

HOW TO STUDY OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

Observe—Interpret—Apply

Steps for Observation:

Read the passage at least 3 times in at least 2 different translations

Look for “5 Ws and H” (who, what, when, where, why, how)

Mark names of God and main characters

List what text reveals about God and main characters

Mark repetition of key words/phrases

List what the text reveals about key words/phrases

Observe progression of events. Mark any references to time.

Mark any references to locations.

Interpretation

Seven rules for accurate interpretation:

- 1) Remember that context rules.
- 2) Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.
- 3) Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
- 4) Do not base your doctrine on an obscure passage of Scripture.
- 5) Interpret Scripture literally. Don't spiritualize the meaning.
- 6) Look for the author's intended meaning of the passage.
- 7) Check your conclusions by using reliable commentaries.

Steps for Interpretation

Check Cross-references—read them in their full context

Flip over your page and put the verse or passage in your own words

Questions for Application

- What does this passage teach me about God (Jesus, Holy Spirit)?
- How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?
- What should I do in response?