

## *"How to Enjoy Your Bible" – Seminar*

### Summary of all Classes

#### **Class 1: Getting Started**

- Choose a Version of the Bible you like to read
- Read with a purpose; find a quiet place; dedicate time each day and devise a plan.
- Plan – start with an area of the Bible that interests you or start anywhere reading 3-4 chapters each day for 10-15 minutes.
- RULE #1: Read it literally until you encounter figurative language.

#### **Class 2: Basic Interpretation**

- RULE #2: Context is King!
- Your Goal is understanding
- Critical/Close Reading Analysis
  - Helps you see facets of the text you may not have noticed before
  - Let the text lead you and listen to it!
  - Every claim you make from a text must be directly supported by evidence from the text
- Eisegesis vs Exegesis
  - Eisegesis – reading your opinion into the text to make a point rather than understanding of the text's true meaning
  - Exegesis – interpreting the text by extracting its original meaning as the author intended as understood by the original audience
- Systematic Observation Sheet (SOS)
  - A tool to help you collect notes from your daily reading that can guide your further, deeper study
- Tools: Concordance, Bible maps, Bible dictionary, Study Bible, commentaries

### **Class 3: Intermediate Interpretation**

- RULE #3: To accurately understand a text or passage, you **MUST** take an Exegetical approach!
- **UIA Method**:
  - Understand (exegesis)
    - Tools: Close Reading, SOS, Bible dictionary, concordance, commentary, maps...
  - Interpret
    - Tools: Prayer! Commentaries, trusted authors, friends, pastors
  - Application
    - Tools: Document for future use, apply directly or share studies

### **Class 4: Advanced Interpretation**

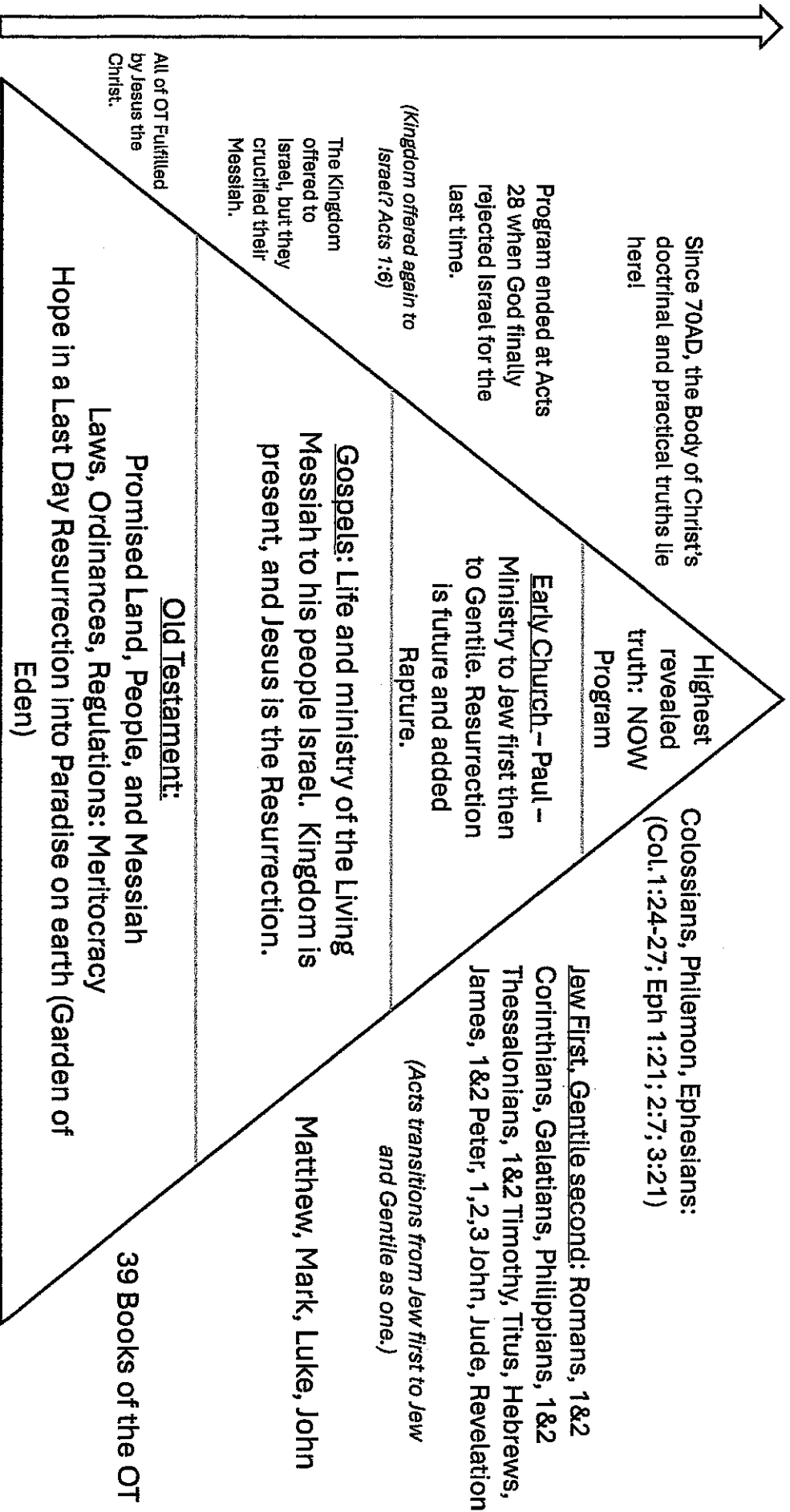
- Assign Meaning to your studies
- Organize your findings/studies for sharing, teaching, or as a resource for group Bible studies
- Make Connections Across the Bible – Theological Connections
- Document for future use
- Put all this new knowledge into Action: Love, share, teach, write, study = Become a true Disciple of Christ (2 Timothy 2:15).

How to Enjoy Your Bible  
Seminar 4  
Advanced Interpretation

Intro

- Now what? **How do I dig deeper into God's Word?**
  - I. Advanced Bible study involves walking the bridge between the Critical study of the Bible and NOT ending there but crossing over to theology or what I call **assigning meaning** to your study.
  - II. Organize your findings into a Complete Theological thought/study
    - a. What does this study mean to you? Which is a theological understanding!
      - i. Format: organize as if you were going to teach someone else or share in a group study.
    - b. Ask: How is this important – what can I learn and share with others from my study?
    - c. Where to next? Keep reading, studying, assigning meaning and then move on to -
    - d. **Making Connections across the Bible!** Assigning meanings to your studies and then applying that understanding and testing it across all books of the Bible.
    - e. Go back and read the chapter critically (Rule #1 – literally until figurative)
      - i. Refine notes and ask more complex questions of the text
    - f. Use your TOOLS to study – facts, explanations, more questions? (Rule #2 – Context is King!)
    - g. Document findings (IBN)
    - h. Because you have read other books in the Bible, make Connections- explore deeper contexts – ask deeper questions – read commentaries – CREATE A Theological Notebook!
    - i. Document study notes in a Wide Margin Bible or Journaling Bible – TB and appendix or CTN
    - j. TEACH or Share in Bible study Group
  - III. Put all this new knowledge into Action – Love and Study (Teach)
  - IV. Become a true Disciple of Christ.

# Theological Evolution of the Bible



## Sabbath and Creation

**Introduction:** Read Gen 1:1-2:3. Here is the theological defense for the Sabbath. Is it possible for God to get tired? God rested or stopped creating.

- I. Sabbath is first established in Ex 16:23 also read vv. 22-30.
- II. Sabbath is a Covenant between God and Israel – Ex 31:12-18
  - a. Sabbath – Heb sabbat – a time of rest (physical, mental, emotional, etc)
  - b. Absolutely NO work – Ex 35:1-3; Ex 20:8-11
    1. There are 39 categories of “work” in the Mishnah (an authoritative collection of exegetical material embodying the oral tradition of Jewish law and forming the first part of the Talmud).
    2. Violation carried the death penalty – Num 15:32-36
- III. Sabbath is part of the Jewish Covenant with God
  - a. Deut 5:15
  - b. Ex 31:16-17
  - c. Ezek 20:12-17
- IV. By the time of Isaiah, 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, Sabbath had become a day of spiritual and physical delight as well as a holy day – Isa. 58: 13-14
- V. During the Intertestamental period, Sabbath was observed in one of two ways: strict obedience or internal spiritual rest.
- VI. During the NT times, we find new developments:
  - a. Sabbath is more scheduled – Acts 13:14-15 and more structured: synagogues, reading of scripture
    - i. Read every Sabbath – Acts 15:19-21
    - ii. Along with Reasoning which is debate and understanding – Acts 18:4
    - iii. And Jesus himself had developed Sabbath habits – Lk 4:16
- VII. Christ is the NEW Covenant between believers and God
  - a. Mk 2:27-28
  - b. Mt 12:1-6
  - c. Jn 5:17-18

**\*\*Christ fulfilled the Mosaic Law(s) and all the Covenants\*\***
- VIII. In Paul we find Col 2:16-17 and Heb 4:1-10, 12 (a rest of heart) and Rom 14:5-6 and Gal 2: 15-16; 4:8-10

**Q: So, what then do we do with a Sabbath? How are we to interpret it and apply it to our lives today as believers?**

**New Definition:** Sabbath is the time devoted to God in which we strengthen our relationship with God who is our Father. (Note on “friend” – friends come and go, God is almighty, deserving of all praise and worship, and as our Father, we will always have a relationship with Him because He cannot deny His own.) Read Jn 4:21-24 we connect to God through the Spirit, not anything physical and Rom 8:18-27 the communion between the Spirit-filled believer and God is immediate and needs no spoken words.

**Q: How do we then improve our relationship with God the Father through the Sabbath?**

1. **Prayer.**
  - a. Read Phil 4:6-7; Mt 6:5-9; and Rom 8:26-27.
  - b. We need to practice Silence in our relationship with God (Psa 46:10 and Mt 6:7).
  - c. So long as we do all the talking, we are in control. Silent prayers involve listening, waiting, and paying attention to God.
  - d. Read Psa 139:1-24
  - e. We pray unceasingly – Col 1:9-14
  - f. Read Psa 143:9-10
2. **Study.**
  - a. 2 Tim 2:15
  - b. How? Set a schedule.
  - c. The more we learn about God and His eternal plans, the deeper our theology becomes and the more effective our prayer life develops. The more prepared we are to do God’s will which strengthens our relationship with Him.
3. **Do the Work** that God has called you to do. (Eph 2:9-10)
4. **Praise.**
  - a. Read Eph 3:20-21.
  - b. Always give praise and thanksgiving.
  - c. It’s not all about you!
5. And finally, all of this is done in LOVE. Love for God, Love for Christ, and Love for all people no matter who they are or what they do.
6. **Conclusion:**
  - a. Read TN142, p. 24
  - b. Read TN142, p. 49 at bottom
  - c. **READ EPH 4**

**By keeping the Sabbath not as a “day” in which we strengthen our relationship with God, but rather, as a change of lifestyle in which God is part of every waking minute of our lives – then we will be fulfilling the intent of God’s Sabbath.**