



Reading the Bible: Introduction - Why Interpret?

1 Timothy 2:8 Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

Luke 12: 32 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

8 'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.



Reading the Bible: Introduction - Why?

- Read to **learn** (propositional content)
- Read to **live!** (wisdom)
- Read to **discover your place** in God's purpose
- Read to be **affected** (e.g. 'that you might believe')
- Read to **obey** (e.g. 10 commandments)
- Read to be **transformed** (Rom 12:2)

(Helen's final slide first Digging Deeper 1)



Reading the Bible: Introduction - a safe assumption?



God has, in fact, written two books, not just one. **Of course, we are all familiar with the first book he wrote**, namely Scripture.

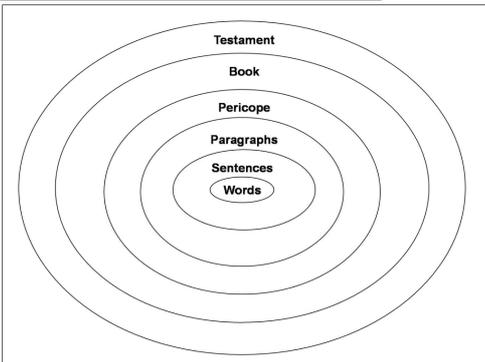
But he has written a second book called creation."

Francis Bacon 1560-1626





Reading the Bible: Context



Reading the Bible: Context



Reading the Bible: Context





Reading the Bible: Christocentrism

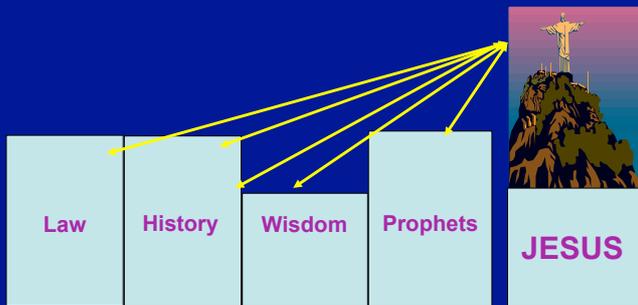
John 5:39-40 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. **These are the very Scriptures that testify about me**, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Luke 24: 25-27 He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?'

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.



Reading the Bible: Christocentrism



Reading the Bible: Christocentrism

Israel's self-understanding

- God's son
"Israel is my firstborn son... Let my son go that he may worship me"
Exodus 4:22

- God's vine
"You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land"
Psalm 80:8,9



Reading the Bible: Christocentrism

Key events in Israel's history

- Captivity in Egypt
- Exodus
- In the wilderness
- Law given on Mount Sinai
- Sacrificial system



Reading the Bible: Christocentrism

Israel's destiny

- To have God's law
- To experience God's presence (Temple / Shekinah)
- To be a light to the nations
- To inherit the land
- To be the centre of global worship



Reading the Bible: Christocentrism

We would improve our hermeneutic if we interpreted the Old Testament *Christotelically* rather than *Christocentrically*.

While it is hermeneutically irresponsible to say that all Old Testament texts have a Christocentric meaning or point to Christ, it is true that all play a significant role in God's great redemptive plan that leads to and climaxes in Christ. *Daniel Block*

