

Almost Everything You Need to Know

A Systematic Study of God

The Interpretation of the Bible

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)

Interpretation is the attempt to help readers and hearers of Scripture understand and apply the biblical text.¹

The Basics of Bible Study²

- _____ – What does the Bible _____?
Read the Bible...
 - a. Thoughtfully – Be a detective.
 - b. Repeatedly – Read entire books at a time.
 - c. Patiently – Spend quality time in each book you study.
 - d. Selectively – Decipher the who, what, where, when, and how in the text.
 - e. Prayerfully – Don't copy others; ask God to reveal things to you.
 - f. Imaginatively – Think about how you might write the verse.
 - g. Meditatively – Reflect on the words.
 - h. Purposefully – Understand that the author used structure to send a message.
 - i. Acquisitively – Attempt to retain the text.
 - j. Telescopically – Understand the significance of the text in light of the entire Bible.
- _____ – What does the Bible _____?
 - a. Consider the purpose of the Bible as a whole.
 - b. Consider the purpose of each individual book of the Bible, and the progressiveness of revelation.
 - c. Consider to whom the specific Scripture was addressed.
 - d. Consider the full context of the passage being studied.
 - e. Compare Scripture with Scripture.
 - f. Determine the exact meaning of the words and the grammatical sense in which they are used.
 - g. Avoid personal prejudices and preconceived notions.

¹ John Frame, "Biblical Interpretation," in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

² Adapted from *Living by the Book*, Howard G. Hendricks, William D. Hendricks (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2007).

