

Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#9 - Allow space for poetic expressions.

- In the Bible – Job-Ecclesiastes. About 1/3 of the Bible is poetic.
- Poetry captures what is true to life.
- Read it slow, meditatively, prayerfully, but don't over-analyze.

Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#10 - Don't overthink parables.

- “to place alongside of” for the purpose of comparing
- “a saying, a proverb, a maxim”
- Not fables or myths or allegories

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- 2 Elements
 1. common earthly thing, with spiritual element
 2. spiritual lesson

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- Rules for Interpreting
 1. Study wider context.
 2. Understand culture (Matt 13:33).
 3. Find central truth by
 - noting a question (Luke 7:42)
 - a direct conclusion (Matt 18:35)
 - an answer (Matt 15:15)

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- Rules for Interpreting
 1. Study wider context.
 2. Understand culture (Matt 13:33).
 3. Find central truth.
 4. Look for contextual interpretations.
 5. Don't read theological system into text.

Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#11 - You can make correct predictions with prophecy.

- About 1/3 of the Bible
- 2 Purposes
 1. to affect those who hear it
(1 Thess 5:13)
 2. to foretell

Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#11 - You can make correct predictions with prophecy.

- Rules

1. Begin with literalism.
2. Don't read theological system into it.
3. Historical background
4. Not every prophecy is for every person.

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- Rules

- 5. Predictive vs. didactic

- 6. Allow for double-fulfillments.

- 7. Some are conditional (Jer 18; 26); some are unconditional (Gen 8; 15).

- 8. Prophets didn't always understand (Dan 12:8-9; I Pet 1:10-12).

Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#12 - Do not neglect the testimony of church history.

- Don't look for new ideas.
- Church history shows the value of doctrine.
- The church doesn't determine the Bible; the Bible determines what the church teaches.

Charles Spurgeon, On the Ministry of Illumination to Us

“It seems odd that certain men talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to them should think so little of what He revealed to others.”



Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#13 - Devalue experience as a reliable guide for interpretation.

- Interpret experience in light of Scripture and not the other way around.
- “God told me” should be followed quickly with Scripture (Deut 18:22; I Thess 5:20-21; I John 4:1).

John Calvin, On Experience

“Let us beware lest our words and thoughts go beyond what the Word of God tells us...We must leave to God his own knowledge, ... and conceive Him as He makes Himself known to us, without attempting to discover anything about His nature apart from His Word.”

