

# **BASIC TRAINING FOR CHURCH PLANTERS**

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# THE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

A text must be understood and explained in light of its scriptural, historical, and grammatical **context**.

A text must be understood and explained in light of its actual **content**.

A text must be understood and explained in light of the specific **conduct** obedience to the text requires.

## CONTEXT

A text must be understood and explained in light of its **scriptural** context.

Is the text in the Old Testament or the New Testament?

If it is an Old Testament text, is it in the historical, personal, or prophetic section?

If it is in the historical or prophetic section is it from the period before or after the exile?

If it is a New Testament text, is it in the historical, Christian Church epistle, personal, or Hebrew Christian epistle section?

A text must be understood and explained in light of its **historical** context.

What historical event or set of circumstances provides the backdrop for the text?

A text must be understood and explained in light of its **grammatical** context.

Is the text historical narrative, poetic, prophetic, or didactic in nature?

What literary type does the author employ?

What light does the paragraph and sentence structure shed on a proper understanding and explanation of the text?

## **CONTENT**

A text must be understood and explained in light of its actual ***content***.

Begin by asking observation questions.

Who is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters?

What is the subject or event being addressed?

When did or will events occur?

Where did or will this happen?

Why is something being said or mentioned? Why did or will this happen?

How is it to be done?

Mark key words and phrases.

Look for lists.

Note comparisons and contrasts.

Pay attention to expressions of time.

Identify terms of conclusion.

## CONDUCT

A text must be understood and explained in light of the specific *conduct* obedience to the text requires.

<b>Doctrine</b>	What false belief do I need to reject in light of this text?
<b>Reproof</b>	What behaviours do I need to repent of in light of this text?
<b>Correction</b>	What corrections need to be made in regard to my beliefs and behaviours?
<b>Instruction</b>	What steps can I take to avoid the trap of unbiblical beliefs and behaviours in the future?