

Basic Hermeneutical Procedure

Isaiah 53:8

Step 1 – The Orientation Step

The purpose of this step is to orient yourself to the context of the passage being studied.

Step 2 – The Observation Step

The purpose of this step is to make oneself aware of what is in the text.

Step 3 – The Interpretation Step

The purpose of this step is to analyze and sort through the facts derived in steps 1 and 2.

- The interpreter is now ready to begin to answer the question, “What does this text mean?”
- The interpreter must be analytical, methodical, thorough, and above all, honest.

Step 4 – The Correlation Step

The purpose of this step is to correlate the meaning of the text to the other parts of Scripture. The text must be correlated to :

- The complete sentence
- The paragraph
- The chapter
- The section of the book
- The entire book
- The entire Scripture

Step 5 – The Application Step

- This is the goal of Biblical interpretation. In this step, we ask the question, “What effect does this text now have upon my life?”
- Proper application is only possible after proper interpretation.