

Exegesis Cheat Sheet:

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INTRODUCTION

When you read the bible as a spirit-filled person, it becomes so much more than just a historic text.

- The Word of God is alive and active!

Hebrews 4:12 English Standard Version

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

But there is only one correct interpretation of the biblical text, and that is the interpretation that the writer had assigned to it when they wrote it.

WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE

1. **EXEGESIS:** Simply put - *means to draw out of a text.*

Exegesis is the exposition or explanation of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis literally means "to lead out of." That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text.

- Exegesis is simply *careful reading*.
- ***And ultimately the text means what the text's author meant, and we find this through exegesis.***

The process of exegesis involves:

- 1) observation: what does the passage say?
- 2) interpretation: what does the passage mean?
- 3) correlation: how does the passage relate to the rest of the Bible? and
- 4) application: how should this passage affect my life?

2. **EISEGESIS:** Simply put - *means reading into a text.*

The opposite approach to Scripture is eisegesis, which is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word eisegesis literally means "to lead into," which means the interpreter injects his or her own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever they want it to mean.

When you eisegete, you introduce your own presuppositions, agendas, or biases into the meaning of the text.

- *It is often done subconsciously with the hope of proving a pre-held point of concern, and to provide [confirmation bias](#) corresponding with the pre-held interpretation and any agendas supported by it.*

Basically, the lens that you read the bible through is created by your past experiences, your culture, your gender, your mental health, the whole of who you are, it impacts how you interpret the biblical text.

The process of Eisegesis involves:

- 1) imagination: what idea do I want to present?
- 2) exploration: what Scripture passage seems to fit with my idea? and
- 3) application: what does my idea mean?

Ultimately, our interpretation of what was written in the bible, is not correct unless it is the interpretation that the author assigned to it when it was written.

The correct interpretation of the bible can be found through exegesis.

EXEGESIS

***Exegesis usually involves reading the whole book multiple times.

- Then meditating on the passage and praying about it.

1) OBSERVATION: what does the passage say?

A few questions to ask ourselves:

- 1 - Who is involved?
- 2 - What are they doing?
- 3 - Where are they?
- 4 - When did this happen, what happened before, what will happen afterwards.
- 5 - Why is this happening, what happened to lead up to this event?

2) INTERPRETATION: what does the passage mean?

A few questions to ask ourselves:

- 1 - What does this passage mean, what is being said?
- 2 - What was the author trying to say to the original readers, how would the original readers have understood this passage?
- 3 - What is the author trying to say to me? Obviously keeping in mind that there is often significant distance (historical, political, societal, cultural, geographical, covenantal, and positional to name just a few) between the original readers and us.

3) CORRELATION: how does the passage relate to the rest of the Bible?

When you correlate, you are bringing up sections from other parts of the chapter, book, or entire Bible that help you to understand the section you are studying and are operating on the principle that: Other useful practices in correlation are paraphrasing the passage, summarizing the passage, outlining the passage, and making charts that relate concepts and ideas in the passage to each other and to other passages dealing with similar ideas.

There are 340,000 cross references in the bible!

- They are usually laid out in your bible's footnotes.

But we are looking to see how the narrative of the bible weaves together, and how our observation and interpretation are clarified and complemented by truths in the bible. **Sometimes you have direct links between prophecies and parables, and sometimes you have correlations between ideas in a passage.**

Ultimately, the bible does not contradict itself but complements itself.

4) APPLICATION: how should this passage affect my life?

Application is that next step of turning knowledge of the original interpretation into action you can take today.

For example, if you know how good water is for you, until you drink it, it hasn't truly impacted your life.

- Exegesis always ends in action.

A few questions to ask yourself when looking at the passage.

- 1 - Is there a command for me to obey?
- 2 - Is there a good example for me to follow?
- 3 - Is there a sin here for me to avoid?
- 4 - Is there something here I want to thank God for?
- 5 - Is there a promise I can call my own?
- 6 - Is there a blessing I can enjoy?
- 7 - Is there a failure from which I can learn?
- 8 - Is there a victory for me to win?
- 9 - Is there a new thought about God, the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Satan, man?
- 10 - Is there a truth in this passage that has greatly affected me?

SUMMARY

Sound bible study is found through exegesis. Use this cheat sheet to better understand what the biblical text meant and be prayerful in seeking out how to apply it to your life today. The internet is full of helpful resources if you want to dive deeper into comprehensive bible study.