

# How to Study the Bible

## Part Five

### October 11, 2023

- Last Week:
  - Started into the principles of correct interpretation of God's Word:
    - The literal, historical, \_\_\_\_\_, grammatical, synthetical, and \_\_\_\_\_ principles
- The Literal Principle
  - Interpret passages in a \_\_\_\_\_ way.
    - Literal = the plain, normal sense of words
    - In general:
      - "If the plain sense makes sense, \_\_\_\_\_ no other sense."
  - Associated Principles
    - Every word of the Scripture is important and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Literal interpretation is built upon the doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_, verbal inspiration.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ interpreted the Old Testament literally.
- This Week:
  - What about figures of speech, symbolism, and allegories in the Bible?
- Figures of Speech
  - Definition: "An expression, such as a metaphor or hyperbole, in which a \_\_\_\_\_ and intensive sense of a word or words is used to create a forceful, dramatic, or illuminating image." -American Heritage Dictionary
  - An expression can properly be viewed as a figure of speech if:
    - The literal meaning is \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Psalm 5:9, throat = pathway to corruption
    - The literal meaning is possible, but probably never \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Psalm 25:15, pluck my feet out of the net = deliver me from all the traps of my enemies (whatever they may be)
    - The literal meaning is \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Isaiah 55:1-2, context, water, etc. = true \_\_\_\_\_ is found only in God and His salvation
- Symbolic Interpretations
  - Symbol = "Something that \_\_\_\_\_ something else by association, resemblance, or convention..." -American Heritage Dictionary
  - Four general observations:
    - The Bible gives \_\_\_\_\_ alerting the reader to the use of symbolism.
    - Rev 12:1: \_\_\_\_\_
      - Wonder = \_\_\_\_\_, token
      - Woman = the nation of Israel

- Zech. 3:8, men wondered at = men of sign, symbol
    - The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ its own symbolism.
      - Rev. 1:12-16: \_\_\_\_\_
        - Seven golden candlesticks and seven stars
          - See Rev. 1:20: \_\_\_\_\_
        - A sharp, two-edged \_\_\_\_\_
          - Eph. 6:17: \_\_\_\_\_
          - Heb. 4:12: \_\_\_\_\_
          - See Rev. 19:13-15: \_\_\_\_\_
    - In Biblical symbolism, each symbol corresponds to something \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Example: Kingdom parables (Matt. 13).
        - Fowls (vs. 4) = the \_\_\_\_\_ one (vs. 19)
        - Seed (vs. 4) = the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (vs. 19)
        - Ground = that of the human heart
    - Biblical symbols are always \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 1 Cor. 5:6-8, \_\_\_\_\_ = suitable symbol for the spreading and spoiling impact of sin
- Allegories
  - Definition:
    - A story that conceals \_\_\_\_\_ meaning.
      - In other words, a story that makes an \_\_\_\_\_ use of symbolism.
      - Therefore, the same basic rules of symbolic interpretation apply.
  - Discussion:
    - The Bible contains very few allegories and identifies each one.
      - Example: conflict between Hagar and Sarah
        - Gal. 4:21-31: \_\_\_\_\_
          - Hagar = bondage to the \_\_\_\_\_
          - Sarah = \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ through the Spirit
        - Notice here, the allegorical meaning does not negate the \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of the Old Testament account.
      - We are not \_\_\_\_\_ to find allegories wherever we like.
        - Narratives describe actual events, and are not fables or allegories.
          - Whether written as prose or poetry.
        - Prophecy is to be interpreted literally, leading naturally to a \_\_\_\_\_ framework of understanding.