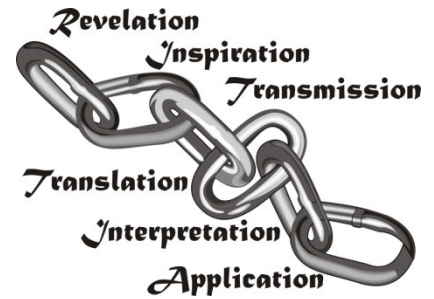


The Divine Chain of Communication

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.



Handout 12

Interpretation:

What Does This Verse Mean to You?—Verses Most Commonly Taken Out of Context Some Thoughts about Understanding the Bible

- A. Does everything in the Bible apply to us today?
 - 1. Should I bring a donkey to Jesus? Matthew 21:1-2
 - 2. Should I greet Rufus? Romans 16:13
 - B. The Problem of Descriptive vs. Normative
 - 1. Jesus walked everywhere He went!
 - 2. Jesus prayed in the morning. Mark 1:35
 - 3. Israel brought the tithe to the storehouse. Malachi 3:10
 - 4. The apostles spoke in tongues. Acts 2:4
 - C. The Problem of Moralizing or Allegorizing
 - 1. Saul's armor did not fit David. 1 Samuel 17:38-39
 - 5. Must we kill the "giants" in our lives? 1 Sam. 17:40 ff
 - 6. Must we lighten our load? Acts 27:18
 - 7. The Triumphal Entry: Are you a "donkey" for Jesus, "carrying" Him to the world? Matt. 21:7-11
 - D. Some comments on the issue of "out-of-context" verses
- II. Out of Context Verses
- A. Immediate Context: How might the surrounding verses aid our understanding?
 - 1. Isaiah 55:8-9
 - 2. Proverbs 23:7
 - 3. Matthew 18:20
 - 4. Matthew 18:19
 - 5. Matthew 7:20
 - 6. 1 Corinthians 2:9
 - 7. Psalm 118:24
 - 8. John 12:32
 - 9. Philippians 4:13
 - 10. Matthew 25:35-36
 - 11. Genesis 32:49
 - 12. Matthew 14:22-33
 - B. Original Language Context: How might the original language of the text aid our understanding?
 - 1. Romans 8:16
 - 2. John 21:15-17
 - 3. Genesis 2:15
 - 4. Proverbs 29:18
 - 5. 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)
 - 6. Genesis 1:1
 - C. Grammatical Context: How might a careful reading of the English grammar aid our understanding?
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
 - 2. Luke 22:44
 - 3. 1 John 1:7
 - D. Historical/Cultural Context: How might historical or cultural considerations aid our understanding?
 - 1. Revelation 3:15-16
 - 2. John 13:2-15
 - 3. Genesis 11
 - E. Theological Context: How might theological considerations aid our understanding?
 - 1. James 2:17
 - 2. Ephesians 4:26
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 2:2
 - 4. Malachi 3:8-10
 - 5. Revelation 3:20
 - 6. John 14:25-26; 16:13
 - 7. 2 Chronicles 7:14
 - 8. John 14:1-3