



READING THE BIBLE

1. Why is there a need to read correctly?

At the heart of a leaders ministry is the teaching of the Word of God!

a) because we're teachers of the Word, we'd better be reading the Bible rightly

b) because we're teachers of the Word, we'd better be modelling the right way to read the Bible to those we lead

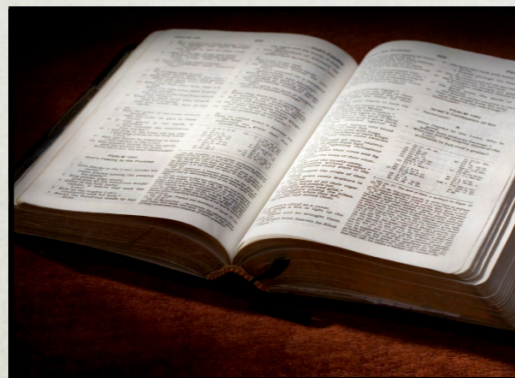
2. What is the purpose of Bible reading?

2 Tim.3:14-17

(14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, **which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** (16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,** (17) **that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.**

2 Cor.3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.



The FIRST key - Read The Bible In Its Context

Exegesis - What does the passage mean in its original context?

- what does the text actually say?
- what does the text mean?

Homiletics - What does the passage now mean for us?

- How do we respond to what the text means?

Interpretation (Exegesis) ---> Application (Homiletics)

Skills for Interpretation

a) Genre or Bible Categories

What kind of book is it?

OT Narratives (Ruth, Judges)

History (1 & 2 Kings)

Law (Leviticus)

Songs & Prayers (Psalms)

Letters (Romans, Galatians)

Prophecy (Isaiah, Jeremiah)

Wisdom (Ecclesiastes, Proverbs)

Gospels (Matthew, Mark)

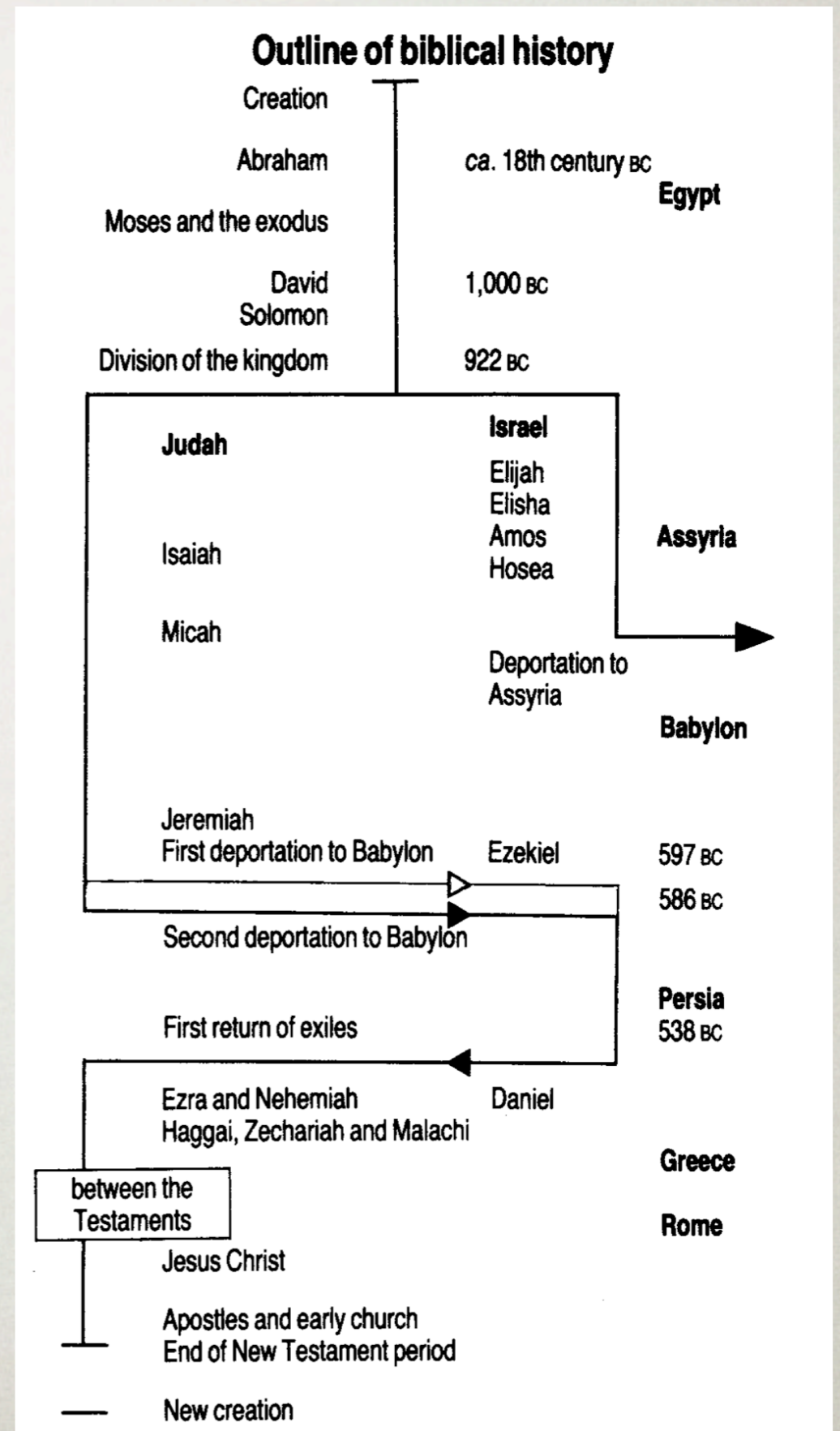
Apocalyptic (Revelation, Daniel)

Parables (Mark 4:13-20)

Skills for Interpretation

b) Historical, Social & Cultural Context

- the historical setting of the book
- the culture and practices of the day
- the geography of the land
- the political background of the period



Skills for Interpretation

c) Literary Context

Understand a particular passage in its **relationship context** - Appendix 1

- work out the overall meaning of the text in its relationship to the wider passage, book, testament, Bible.

Understand the **contents** of a particular passage - Appendix 1

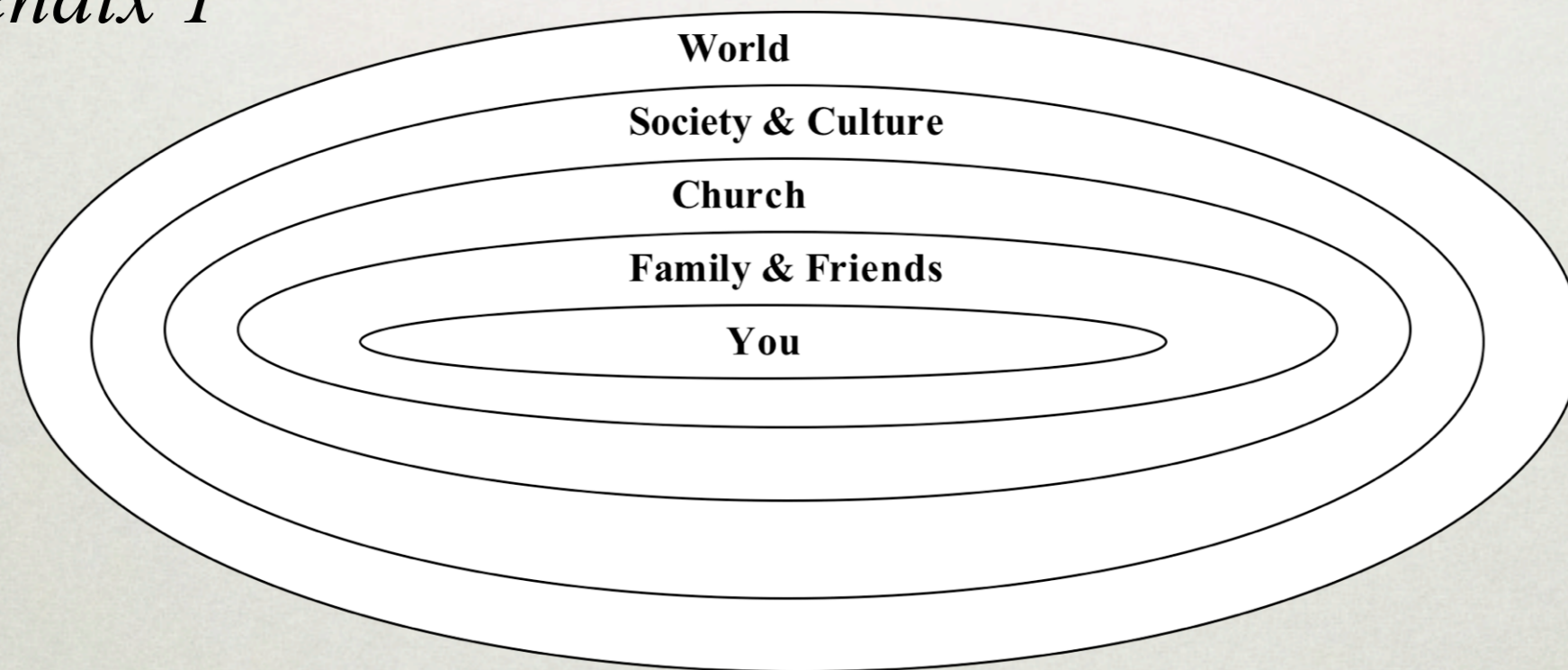
- work out the specific facts and details!

Skills for Application

How do we respond to what the passage means?

Head, Heart, Hand

Appendix 1



Exegesis - What does the passage mean in its original context?

- what does the text actually say? (INTERPRET)
- what does the text mean?

Homiletics - What does the passage now mean for us?

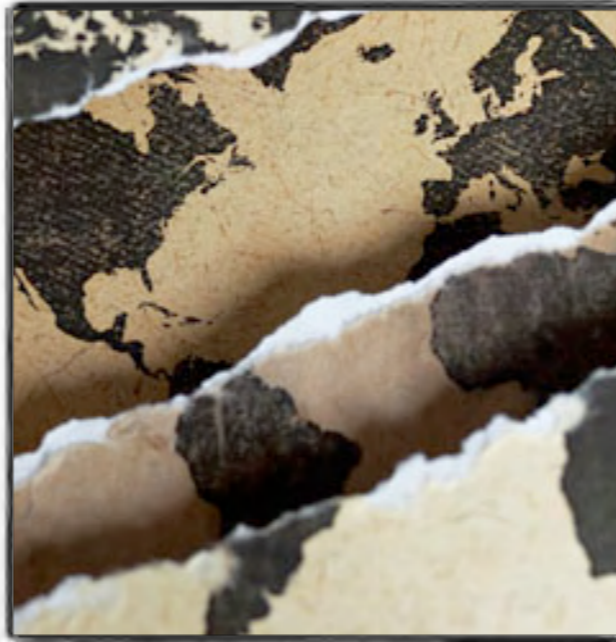
- How do we respond to what the text means?
(APPLY)

Interpretation (Exegesis) ---> Application (Homiletics)

The **SECOND** key - Understand God's Purpose & Plan in the Bible



creation



fall

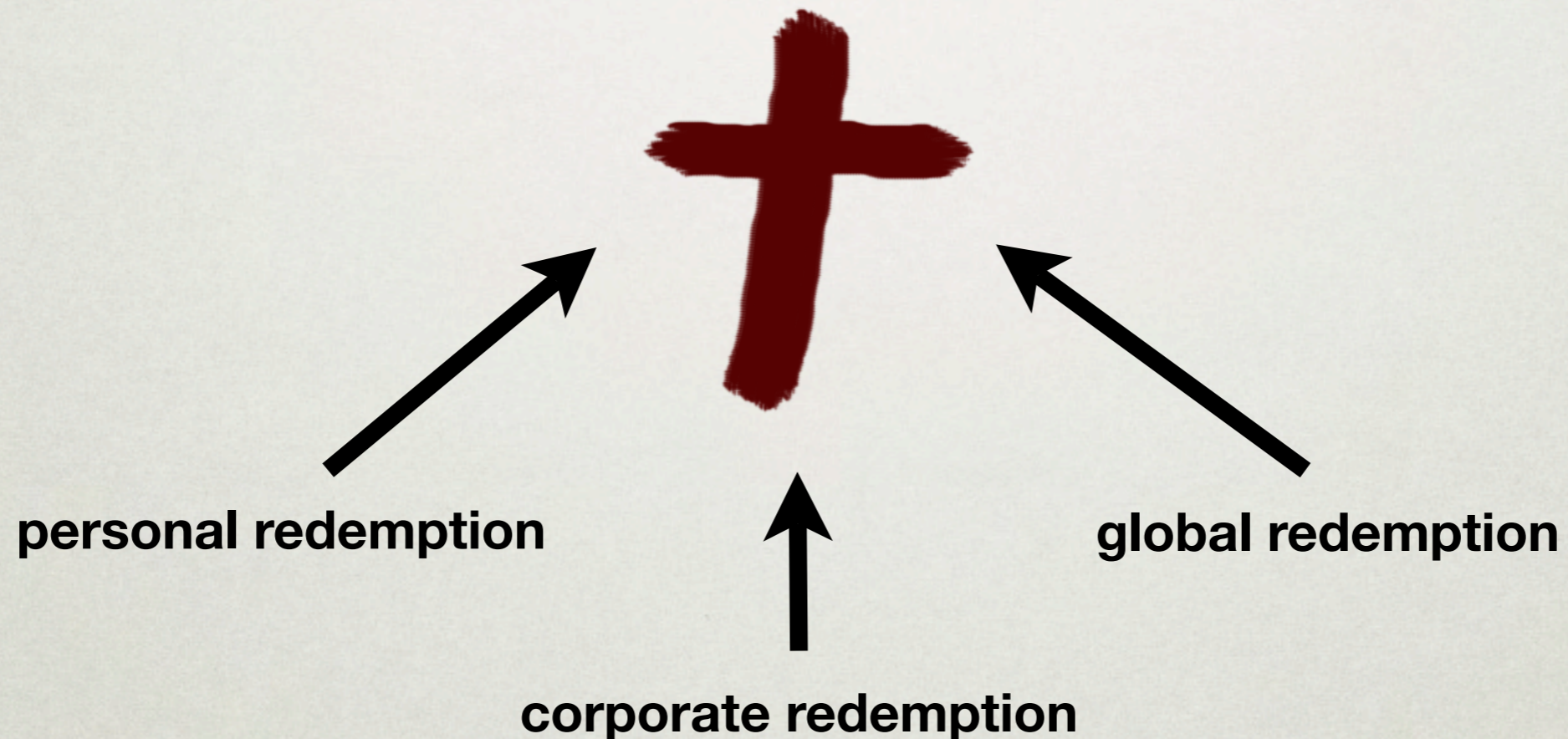


redemption

God's Master Plan

Ephesians 1:3-14

Bringing all things under Jesus' rule (redemption) for the glory of God's name

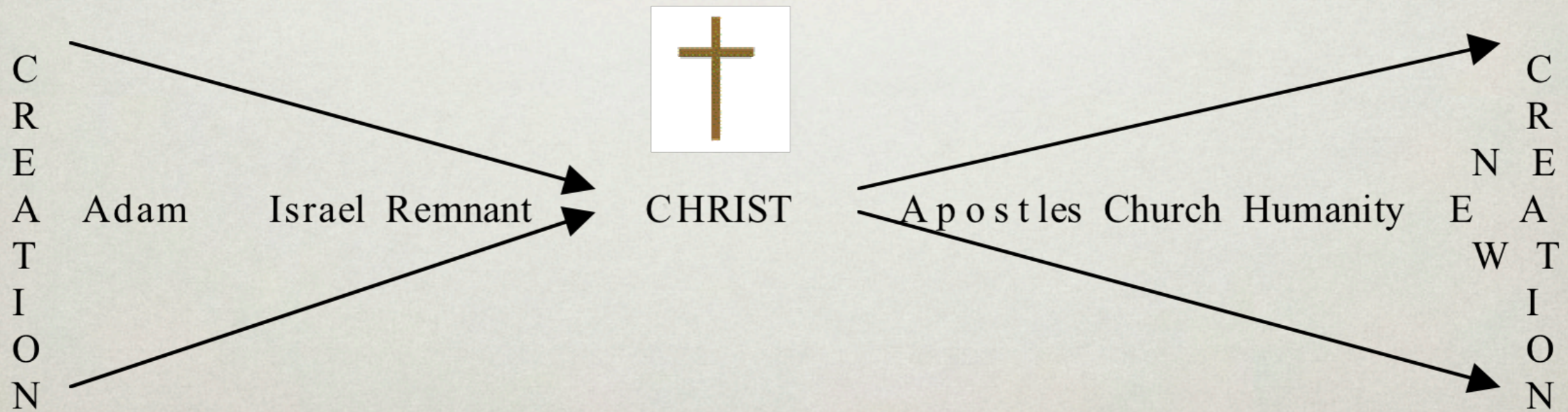


The story of God's redemption centers on Jesus!

2 Tim 3:15-17

Luke 24:44-49

Revelation 4-5



Acts 1:6-8 - God's Expansion Program

Jerusalem -> Judea/Samaria -> to the ends of the earth

The ultimate goal of all Christian ministry



bringing all things under Jesus' rule

- witnessing for Jesus
- calling people to follow, trust and obey Jesus (Col.1:28; Phil.2:5-11; Rom.8:28-30)
- so that God might receive the glory

The THIRD key - Read Christologically!

In the redemption story of the Bible, the Old Testament is ultimately about Jesus, anticipating and pointing forward to Jesus.

And the New Testament is the story of redemption fulfilled in Jesus and expressed in his people, church and world.

- *How does this passage point to Christ?*
- *How is this passage fulfilled in Christ?*
- *What is this passages relationship to the gospel event?*

Bringing It All Together In Reading The Bible

**Old Testament
Passage**



What is this passage about?

What does this passage
mean for them?

(Exegesis/Interpretation)

Appendix 1

What does this passage
show us about the way
God does things
through Jesus?

How does this passage
prepare or anticipate the
way God does things
through Jesus?

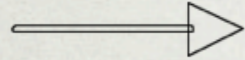
How is this passage
pointing to and fulfilled
in Christ?

How should we respond?

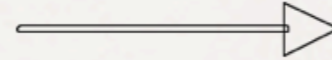
What does this passage mean for
us? (Homiletics/Application)

Appendix 1

Bringing It All Together In Reading The Bible



**New Testament
Passage**



What is this passage about?

What does this passage
mean for them?
(Exegesis/Interpretation)

Appendix 1

How should we respond?

What does this passage mean
for us?
(Homiletics/Application)

Appendix 1

What is this passage's
relationship to Jesus and the
gospel event?

Reading The Bible Involves 2 Steps

Interpret

- What does the text actually say and mean?
 - in its historical, cultural context
 - in its literary context - relationship and content
 - in its Christological context: <-- or -->

Apply

- How do we respond to what the text means?

Group Work

1) Choose one passage.

Daniel 1

1 Samuel 17:31-54

Phil 4:13

Col.3:12-13

2 Tim.2:1-7

**2) Work through the steps of Interpretation (*Exegesis*)
& Application (*Homiletics*) as a group.**

What does the text actually say and mean?

What are some valid points of application?

Reading The Bible Involves 2 Steps

Interpret

- What does the text actually say and mean?
 - in its historical, cultural context
 - in its literary context - relationship and content
 - in its Christological context: <-- or -->

Apply

- How do we respond to what the text means?

Daniel 1

1 Samuel 17:31-54

Phil 4:13

Col.3:12-13

2 Tim.2:1-7

Colossians 3:12-13

Historical, cultural, literary context?

- **epistle: letter to a culturally mixed church**
- **talking about the rule of Jesus**
- **looks back at what Jesus has done and forward to what God will bring to completion in Jesus (vv.1-3)**
- **we learn that in Jesus the divisions between his people have been removed (v.11)**
- **part of Paul's dealing with different topics applying the gospel in the lives of believers (v. 15, 17)**
- **significant words: 'God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved'**

Colossians 3:12-13

Meaning?

- Christian's whatever their cultural or racial or socio economic background are identified as God's chosen and his dearly loved**
- Christians are encouraged to behave in a manner worthy of their God. Those who know Christ are to aim for perfect unity through their love for each other**

Colossians 3:12-13

Application?

- **we are a privileged people in Jesus: chosen and loved by God**
- **seek to love each other and find unity across our cultural, racial, socio-economic differences because we are all God's people in the gospel**
- **we do this by seeing our shared privileges in the gospel and putting on what will bring us together as a community - love and forgiveness**

Daniel 1

Historical, cultural, literary context?

- **genre: apocalyptic work written to give people hope in dark times reminding them that God remains victorious despite the circumstances**
- **in exile for unfaithfulness, displaced and living in a foreign land**
- **facing the pressure of assimilation - language, education, name change, Babylonian culture**
- **a narrative where Daniel is the key character**
- **Daniel living as a worshipper of God dealing with the pressure of living in Babylonian culture**

Daniel 1

Meaning?

- Daniel stands firm against the pressure of Babylonian culture where his life is at stake. He can accept education, name changes, language, but he will not be a slave to Babylon (eating from the King's table)
- God remains sovereign and is the last man standing (v.21 - he outlives the great empire of Babylon to Persia!)
- God's people are called to remain faithful to the Lord and they are reminded that the 'kingdom' of God will stand forever over the 'nations'!

Daniel 1

Christological Context?

- **God's Kingdom and people will stand forever - they will prevail over all! In the coming of Jesus, God has established his Kingdom forever over sin, death, over every power, authority and nation (comes announcing the Kingdom and establishes the kingdom forever cf. Luke 1:33; Matt.28:18-20; Col.2:13-15; Heb.1:8)**
- **God's people will be the only ones standing in God's economy, and the rest will pass away (1 John 2:15-17)**

Daniel 1

Application?

- we are to remember that God's Kingdom has been secured in Jesus, and will be the only kingdom standing over the nations/powers of the world: we either live for his kingdom or the world
- as God's people who belong to His kingdom, we will be the only ones standing with Jesus!
- we are called to be discerning in culture and society to watch against things that are taking us away from being loyal and depending on Jesus.
- we are to be faithful to Jesus in our culture and society

The FOURTH key - Read For Personal Transformation!

- **Prayer**
- **Meditation**
- **Engaging Mind & Heart**

