

Hermeneutics - Chapter 15
Grammatical Principles of Interpretation - Rules 13-15

Rule 13 - Interpret a passage in harmony with its context

Four questions

- 1) How does the passage relate to the material _____ it?
- 2) How does it relate to the rest of the _____?
- 3) How does it relate to the Bible as a _____?
- 4) How does it relate to the _____ & background when it was written?

Example: 1 John 3:6-10

If isolated from its context, it appears the Christian never sins

In answering the four questions above - what does the passage actually mean?

The near context - _____

Book purpose: _____

Bible as a whole: _____

Culture & Background: _____

Each of the Gospel accounts emphasize a different aspect of Jesus

Matthew - Jesus the _____ - To Jews (Genealogy of king, prophecies of Messiah)

Mark - Jesus the _____ - (10:45) - To Romans

Luke - Jesus the _____ - Seeking & Saving the Lost - (5:32; 19:10) - To Greeks

John - Jesus the _____ (20:31) - To all

Rule 14 - When an inanimate object is used to describe a living being, the statement may be considered to be figurative

Examples: The "I am" passages of John - 6:35 (_____); 8:12 (_____); 10:17 (_____)

Psalms 92:12 - "_____ a palm tree" . . . "like a cedar"

Psalms 51:7 - clean with hyssop Hyssop was used for ceremonial _____

Matthew 26:26-28 - Communion (Why is this figurative and not a literal statement?)

Corollary - When life and action are attributed to inanimate objects, the statement may be considered figurative

Micah 6:2 - "Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the LORD, And you enduring foundations of the earth, Because the LORD has a case against His people; Even with Israel He will dispute.

Rule 15 - When an expression is out of character with the thing described, the statement may be considered figurative

Philippians 3:2-3 The “_____” refer to evil men who are exhibiting dog like characteristics - unclean - not to canines (Philippians 3:2–3 ² *Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;* ³ *for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,*)

Luke 13:32 - “tell that _____” - refers to King Herod who was cunning - not to the animal (Luke 13:32 *And He said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal’.*)

John 1:36 - “_____ of God” is explained by OT prophecies about the messiah - Isaiah 53:7 (John 1:36 *and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”*)

“Lion” - as in previous study - can mean many different things depending on the context

Anthropomorphisms of God - 2 Chron. 16:9, Exodus 33:23, etc.

2 Chronicles 16:9 - “*For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.*”

Exodus 33:23 “*Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.*”

1) A word cannot mean more than one thing at a time - i.e. it can be either literal or figurative, but not both at the same time.

2) When at all possible, a passage should be interpreted literally - _____ will determine if it literal or figurative - not personal preferences