophecy -
 - C. The Office of a Prophet -
 - D. The Prophecy of Scripture -
7. List the six designations of the prophets.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
 - F. _____

8. What is the significance of Moses being “the foundational ministry” as a prophet?
9. Fill in the following answers:
Moses represents “the _____ of the _____.”
Samuel represents “the _____ of the _____.”
10. Why is this so (to Question #9)?
11. What did the prophet represent to the kings of Israel or Judah?
12. On what basis were kings judged by God under Old Testament times?
13. What was the difference between:
 - A. Non-writing Prophets -
 - B. Writing Prophets -
14. What is the “threefold cord” of prophetic Revelation?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
15. How can we justly apply certain things in “local prophecy” to our generation?
16. What hermeneutical principle must be used in connection with the interpretation of “national-destiny prophecy”?
17. What hermeneutical principle must be used in connection with the interpretation of “messianic prophecy”?

18. Because hermeneutics is a science and an art, how many principles are listed under Guidelines for the Interpretation of Prophecy that could be used in interpreting prophecy?

19. List the five general guidelines to be followed in interpreting prophecy.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

Assignment

Using the principles of interpretation, list the principles that could or should be used, briefly explaining why, to interpret Ezekiel 37. Note - brief quotations are given from a number of verses, as a clue to which principle should be used. List the principle alongside the verse and brief quote, and then briefly explain why you believe that principle should be used there!

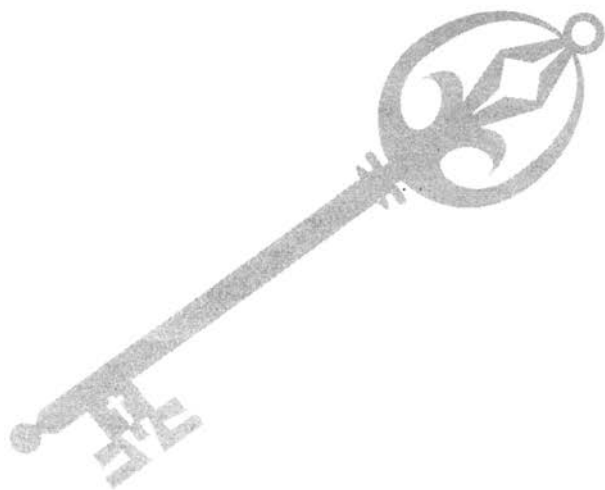
Remember! Hermeneutics is a science and an art. The interpretation of prophecy requires great skill in weaving these interpretative principles together in order to discover the meaning of a prophetic passage!

Assignment - Ezekiel 37

<u>Brief Quote</u>	<u>Principle To Be Used</u>
1. What is the <u>first</u> or foundational principle to be used in interpreting this chapter?	
2. Verse 1. "The Spirit of the Lord...?"	_____
3. Verse 1-10,11-14. The Dry Bones Vision?	_____
4. Verses 11,15. House of Israel: Judah and Joseph?	_____
5. Verses 24,25. Davidic king to reign over Israel?	_____
6. Verse 26. Covenant of Peace?	_____
7. Verses 27,28. All the heathen shall know...?	_____
8. Verses 3,9,16-19. Bones... Wind... Two Sticks?	_____
9. Verse 22. One nation, one king, not divided into two nations or kingdoms any more?	_____
10. Verses 25,26. For ever, everlasting, for ever more?	_____
11. Verse 23 with Leviticus 26:12. Be their God and they shall be my people?	_____
12. Verses 23,27 with Jeremiah 31:31-33 and Hebrews 8:10?	_____
13. Verses 24,25. David my servant, king, prince, and shepherd?	_____

Write out the main lesson and burden of the vision of dry bones, giving a summary statement of interpretation in the light of the hermeneutical principles you have used above to interpret the parts of the vision.

————— AMEN AND AMEN ! —————



About the Author

Born in Melbourne, Australia in 1927 and saved at the age of 14, Kevin Conner served the Lord in the Salvation Army until the age of 21. At this time he entered into pastoral ministry for a number of years. After that, he was involved in teaching ministry in Australia, New Zealand and for many years at Bible Temple in Portland, Oregon. After serving as Senior Minister of Waverley Christian Fellowship for eight years (1987-1994), he continued to serve the church locally as well as ministering at various conferences and the continued writing of textbooks.



Kevin is recognised internationally as a teaching-apostle after his many years in both church and Bible College ministry. His textbooks have been used by ministers and students throughout the world. He has been in great demand as a teacher and has travelled extensively. Kevin passed away peacefully in Melbourne, Australia in February 2019 at the age of 92.

Visit Kevin's web site at www.kevinconner.org for more details about his life and ministry, as well as information about his 65 books, his video courses, and his audio teaching podcast.

Other Books by Kevin Conner

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Today's Prophets
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Every week or so a message will be published, selected from messages Kevin has given over the years at various churches, conferences, and training seminars.

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Enjoy!

Kevin's Autobiography

Kevin Conner is known by many people around the world as a theologian, Bible teacher, and best-selling author of over 60 biblical textbooks. Although thousands of people have been impacted by his ministry and his writings, only a few people know his personal story. Kevin took the time to detail his own life journey, including lessons gleaned along the way, in his autobiography "This is My Story" back in 2007. It is now available in three formats:

- Australian paperback from WORD books (www.word.com.au).
- International paperback from Amazon.
- eBook format from Amazon.
- PDF download - visit www.kevinconner.org/shop

Kevin was an orphan who never met his dad or mum. He grew up in boy's homes before coming to faith in Jesus Christ in the Salvation Army in his teenage years. From there, his life took many turns as he continued to pursue his faith in God and his understanding of the Scriptures and church life. Follow his journey and gain wisdom for your own life and ministry as you read his intriguing life-story.

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