

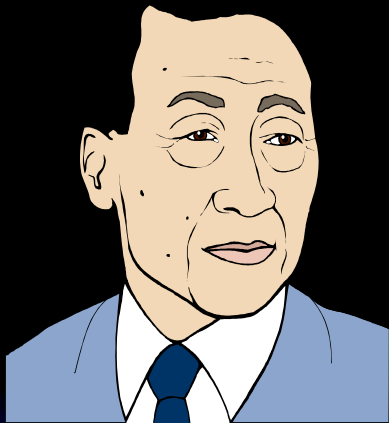
V. How to Examine Historical and Cultural Background

What was the
situation?

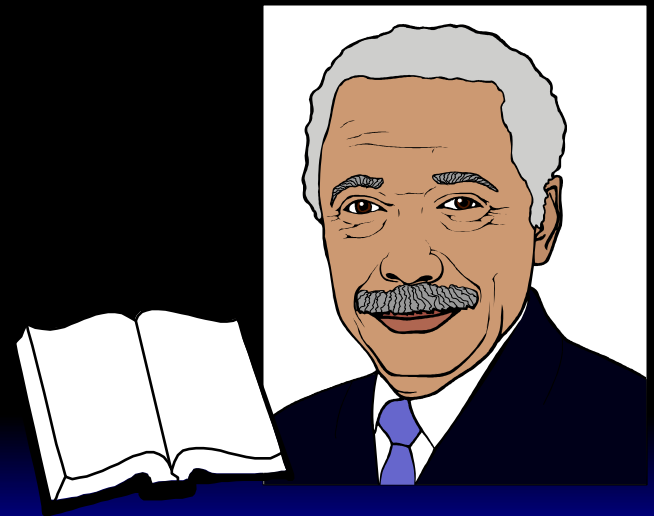


The Challenge

Is all the Bible
directly about me?



God worked
with people
long ago in their
own circumstances.



Required Reading Assignments

- ◆ acquaint yourself with
 - Longman, *Old Testament Commentary Survey*
 - Silva, “The Silva Mind-Control Method ...”
- ◆ Berkhof, *Principles of Biblical Interpretation* 113-132.

Where Are We?

1. Preliminary acquaintance with the text
2. Exegesis in the original setting
 - a. **Learn about historical background**
3. Relations with other passages
4. Role in redemptive history
5. Application

◆ Application (IV) is illumined by historical circumstances.

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1. Preliminary acquaintance with the text
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◆ Application (IV) is illumined when we see how real people lived within their historical circumstances.

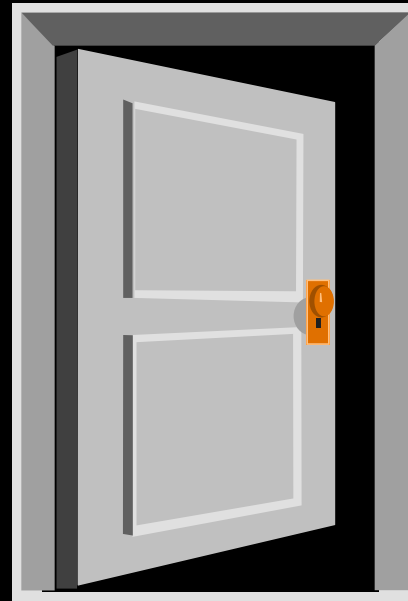
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A. General Principles for Culture

Meaning Depends on Situation



The door
is open.



Situations and Meaning

“The door is open.”

- ◆ A fact.
- ◆ Someone was careless.
- ◆ Please close the door.
- ◆ Evidence that someone left in a hurry.
- ◆ Get out!



Context is
necessary.

Danger in Overhearing

- ◆ When you overhear, you may understand the words but not the point.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation ...
(Zech. 9:9)

I will meet my future husband.



Danger in Overhearing

- ◆ When you overhear someone else's conversation, you may understand the words but not the point.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation ...
(Zech. 9:9)

I will meet my future husband.





B. What to Look for

Aspects of Historical Situation

- ◆ Speaker: purpose, attitude, social position?
- ◆ Audience: attitude, social position? How affected?
- ◆ Environment: national situation, region, sites, time of year? Social customs?

Aspects of Historical Situation

- ◆ Speaker: what is the speaker's purpose, attitude, social position?
- ◆ Audience: what is the audiences' attitude, social position, religious standing? How might they change by hearing?
- ◆ Environment: what is the national situation, what region, sites, time of year? Are these significant? How do social customs differ from ours?



C. Bibliography

Old Testament Source Material

See attached bibliography

- a. Ancient Near East
- b. History and social customs
- c. Background of individual OT books

New Testament Source Material

See attached bibliography

- a. The Jewish world
- b. History and social customs
- c. Background for individual NT books

Other Sources

- ◆ Commentaries.

In introductory sections.

Other Sources

- ◆ Commentaries on individual books of the Bible.

In their introductory sections exegetical commentaries often provide much information about the setting of a particular book.