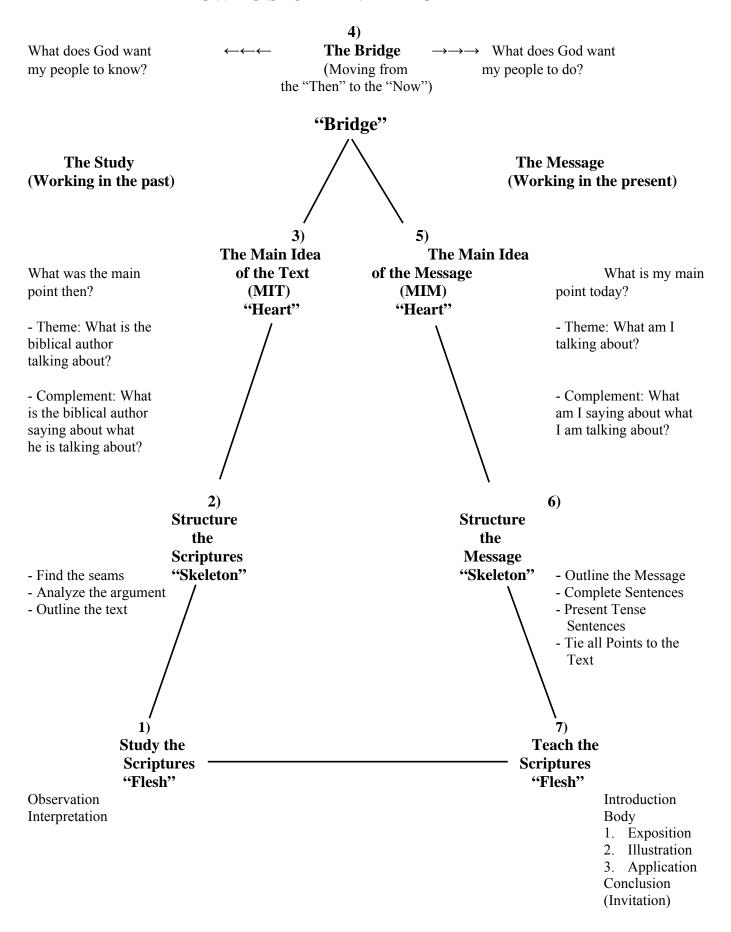
An Overview Of TheInterpretive Process

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HOW TO STUDY AND TEACH THE BIBLE



SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERPRETING THE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE

(A Summation)

I. STUDY THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

- 1. Consider the questions of date, authorship, recipients, and purpose (general matters of introduction.)
- 2. Develop an outline of the entire book (study Bibles and commentaries will be helpful).
- 3. Examine the relationship of the passage under consideration in both its near and far context.

II. ESTABLISH THE BEST TEXTUAL BASE POSSIBLE:

- 1. Use the original language if you can.
- 2. Compare various versions and translations.

III.INVESTIGATE THE TEXT LINGUISTICALLY (E.G. WORD BY WORD).

- 1. Make a lexical (definitional) study of crucial words.
- 2. Research the passage for key words, phrases, and ideas.
- 3. Track the verbs!
- 4. Cross Reference.

IV. EXAMINE THE FORM OR FORMS OF THE MATERIAL IN THE PASSAGE.

- 1. What is the literary type (history, poetry, prophetic, apocalyptic)?
- 2. What literary devices are used?
- 3. Is there any indication of the life situation from which the material came?

V. ANALYZE THE STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE.

- 1. Determine if the material constitutes a literary unity.
- 2. Is there a logical sequence of ideas present?
- 3. Isolate the basic themes or emphases.
- 4. Outline the passage you are studying. Use the outline as the framework for your *teaching*.