

Inductive Bible Study (*Observation, Interpretation, Application*)

OBSERVATION (*DETECTIVE TIME*):

Situation or context? (**What, Why and How?** – **What?** subject theme; commands, instructions, principles, narrative, instruction, letter, prophecy etc.? [*Think of the theme of the book/chapter and how it relates.*] **Why?** The reason written; purpose, authors stated reason, peoples condition, etc.? **How?** – conditions of communication; means of communication, planned, unplanned, response, teaching, etc.).

Biblical Chronology? (**When?** – timing; (where it occurs in the Bibles chronology, consider the covenant and or dispensation, etc., in the OT, i.e. was it before the 70 yr. captivity or before, etc.). Also **Where?** – location in the Bible; cities, landmarks, areas - all make a difference for helping with chronology and timing.

Biblical Recipients or key people in the passage? (**Who?** – people addressed, people addressing) _____

Key Words or phrases used if any. (discovering their significance) _____

Cross Reference verses. (Other verses that can be referenced for clarification/verification, such as a prophecy stated or fulfilled? Similar subject? - be careful of the context of each, similar words don't make a context by themselves.)

Points of Emphasis (What concept(s) / fact(s) / key idea(s) anything that really stood out to you in the text?)

INTERPRETATION (*CONNECTING THE FACTS*):

What did the author mean in his communication? (It meant something comprehensible to those who received the prophecy, letter, narrative, etc., how would they understand it?) – The author determines the meaning, not the reader!

Was there specific instruction given to follow which would help explain the text? _____

Remember in literal (normal) language there are all kinds of figures of speech used, such as similes, metaphors, figurative, allegory, example, parable, hyperbole, sarcasm, etc. How would any of these help to know the meaning?

If the writer was under a different covenant than the New Covenant, how can the command or principle be understood in relation to the truth communicated? (i.e. if under Moses Law the command was to stone for a moral violation, how can it be taken into the NT for a principle of understanding, or related to what the NT teaches?)

APPLICATION (*HOW/WHAT TO OBEY*):

How to apply what was learned (what will change in my life?) _____

How can I obey what I've learned, or is there a principle to understand (can I directly obey a command or teaching, or do I need to take the principle taught and obey that? – such as in reading Psalms, Proverbs, or Moses Law?)
