

## Expository Bible Study

### STEP I. CONTEXT.

Read the chapter at least twice from the Bible.

Be sure to also read the chapter(s) before and after the passage once.

Read the passage until you understand what it is generally about.

#### **(1) Who is the Book Addressed to or Who is about?**

-FIRST, determine to whom the book is addressed or who is it about.

-It is recognized that all Scripture is given for our benefit and is applicable in principle to all. But here we are seeking to find to whom the passage was historically addressed when it was penned and/or what it was about.

a. Read the introductory material found in your reference Bible.

b. Consult a Bible Handbook or a Bible dictionary or better, read both to find historical or geographical information related to the passage.

c. In the Old Testament many of the books are written to Israel or about them. However, some are written to other nations .

#### **(2) Who is the Chapter About or Addressed to?**

NEXT, determine who the Chapter is addressed to or who is it about. The chapter could be addressed to or about someone other than who the book addresses.

Ask: Are these believers? If so, what kind, Jew or Gentile? Are they religious leaders as Scribes, or Pharisees? Was this person a political leader or held some public office? It will help you to determine the context of the passage to know whom it was written.

#### **(3) What is the Historical Situation of the Passage:**

Consult your Bible helps to research the historical situation. Look in your reference Bible in the introductory material before the Book. Look for: (1) the date it was written; (2) the governmental situation; (3) local situation, and (4) What were the events surrounding the situation?

#### **(4) What is the Major Subject?**

Read the passage carefully to find its subject. If it is not clear read the verses before and after the verse. You could be in the middle of a discourse that began in earlier verses. If you have difficulty deciding what is the Major Subject, consult your Reference Bible or Bible Handbook and look at the chapter headings.

#### **(5) Who is the Author of the Book?**

A good source for this information would be the introductory material listed before the Book in your reference bible. A Bible dictionary will give you much detailed information about the author. In some books of the Bible the author is not known. In some there may be some question as to who the name refers to due to there being several persons with the same name. A Bible dictionary will explore all the possibilities.

#### **(6) Record any parallel references.**

Check the margin of your reference Bible to see if it lists any parallel references to the verse or subject. Record them and look up each reference.