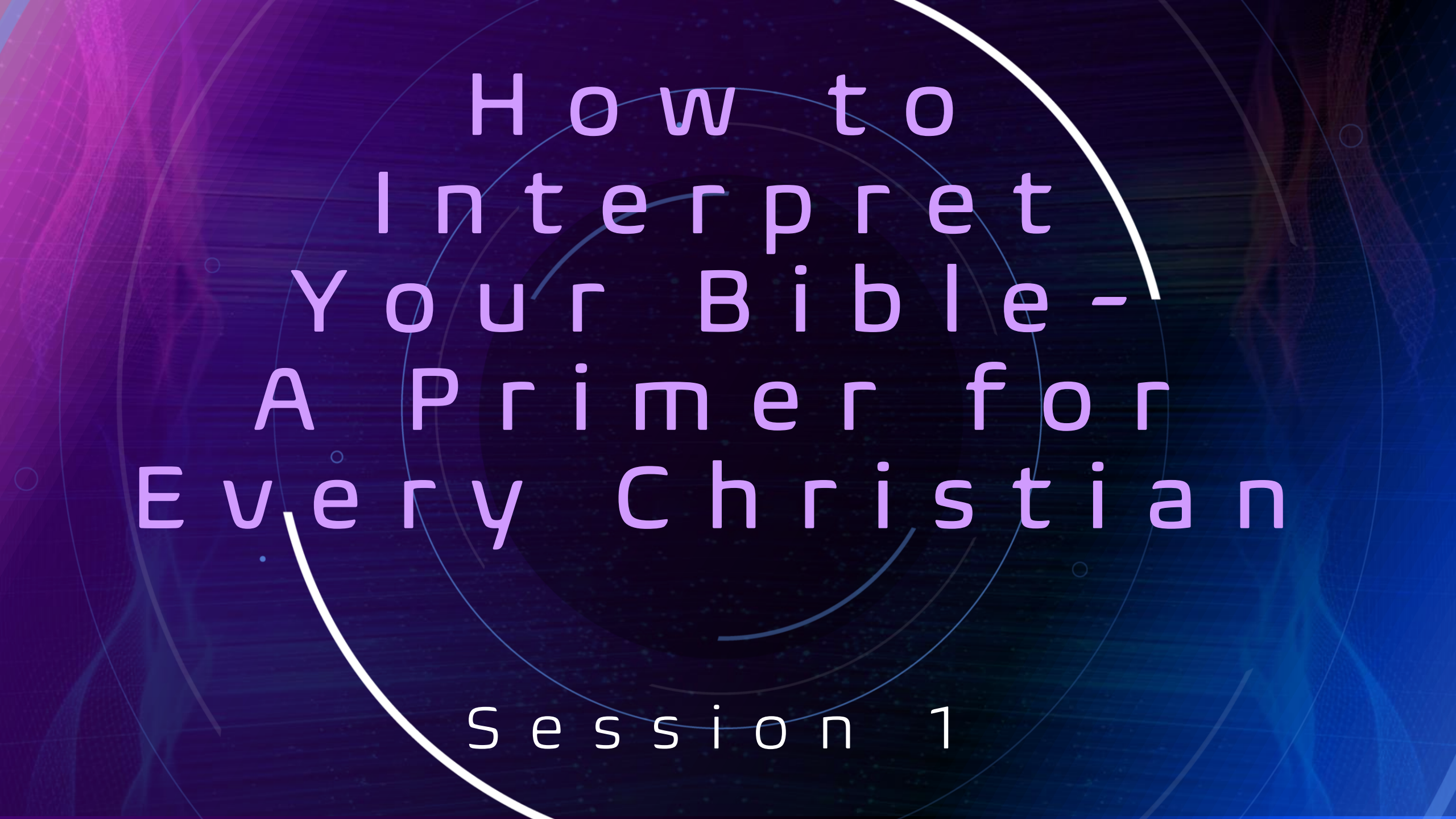


Hermeneutics

SEMINAR

LEARN HOW TO ACCURATELY INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

With Teaching from Pastor Charles Heck



How to Interpret Your Bible - A Primer for Every Christian

Session 1

Defining Hermeneutics

- Derived from Greek God Hermes, who interpreted messages from gods to the mortals
- From the Greek word *hermeneuo*, used 19x in the Bible



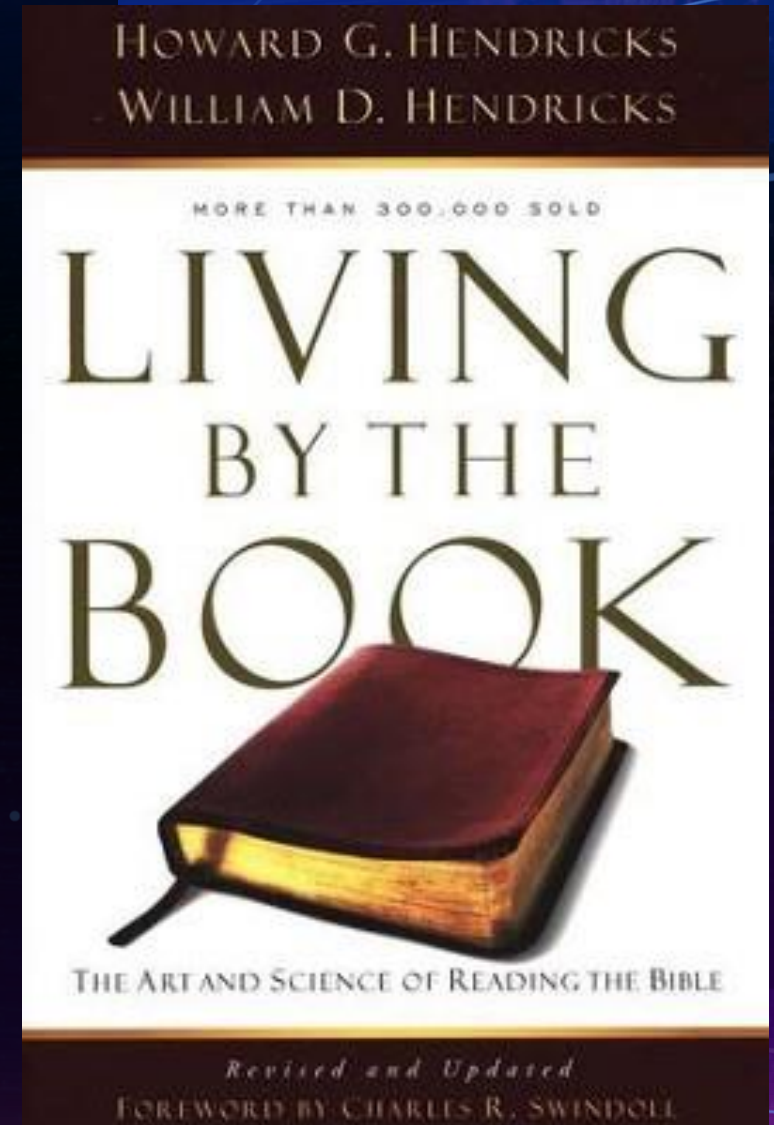
Defining Hermeneutics

- Common Sayings

1. “Every one has their own interpretation of the Bible.”
2. “Agree to disagree.”
3. “Well, that’s your interpretation.”

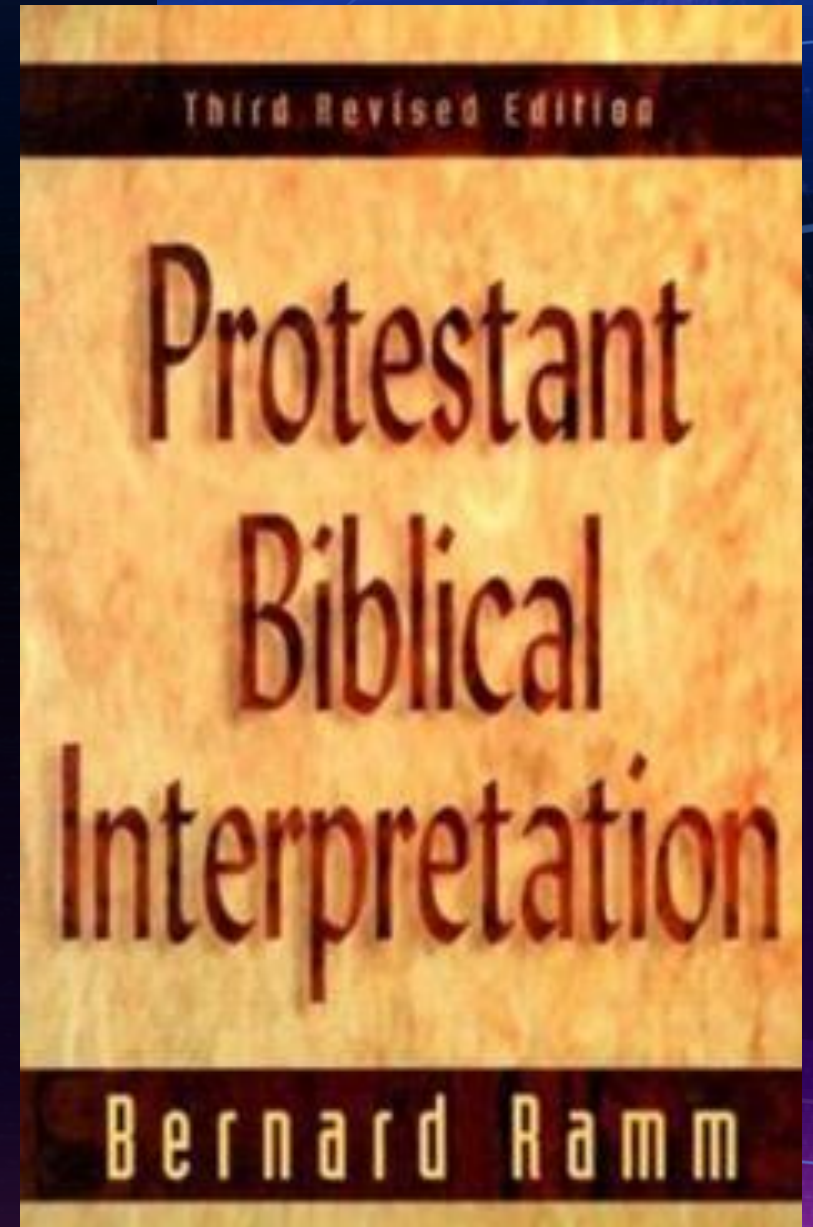
Defining Hermeneutics

- 3 Step Bible Method
 1. Observation = What do I see?
 2. Interpretation = What does it mean?
 3. Application = Why does it matter?



An Example from Scripture

- Luke 24:13-35
- “the science of biblical interpretation”
- “guided by rules within a system; and it is an art because the application of the rules is by skill” (Bernard Ramm)



2 Historical Schools of Thought:

Literal Method

- or historical, grammatical, and literary methods
- Focuses on the plain sense of words

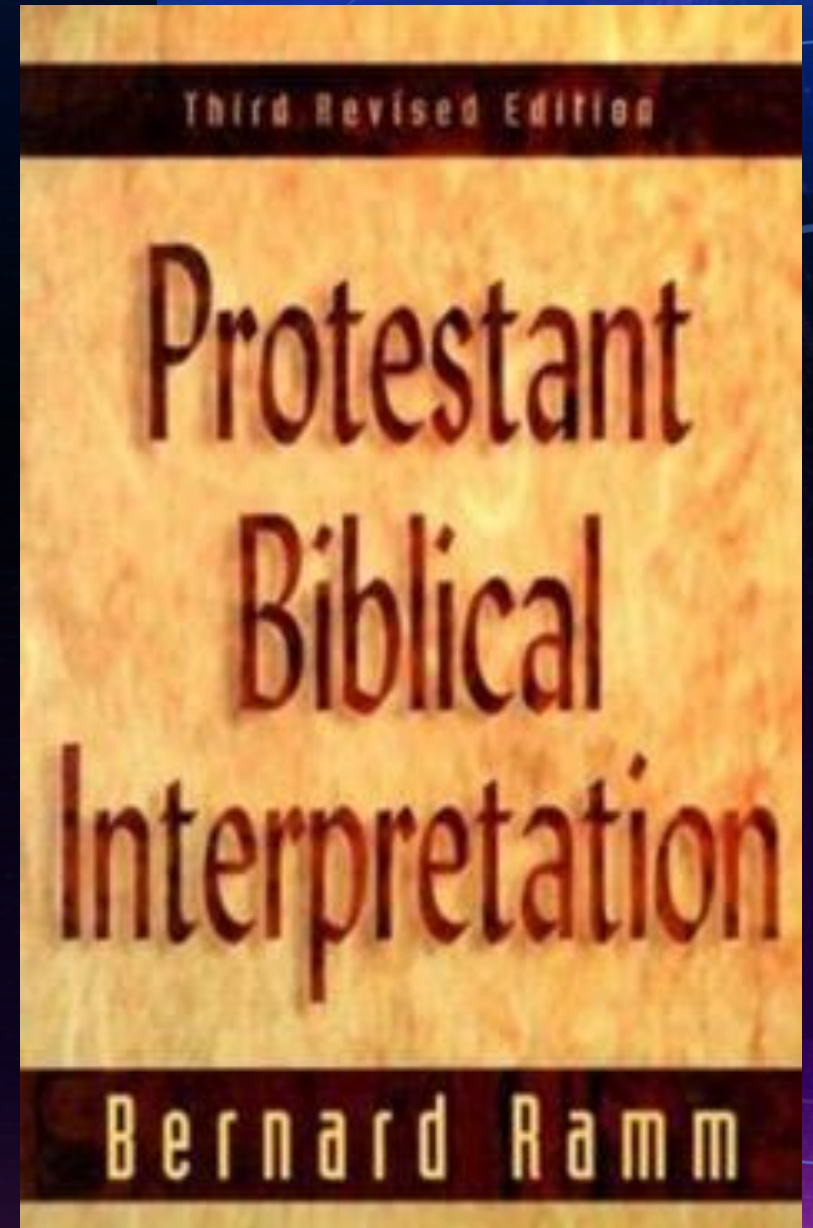
2 Historical Schools of Thought:

Allegorical Method

- follows a hidden or secret meaning which is remote from or unrelated to any obvious meaning
- Developed and introduced by Augustine
- Can be subjective

The Goal of Hermeneutics

“to ascertain what God has said in Sacred Scripture; to determine the meaning of the Word of God”



The Bible's Clarity

- The Bible can be understood.
- God doesn't want to confuse.
- We have everything we need for life and godliness (II Pet 1:3).
- Examples – Deuteronomy 6:7; Psalm 19:7



7 Qualifications for Being a Good Interpreter

1. Be saved (I Cor 2:14; II Cor 4:4).

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2. Be prayerful and humble.

Martin Luther, On Humble Hermeneutics

“The Holy Scriptures require a humble reader who shows reverence and fear toward the Word of God and constantly says, ‘Teach me, teach me, teach me!’ The Spirit resists the proud. Though they study diligently and preach Christ purely for a time, nevertheless, God excludes them ...”



Martin Luther, On Humble Hermeneutics

“... from the church if they’re proud. Wherefore every proud person is a heretic, if not actually, then potentially. However, it is difficult for a man who has excellent gifts not to be arrogant. Those whom God adorns with great gifts He plunges into the most severe trials in order that they may ...”



Martin Luther, On Humble Hermeneutics

“... learn that they're nothing...Pride drove the angel out of heaven and spoils many preachers. According it's humility that's needed in the study of sacred literature.”



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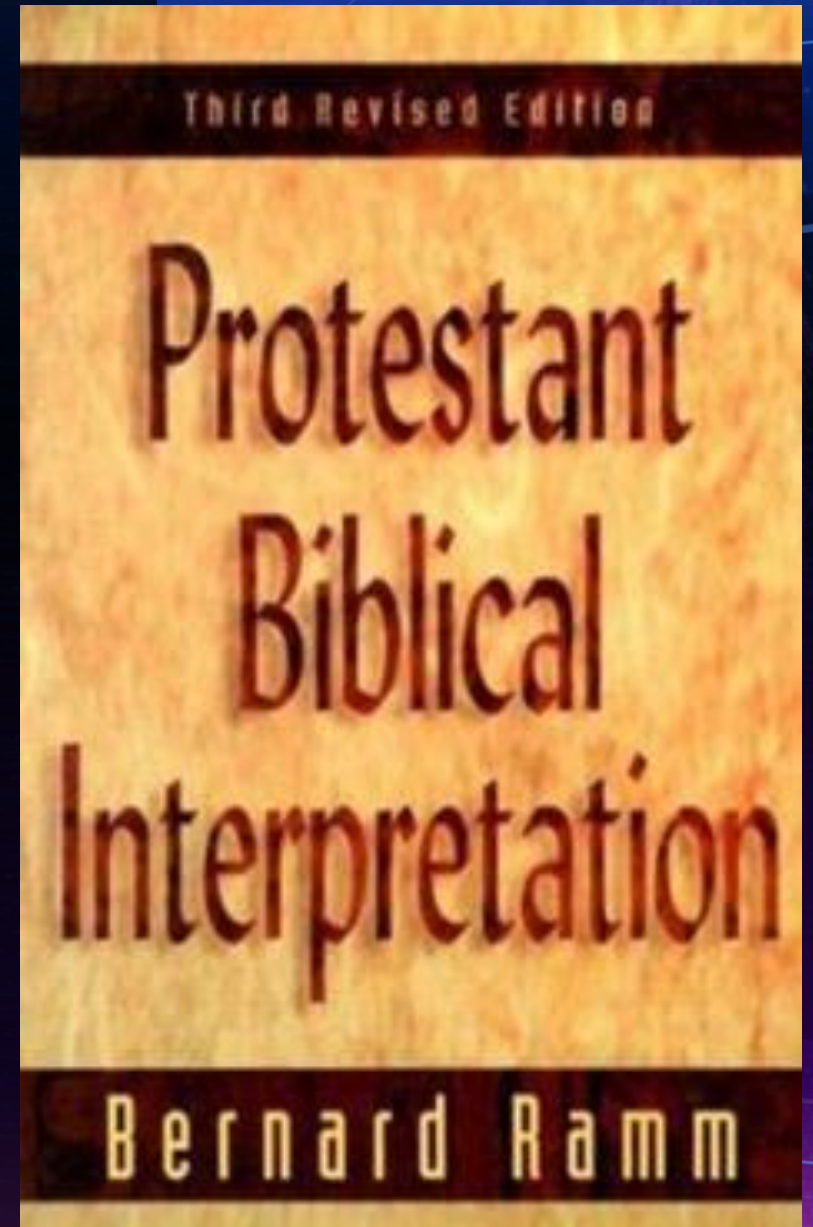
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2. Be prayerful and humble.
3. Be curious.
4. Be zealous (Ps 1; 119).
5. Be reverential (Prov 1:7).

7 Qualifications for Being a Good Interpreter

5. Be a learner (Rom 12:7; I Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11; Acts 2:42).

Be a learner.

“Matters of facts cannot be settled solely by spiritual means. One cannot pray to God for information about the authorship of Hebrews and expect a distinct reply. Nor is it proper to pray for information with reference to other matters of biblical introduction expecting a revelation about the revelation.”



7 Qualifications for Being a Good Interpreter

- 5. Be a learner (Rom 12:7; I Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11; Acts 2:42).
- 6. Be following the Holy Spirit (John 16:13).