

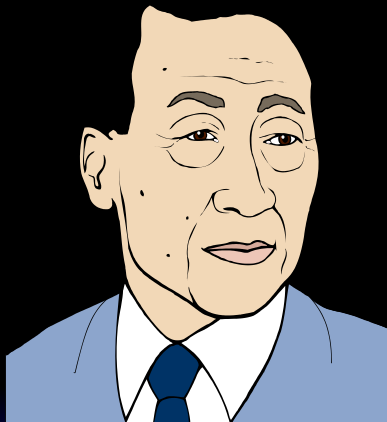
V. How to Examine Historical and Cultural Background

What was the
situation?

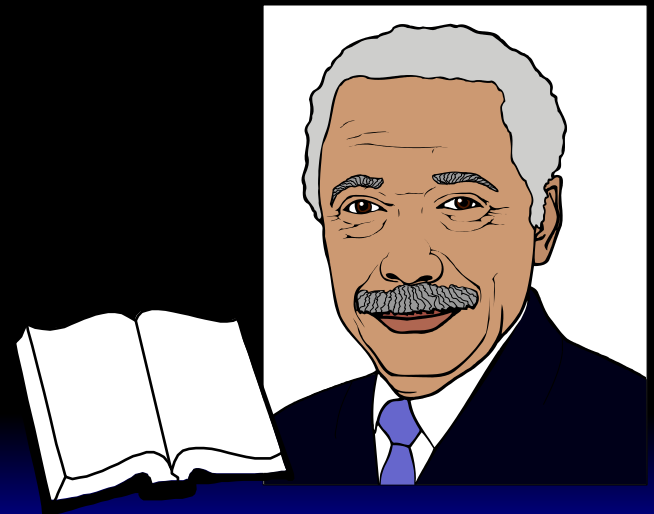


The Challenge

Is all the Bible
directly about me?



God worked
with people
long ago in their
own circumstances.



Required Reading Assignments

- ◆ acquaint yourself with
 - Longman, *Old Testament Commentary Survey*
 - Carson, *New Testament Commentary Survey*
 - www.bestcommentaries.com
 - Evans, *A Guide to Biblical Commentaries*
- ◆ Berkhof, *Principles of Biblical Interpretation* 113-132.

Where Are We?

1. Preliminary acquaintance with the text
2. Exegesis in the original setting
 - a. **Learn about historical background**
3. Relations with other passages
4. Role in redemptive history
5. Application

◆ Application (IV) is illumined by historical circumstances.

Implications of *Lex Christi*

8C implies the pertinence of environment

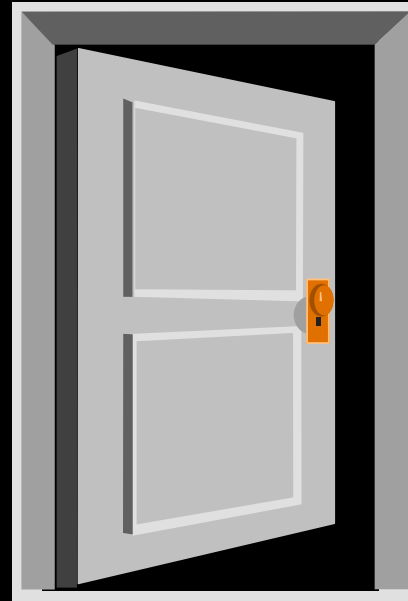
A blue triangle graphic pointing towards the text.

A. General Principles for Culture

Meaning Depends on Situation



The door
is open.



Situations and Meaning

“The door is open.”

- ◆ A fact.
- ◆ Someone was careless.
- ◆ Please close the door.
- ◆ Evidence that someone left in a hurry.
- ◆ Get out!



Context is
necessary.

Danger in Overhearing

- ◆ When you overhear, you may understand the words but not the point.

Behold, your king is
coming to you; righteous
and having salvation ...
(Zech. 9:9)

I will meet my
future husband.





B. What to Look for

Aspects of Historical Situation

- ◆ Speaker: purpose, attitude, social position?
- ◆ Audience: attitude, social position? How affected?
- ◆ Environment: national situation, region, sites, time of year? Social customs?



C. Bibliography

Old Testament Source Material

See attached bibliography

- a. Ancient Near East
- b. History and social customs
- c. Background of individual OT books

New Testament Source Material

See attached bibliography

- a. The Jewish world
- b. History and social customs
- c. Background for individual NT books

Other Sources

- ◆ Commentaries.

In introductory sections.