

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE LETTERS

- ▶ New Testament letters are occasional documents.
 - ▶ Written to a specific audience.
 - ▶ Written at a specific time.
 - ▶ Written to address a specific situation.
 - ▶ Behaviors that needed to be corrected.
 - ▶ Doctrines that needed to be straightened out.
 - ▶ Misunderstandings that needed to be clarified.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE LETTERS

- ▶ New Testament letters are occasional documents.
 - ▶ Written to a specific audience.
 - ▶ Written at a specific time.
 - ▶ Written to address a specific situation.
 - ▶ We have the answers, but we don't always have the questions!
 - ▶ We are careful not to conclude too much from only one letter.
 - ▶ We are confident that God has clearly communicated to us what is most important.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE LETTERS

- ▶ New Testament letters are occasional documents.
- ▶ New Testament letters are NOT theological treatises.

COMMON FORM OF NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Identification of the author and audience.
 - ▶ Greeting, Prayer or Thanksgiving.
- ▶ Body
- ▶ Conclusion
 - ▶ Final greeting, farewell, and other various elements.
- ▶ Differences in form are often clues to meaning.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

OBSERVE THEIR HOME

- ▶ Read: Begin by reading the letter aloud through in one sitting.
- ▶ Reconstruct: As you read, reconstruct the original situation behind the letter.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME

- ▶ Think paragraphs!
- ▶ For each paragraph and series of paragraphs, write down in one or two sentences the answer to the overall question, "What's the point?"

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

BRING IT BACK HOME

- ▶ Look for the biblical and compatible: Focus on truths that are central to the message of the text and all the Bible.
- ▶ Look for the eternal and cross-cultural: Focus on truths that are consistently taught in Scripture.
- ▶ Look for the applicable: Focus on truths that are inherently true in all situations.
- ▶ Write out the timeless truth using present-tense verbs.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- ▶ Meditate on the timeless truth.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth to today.
- ▶ Practice the timeless truth – ask the five questions.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set out before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE GOSPELS

- ▶ The Gospels are written about the same person.
 - ▶ Two components: Teachings of Jesus and stories about Jesus.
- ▶ The Gospels are written by different authors.
 - ▶ Two settings: Historical setting of Jesus; historical setting of authors.
- ▶ The Gospels are written for different audiences.
 - ▶ Three principles: Selectivity, Arrangement, and Adaptation.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE GOSPELS

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Think in terms of stories and discourses.
 - ▶ Individual stories and discourses: Look for answers to the question . . .
 - ▶ Collective stories and discourses: Look for connections.
- ▶ Look for special literary forms in the Gospels.
 - ▶ Exaggeration; Irony; Rhetorical questions; Parallelism; Contrastive; Developmental.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.”

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

Mark 10:24–25 NIV

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

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 - ▶ Collective stories and discourses: Look for connections.
- ▶ Look for special literary forms in the Gospels.
 - ▶ Exaggeration; Irony; Rhetorical questions; Parallelism; Contrastive; Developmental.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

“Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be open to you.”

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

Matthew 7:7 NIV

“Whoever has, will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

Mark 4:25 NIV

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Think in terms of stories and discourses.
 - ▶ Individual stories and discourses: Look for answers to the question . . .
 - ▶ Collective stories and discourses: Look for connections.
- ▶ Look for special literary forms in the Gospels.
 - ▶ Exaggeration; Irony; Rhetorical questions; Parallelism; Contrastive; Developmental (the thought advances to a climax.)

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Two challenges for interpretation:
 - ▶ Think vertically: How the Gospels represent Jesus.
 - ▶ Think horizontally: How the Gospels relate to one another.
- ▶ For each story/discourse or series of stories/discourses, write down in one or two sentences the answer to the overall question, "What's the point?"

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

BRING IT BACK HOME: HOW DOES IT RELATE?

- ▶ Look for the biblical and compatible: See how Jesus fulfills the OT law.
- ▶ Look for the eternal and cross-cultural: See how Jesus teaches and demonstrates the Kingdom of God.
- ▶ Look for the applicable: See the larger context of the individual stories in order to identify the timeless truths.
- ▶ Write out the timeless truths using present-tense verbs.

"Who is this man? Even the wind and
the waves obey him."

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- ▶ Meditate on the timeless truth.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth to today.
- ▶ Practice the timeless truth – ask the five questions.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE PARABLES

DIFFICULTIES IN READING PARABLES

- The distance between the original audience and us.
- The depth of meaning intended by Jesus in the parable.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING PARABLES

- The main point of the parable is crucial.
- The main purpose of the parable is the lead hearers to respond in a certain way.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING PARABLES

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING PARABLES

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- Read the parable over and over again from the hearer's perspective.
- Identify the key points of reference that are familiar to Jesus and his hearers.
- Determine how the original hearers would have responded to the parable.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING PARABLES

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- At most, look for one main point for each main character or group of characters in the story.
- In one or two sentences, write down the main point(s) intended by Jesus when he shared this parable with his original hearers.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING PARABLES

BRING IT BACK HOME: HOW DOES IT RELATE?

- Look for the biblical and compatible: In our efforts to tie the parable into the overall truths in Scripture, avoid looking too deeply into the parable.
- Look for the eternal and cross-cultural.
- Look for the applicable.
- Write out the timeless truth using present-tense verbs.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING PARABLES

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- Meditate on the timeless truth.
- Relate the timeless truth to today.
- Practice the timeless truth – ask the five questions.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

DIFFICULTIES IN READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

- Is it precedent or principle?
- Consider a both-and approach...

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

- The book of Acts is a sequel.
- The book of Acts is a story with a specific purpose.
- The book of Acts is organized both thematically and geographically.
 - Central themes: The Gospel; the Holy Spirit; the Church; the World.
 - Central geographic structure: The Witness of the Church in Jerusalem (1–7); in Judea and Samaria (8–9); to the Ends of the Earth (10–28).
- The book of Acts is a model for how God intends for the church to take the Gospel to the world under the power of the Holy Spirit.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- Ask questions about the characters.
- Ask questions about speeches.
- Ask questions about commentary from Luke.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Look for what Luke intended in each episode of the Book of Acts.
- ▶ Look for repeated patterns and themes throughout Acts.
- ▶ Look at every episode and summarize by asking, "What's the point?"

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

BRING IT BACK HOME: HOW DOES IT RELATE?

- ▶ Look for the biblical and compatible.
- ▶ Look for the eternal and cross-cultural: Filter all implications from the book of Acts through the lens of Luke's intent.
- ▶ Look for the applicable.
- ▶ Write out the timeless truths using present-tense verbs.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE BOOK OF ACTS

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- ▶ Meditate on the timeless truth.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth to today.
- ▶ Practice the timeless truth – ask the five questions.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE OT NARRATIVES

DIFFICULTIES IN READING THE OT NARRATIVES

- ▶ A variety of stories.
- ▶ A variety of characters.
- ▶ A variety of challenges.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

- ▶ On the whole, OT Narratives ARE NOT:
 - ▶ Allegories filled with hidden meanings.
 - ▶ Intended to teach moral lessons.
 - ▶ Intended to teach doctrines.
 - ▶ Man-centered.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

- On the whole, OT Narratives ARE:
 - Stories with a specific purpose.
 - Accounts of what happened, not what should have happened or ought to happen every time.
 - Selective and incomplete.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- Read the passage carefully.
- Look for five basic parts:
 - Plot: The development, the conflict, and the resolution.
 - Scene: Focus on time and place.
 - Characters: The characters in the OT Narrative are central. Look for comparison and contrast.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- Read the passage carefully.
- Look for five basic parts:
 - Dialogue: Contributes greatly to character development.
 - Narrator: Look for the implicit meaning he conveys. Look for irony.

“Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He did not follow the Lord completely as David his father had done. The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away.”

1 Kings 11:6 NIV

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Interpret each OT Narrative on three levels:
 - Level One: Individual history.
 - Level Two: National history.
 - Level Three: Redemptive history.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Pay close attention to literary context.
 - ▶ At a minimum, read three chapters: The entire chapter, the preceding chapter, and the following chapter.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Avoid these common errors in interpretation:
 - ▶ Allegorizing: Trying to find the hidden meaning beyond the text.
 - ▶ Decontextualizing: Ignoring the full historical and literary contexts.
 - ▶ Selectivity: Picking and choosing the parts of the story you like.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Avoid these common errors in interpretation:
 - ▶ Moralizing: Asking, "What is the moral of this story?" at the end of every individual narrative.
 - ▶ Personalizing: Thinking that these narratives are all about you.
 - ▶ False Appropriation: Misapplying the narrative in contemporary culture.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Avoid these common errors in interpretation:
 - ▶ False Combination: Combining elements in the narrative that are not directly connected by the narrator.
 - ▶ Redefinition: Redefining the story to accommodate what you wish it said.
 - ▶ Imitation: Looking to narratives for permission and/or obligation to act in a certain way.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

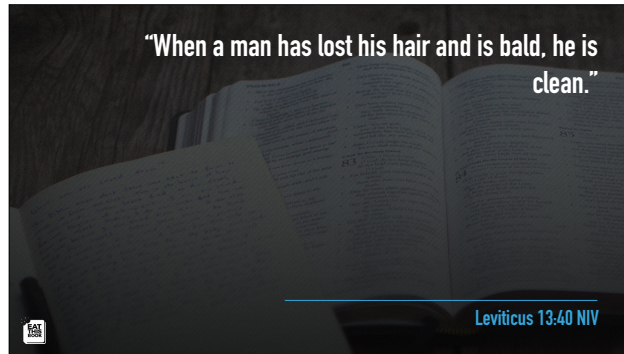
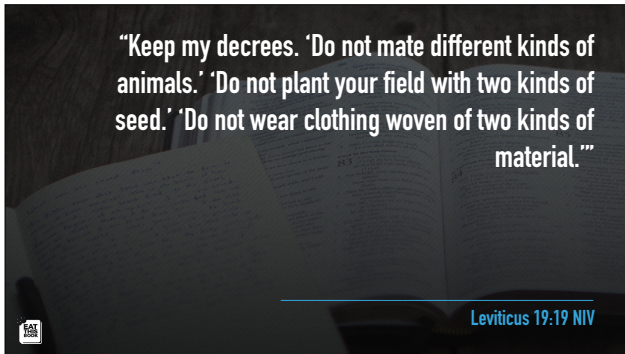
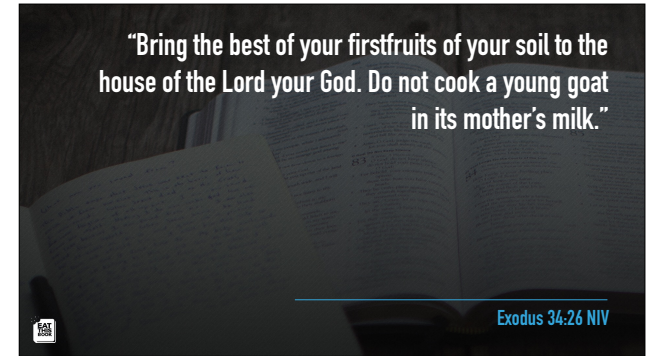
BRING IT BACK HOME: HOW DOES IT RELATE?

- ▶ Look for the biblical and compatible: Identify a theological principle in its OT context. Filter that principle through the lens of the NT. Ask two primary questions: Does the NT add to that principle? Does the NT modify it?
- ▶ Look for the eternal and cross-cultural.
- ▶ Look for the applicable.
- ▶ Write out the timeless truths using present-tense verbs.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT NARRATIVES

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- ▶ Meditate on the timeless truth.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth to today.
- ▶ Practice the timeless truth – ask the five questions.



"Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for your elder and revere your God."

Leviticus 19:32 NIV

"Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves."

Leviticus 19:28 NIV

"The pig is also unclean; although it has a split hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses."

Deuteronomy 14:8 NIV

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself."

Leviticus 19:18 NIV

"You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery."

Exodus 20:13 NIV

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE OT LAW

- The OT "Law" in the Bible:
 - Over 600 specific commandments – Exodus 18:20
 - All of these put together – Matthew 5:18
 - The first five books of the OT (Pentateuch) – Joshua 1:8
 - The entire OT religious system
 - The rabbis' interpretation of the OT law – Acts 10:28

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE OT LAW

- ▶ The OT law is a gift from God to His people.
- ▶ The OT law is a covenant.
- ▶ The OT law is not our Testament law.
 - ▶ The general rule: Unless an OT law is somehow restated or reinforced in the NT, it is no longer directly binding on God's people.
 - ▶ Laws that ARE NOT reinforced: Israelite civil laws and ritual laws.
 - ▶ Laws that ARE reinforced: those renewed or restated in the context of the New Covenant.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE OT LAW

- ▶ **IMPORTANT:** All of the OT law is still the Word of God for us even though it is not the command of God to us.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT LAW

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT LAW

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look at the laws collectively.
- ▶ Look at the laws carefully according to two basic forms: General guidelines and specific cases (for example, food laws; laws about the shedding of blood, unusual prohibitions, laws giving blessing to those who keep them).
- ▶ Look at the laws in their context.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT LAW

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Understand the law is God's inspired Word for you, not God's direct command to you.
- ▶ Understand the character of God in the law, including his justice, holiness, mercy and love.
- ▶ Understand the law as a gift, not a limitation.
- ▶ Understand the law as basis for the OT covenant, not binding in the new covenant.
- ▶ Understand the essence of the law that is repeated in the NT.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT LAW

BRING IT BACK HOME: HOW DOES IT RELATE?

- ▶ Look for the biblical and compatible.
- ▶ Look for the eternal and cross-cultural: Remember that the value of the OT law is eternal.
- ▶ Look for the applicable.
- ▶ Write out the timeless truths using present-tense verbs.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT LAW

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- Meditate on the timeless truth.
- Relate the timeless truth to today.
- Practice the timeless truth – ask the five questions.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE OT POETRY

DIFFICULTIES IN READING THE OT POETRY

- OT poetry is bi-directional.
- OT poetry is blatantly honest.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING THE OT POETRY

- OT poetry is emotional.
- OT poetry is metaphorical.
- OT poetry is variable.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT POETRY

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT POETRY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- Notice the brevity of OT poetry.

“Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths.”

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT POETRY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Notice the **brevity** of OT poetry.
- ▶ Notice the **structure** of OT poetry.
 - ▶ **Parallelism**: One thought expressed by 2-4 lines of text; **synonymous**; **developmental**; **illustrative**; **contrastive**.
 - ▶ **Acrostics**: Each successive line of poetry starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT POETRY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Notice the **brevity** of OT poetry.
- ▶ Notice the **structure** of OT poetry.
- ▶ Notice the **figurative imagery** in OT poetry.
 - ▶ **Simile**, **metaphor**, **indirect analogy**, **exaggeration**, **personification**, **anthropomorphism**, **cause and effect**, **representation**, **apostrophe**.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE OT POETRY

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Don't interpret OT poetry like you would interpret a NT letter.
 - ▶ Letters appeal to logic; poetry appeals to emotion.
 - ▶ Rational arguments are central in letters; **images** are central in poetry.
 - ▶ **Syntax** and **grammar** are critical in letters; **figures of speech** are critical in poetry.
- ▶ For each segment of poetry, answer the overall question, "What's the point?"

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE OT PROPHECY

DIFFICULTIES IN READING OT PROPHECY

- ▶ What do we do with **gruesome texts**?
- ▶ What do we do with **insulting texts**?
- ▶ What do we do with **texts of judgment**?
- ▶ We don't have a **comparative genre** in much contemporary literature.
- ▶ We don't **hear** much about the prophets themselves.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING OT PROPHECY

- ▶ The OT prophets were enforcing and mediating the old covenant.
 - ▶ The prophets' message is unoriginal.
 - ▶ The prophets' message is confrontational.
 - ▶ The prophets' message is completed. (about 99%)
- ▶ The OT prophets were God's direct representatives.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look at oracles individually.
- ▶ Look at oracles historically.
 - ▶ Those years were characterized by (1) political, military, economic, and social upheaval; (2) religious unfaithfulness and reckless disobedience to the covenant; and (3) shifts in populations and national boundaries.
- ▶ Look for certain figures of speech.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look for certain forms.
 - ▶ The Lawsuit
 - ▶ The Woe - Contains three elements: An announcement of distress, the reason for the distress, and a prediction of doom.
 - ▶ The Promise - A salvation oracle. Contains a reference to the future, a mention of radical change, and a promise of blessing.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look for certain forms.
 - ▶ The Enactment Prophecy - God accompanies His Word with symbolic actions.

“Just as my servant Isaiah has gone stripped and barefoot for three years, as a sign and portent against Egypt and Cush, so the king of Assyria will lead away stripped and barefoot . . .”

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look for certain forms.
 - ▶ The Messenger Speech - "Thus says the Lord."

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Notice the brevity of OT poetry.
- ▶ Notice the structure of OT poetry.
- ▶ Notice the figurative imagery in OT poetry.
 - ▶ Simile, metaphor, indirect analogy, exaggeration, personification, anthropomorphism, cause and effect, representation, apostrophe.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING OT PROPHECY

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Think oracles.
- ▶ Three basic points in prophetic oracles:
 - ▶ You have broken the covenant; repent! (Idolatry; social justice; religious ritualism.)
 - ▶ If you don't repent, you will experience judgment.
 - ▶ Yet you have hope beyond judgment for future restoration.

JOURNEYING THROUGH WISDOM LITERATURE

DIFFICULTIES IN READING WISDOM LITERATURE

- ▶ Difficult to follow the line of thinking.
- ▶ Difficult to understand literary styles.
- ▶ Difficult to determine meaning.

"How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful!
Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a
flock of goats defending from Mount Gilead. Your teeth
are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the
washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone."

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING WISDOM LITERATURE

- ▶ The goal of wisdom literature is to apply the Word to practical living.
- ▶ The wisdom books are not a collection of universal promises.
- ▶ They are insights and guidelines for development of godly character.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING WISDOM LITERATURE

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING WISDOM LITERATURE

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look for figures of speech.
- ▶ Look closely for the historical-cultural background.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING WISDOM LITERATURE

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Interpret wisdom literature in light of its specific book context.
- ▶ Interpret wisdom literature in light of its overall biblical context.
 - ▶ Exception #1: The Suffering of the Righteous.
 - ▶ Exception #2: The Failure of the Rational, Ordered Approach to Meaning.
 - ▶ Exception #3: The Irrationality of Romantic Love Between Spouses.

JOURNEYING THROUGH REVELATION

DIFFICULTIES IN READING REVELATION

- ▶ So many details.
- ▶ So many images.
- ▶ So many numbers.
- ▶ So many different views!

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR READING REVELATION

- ▶ Look at Revelation with humility.
- ▶ Look for Revelation's message to the original readers.
- ▶ Avoid trying to construct a strict chronological map of future events.
- ▶ Take Revelation seriously, but not always literally.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING REVELATION

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING REVELATION

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: WHAT DO I SEE?

- ▶ Look closely at the images that John specifically identifies.
- ▶ Look at various segments as a whole, not always pressing every detail.

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING REVELATION

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Stay focused on the main idea.
- ▶ For each segment, write down in one or two sentences the answer to the overall question, "What's the point?"

"And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

Revelation 12:7–12 NIV

"He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say this: 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

Revelation 12:7–12 NIV

"they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

FOR NOTES AND OTHER RESOURCES:
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