

- B. The TEXT is studied in three main ways:
1. Literary genre—Jesus recognized figures of speech in John 6:48 and 15:5.
 2. Word studies—each word is important as seen in Matthew 5:18.
 3. Grammar—Paul emphasized the importance of the singular noun in Galatians 3:16.
- C. The CONTEXT is studied in three main ways:
1. Immediate context—the surrounding paragraph (example: the context of “perfect” in relationship to “love” in Matthew 5:48).
 2. Wider context—this considers the context of the entire book (Without the context of 1 John 1:7, one may wrongly interpret 1 John 3:6).
 3. Complete context—the context of the entire Bible must be considered. The context of Isaiah 40:10 and Psalm 139:1-6 prevents an erroneous interpretation of Genesis 3:9.
- D. The BACKGROUND is studied in three main ways:
1. Cultural background—Matthew 1:18-20 gives the custom for calling a betrothed person a “husband” or “wife.”
 2. Historical elements—history and archaeology give evidence for historical verification and background (In John 19:23 Solomon’s porch was mentioned as a historical-archaeological fact, although it was built 1,000 years earlier).
 3. Environmental elements—the fauna, flora, geography, and topography plays an important role in interpretation (Luke 19:28 and Matthew 13:26).

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The diagram below summarizes these basic rules for biblical hermeneutics. Enjoy your study of God’s Word.

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