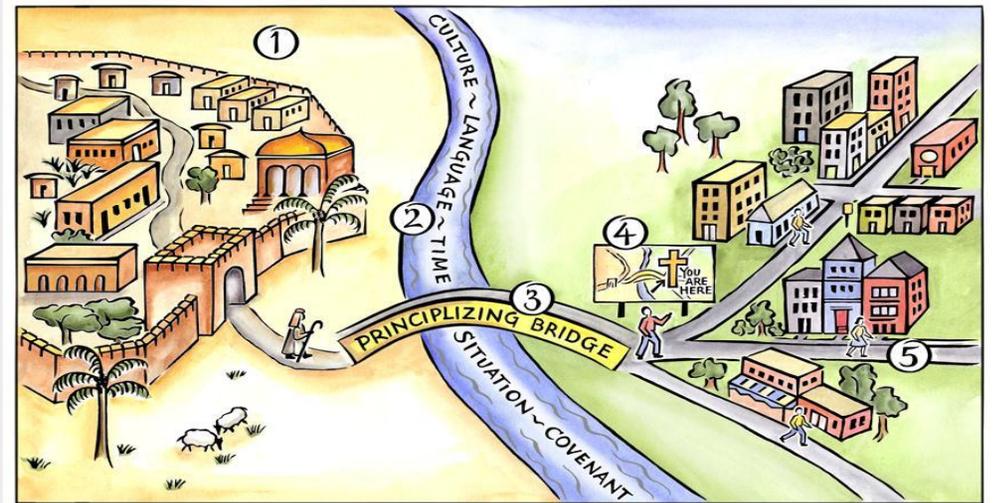


Foundations Class

Truths for
Yeshua's
Disciples

Hermeneutics



Interpreting the
Holy Scriptures

Biblical Hermeneutics

What is it?

- **Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles of interpreting God's Word.**

Why do we need it?

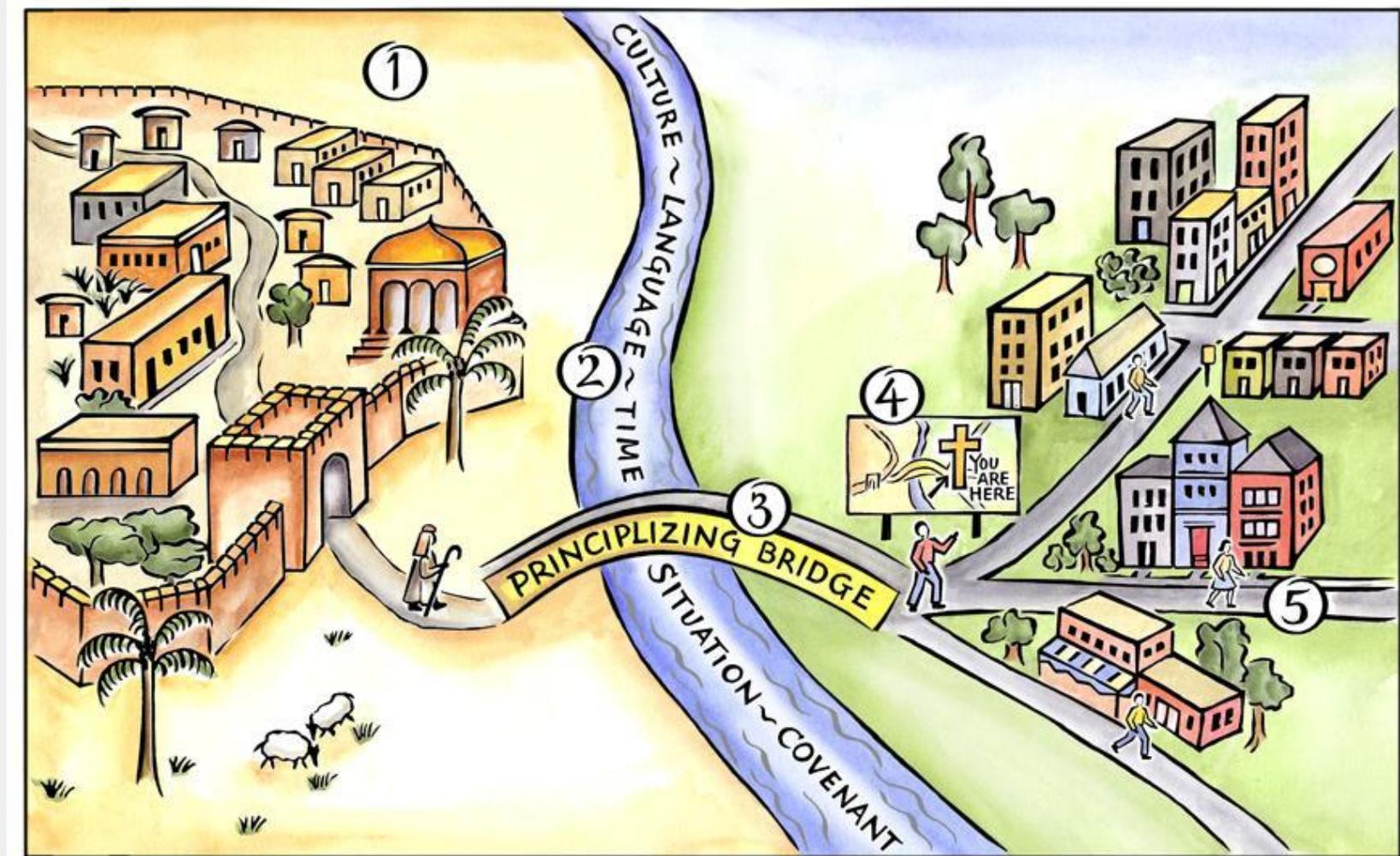
- 1. To understand the meaning of the Scriptures;**
- 2. So that we can understand the will of God;**
- 3. So that we can better live in accordance with His will.**

Do we need the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) Spirit for this?

- **No pts 1 & 2, yes pt 3.**
- **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV 1 Cor 2:14)**

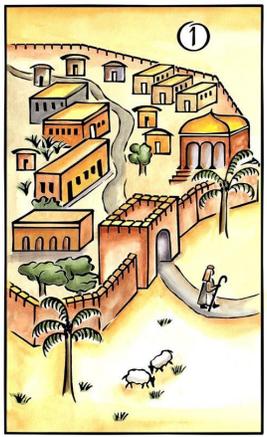
Keywords: Exegesis, Eisegesis, Anachronistic

Overview of 5 Step Process



Step 1: Grasping The Text in Their Town

Key Questions?



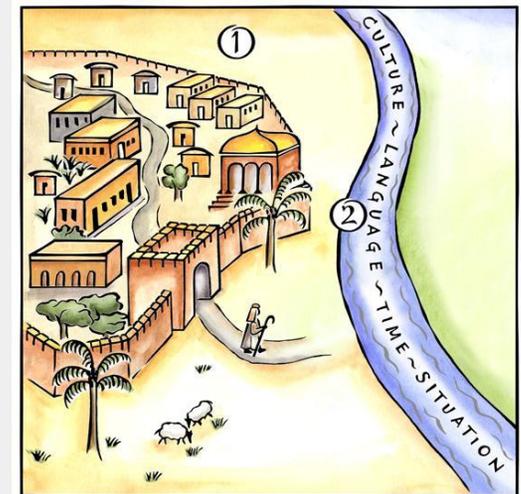
Tools

- What did the text mean to the original audience?
 - What is the historical setting?
 - What is the political setting?
 - What is the literary (genre) being used?
 - Who wrote the book?
 - Why was it written?
 - What is the theme of the passage?
 - Different original language and meaning of words?
-
- Bible background commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, Lexicons, interlinear texts, other historical literature.

Step 2: Measuring the Width of the River

Key Questions?

- How different is this situation from ours?
- Where is it different?
- Why is it different?
- Do we have all the data we need?



Tools

- Bible background commentaries, Lexicons, interlinear texts, other historical literature.

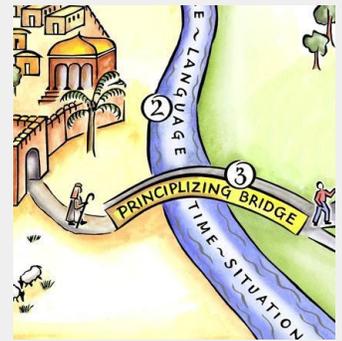
Step 3: Crossing the Principlizing Bridge

Key Questions?

- What are the similarities to today?
- What are the human experiences that affect the original audience and us?
- What truths are found in the passage?

A Good Principle Should:

- *be reflected in the text.*
- *be timeless and not tied to a specific situation.*
- *not be culturally bound.*
- *correspond to the teaching of the rest of Scripture.*
- *be relevant to both the biblical and contemporary audience.*



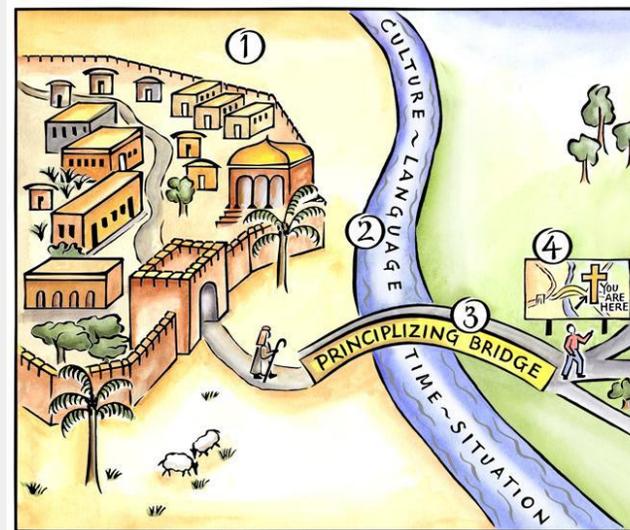
Example:

- Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” ESV (1 Tim 5:17-18)
- Paul derives a timeless principle. BUT...principles DO NOT negate the actual command.

Step 4: Consult the Biblical Map

Key Questions?

- How does this principle fit with the rest of Scripture?
- How does this principle fit with common interpretation in the community?



Tools

- Bible Program (Logos, Accordance), online searches.

Step 5: Grasping the Text in Our Town

Key Questions?

- How should live out and apply the Scripture?
- Am I carefully discerning what is and is not transferable to our times?
- Are my modern biases affecting my application?
- How have the people of God (both Judaism and Christianity) applied this in past and today?

Tools

- Bible Commentaries, Online searches.



Genesis 1.26: Let Us Make Man

Passage

- Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Natural Question

- Who is God speaking to?

Key Questions?

- What is the genre of the passage?
- What is the ancient context?
- What do other ancient texts of the surrounding cultures say?
- What do other passages in the Bible say?

Genesis 1.26: Let Us Make Man

Notes

The plural form of the verb has been the subject of much discussion through the years, and not surprisingly several suggestions have been put forward. Many Christian theologians interpret it as an early hint of **plurality within the Godhead**, but this view imposes later trinitarian concepts on the ancient text. Some have suggested the plural verb indicates majesty, but the **plural of majesty** is not used with verbs. C. Westermann (Genesis, 1:145) argues for a **plural of “deliberation”** here, but his proposed examples of this use (2 Sam 24:14; Isa 6:8) do not actually support his theory. In 2 Sam 24:14 David uses the plural as representative of all Israel, and in Isa 6:8 the LORD speaks on behalf of his heavenly court. **In its ancient Israelite context the plural is most naturally understood as referring to God and his heavenly court** (see 1 Kgs 22:19–22; Job 1:6–12; 2:1–6; Isa 6:1–8). (The most well-known members of this court are God’s messengers, or angels. In Gen 3:5 the serpent may refer to this group as “gods/divine beings.” See the note on the word “evil” in 3:5.) If this is the case, God invites the heavenly court to participate in the creation of humankind (perhaps in the role of offering praise, see Job 38:7), but he himself is the one who does the actual creative work (v. 27). Of course, this view does assume that the members of the heavenly court possess the divine “image” in some way. **Since the image is closely associated with rulership, perhaps they share the divine image in that they, together with God and under his royal authority, are the executive authority over the world.**

Divine Council

More meaning...

The NET Bible.

Gal 5:2: ...if you accept circumcision...

Passage

Natural Question

Key Questions?

Basic Bible Search reveals complexity.

- Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ESV (Ga 5:2).
- Why is Paul so upset about Circumcision?
 - What is the genre of the passage?
 - What is the ancient context?
 - What do other ancient texts of the surrounding cultures say?
 - What do other passages in the Bible say?

Act 16:3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

1Co 7:19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Instead, keeping God's commandments is what counts.

Gal 2:3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, although he was a Greek.

Gal 5:2: ...if you accept circumcision...

Online Search

- Circumcision was a hot topic prior to Yeshua.
- Circumcision was a hot topic outside of the believing communities as well.
- Circumcision was THE mark of identity and loyalty (formal conversion). Are you with the people of Israel and our God or are you with the pagan people and their gods?



Conclusion

Paul is not against circumcision, because through our bible search we see passages that show Paul did circumcise Timothy and also speaks positively about it in other places. But, Paul is against circumcision being used for gentiles as a means of entering the people of God. For Paul, it is faith in Yeshua that brings gentiles into the status of God's people.

And this now better explains the passage in Gal 5:2. If you accept circumcision "as the means for being God's chosen" then you are saying Yeshua is "not enough" for that purpose.