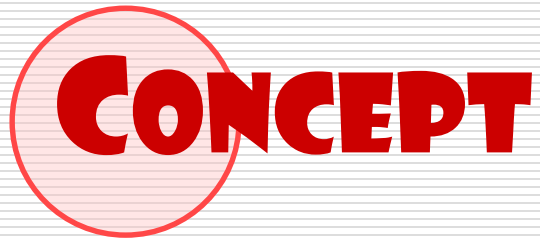


# **Serious Bible Study Isn't for Sissies**

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The art of biblical exegesis is based on the right attitude and mind of the interpreter and includes the necessary steps and tools.

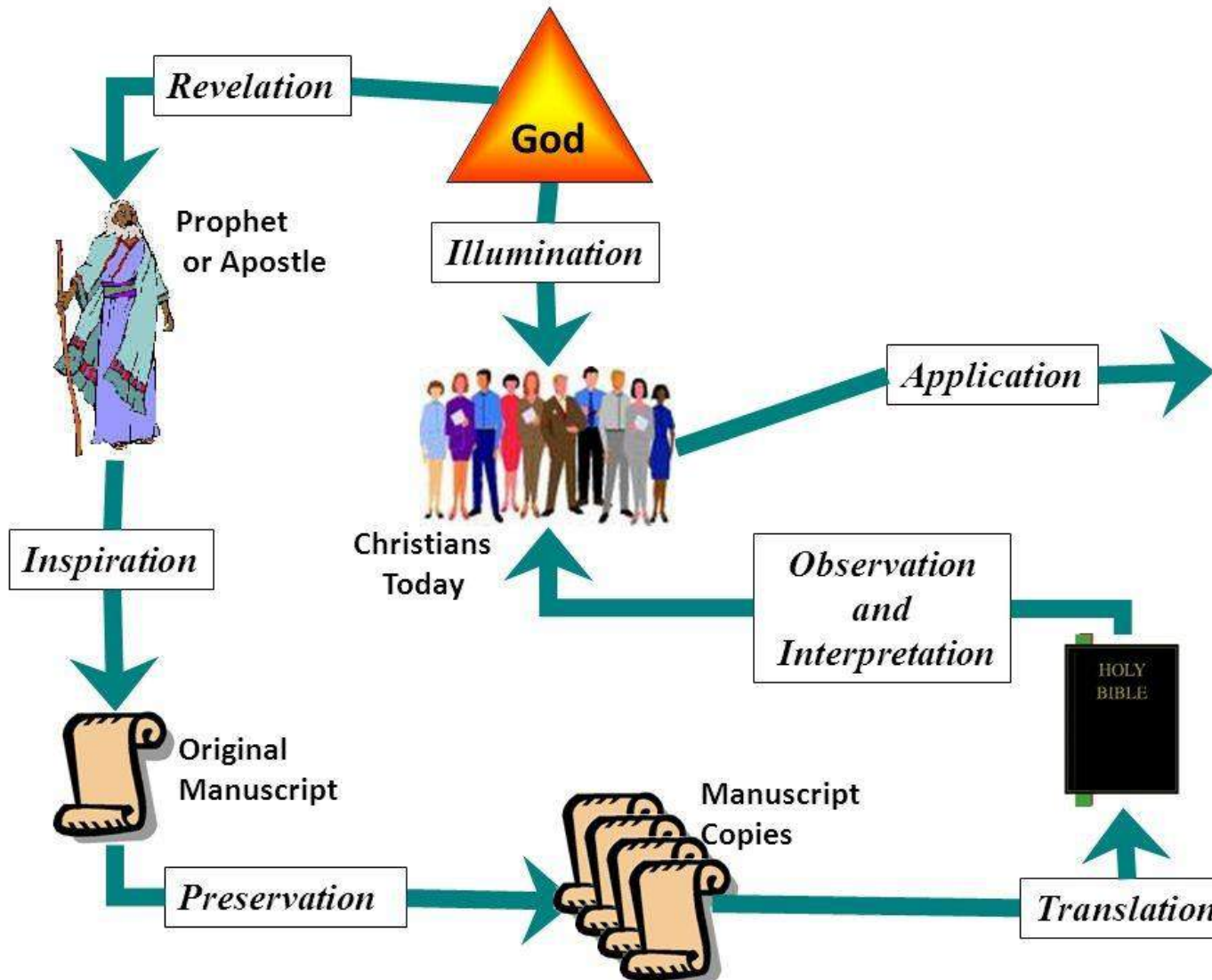
Martin Pröbstle, Ph.D.  
Faith and Science Conference  
2019 ♦ Ainsa, Spain



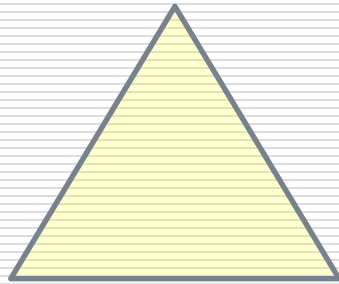
**REVELATION-INSPIRATION**

---

# Revelation-Inspiration-Model



# BIBLICAL MODEL OF REVELATION-INSPIRATION



## Revelation

***polutropōs** (in many ways)*

Theophanic (Exod 3:1-5; Num 12:8)

Prophetic (Num 12:6; Rev 1:1-3)

Historical (Luke 1:1-3)

Verbal (Exod 31:18)

Wisdom (Eccl 1:1; Dan 5:11-12)

Existential (Lam 3:1)

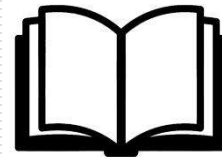
Verbal inspiration  
Thought inspiration  
Personal inspiration  
Total inspiration



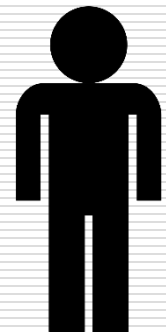
oral

**Inspiration**

written



***theopneustos***



---

**CONCEPT**

**HERMENEUTICS**

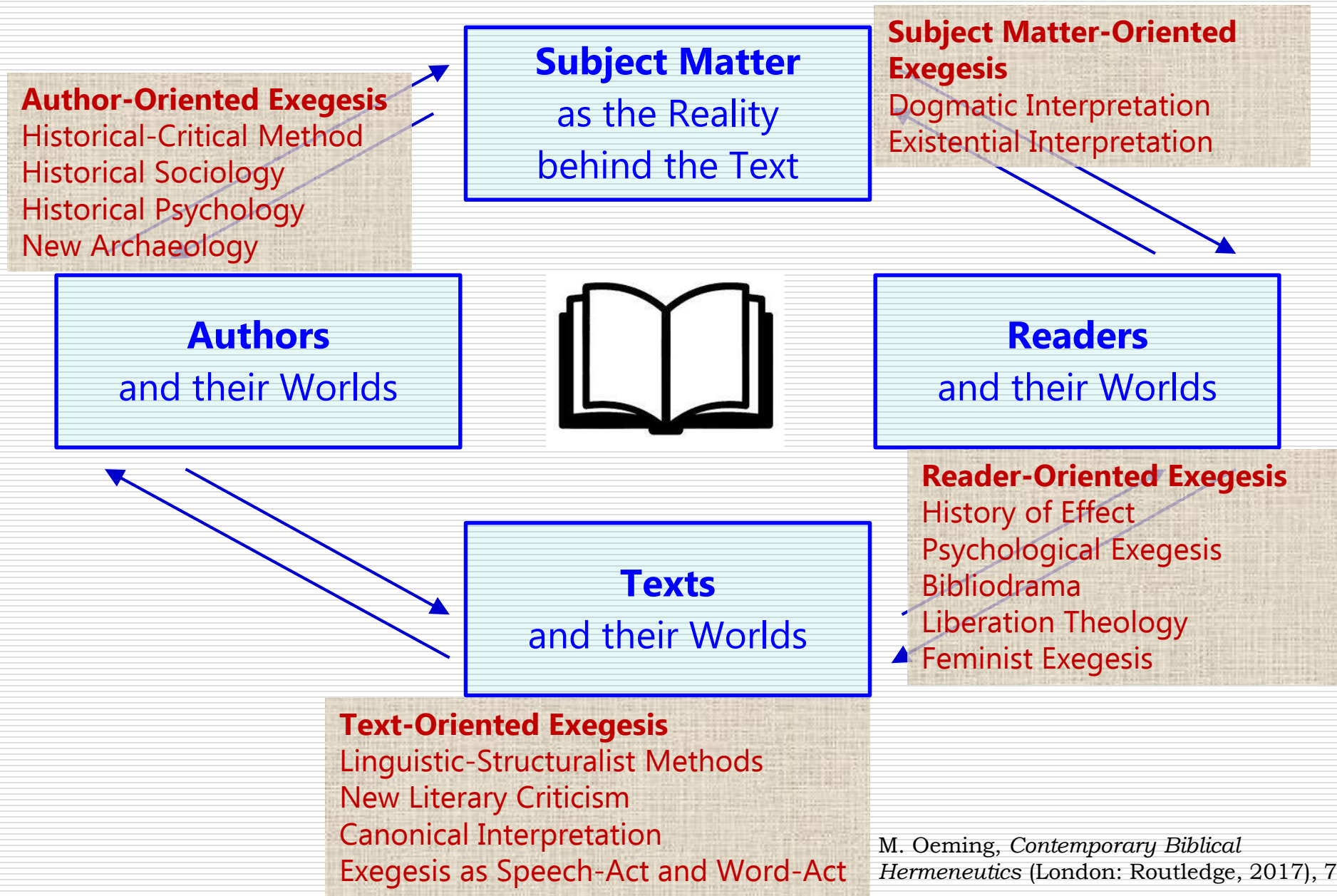
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# Biblical Hermeneutics

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- *hermeneuein* „to interpret“
  - To find the meaning of the words of the Bible
  - Science of understanding and interpretation of the Scriptures
  - Two goals:
    - 1) Nature of Bible and its interpretation(theoretical)
    - 2) Methodological reflexion about scientific Bible interpretation (practical => exegesis)
-

# The Hermeneutical Square



---

**CONCEPT**

# **THE ART OF BIBLICAL EXEGESIS**

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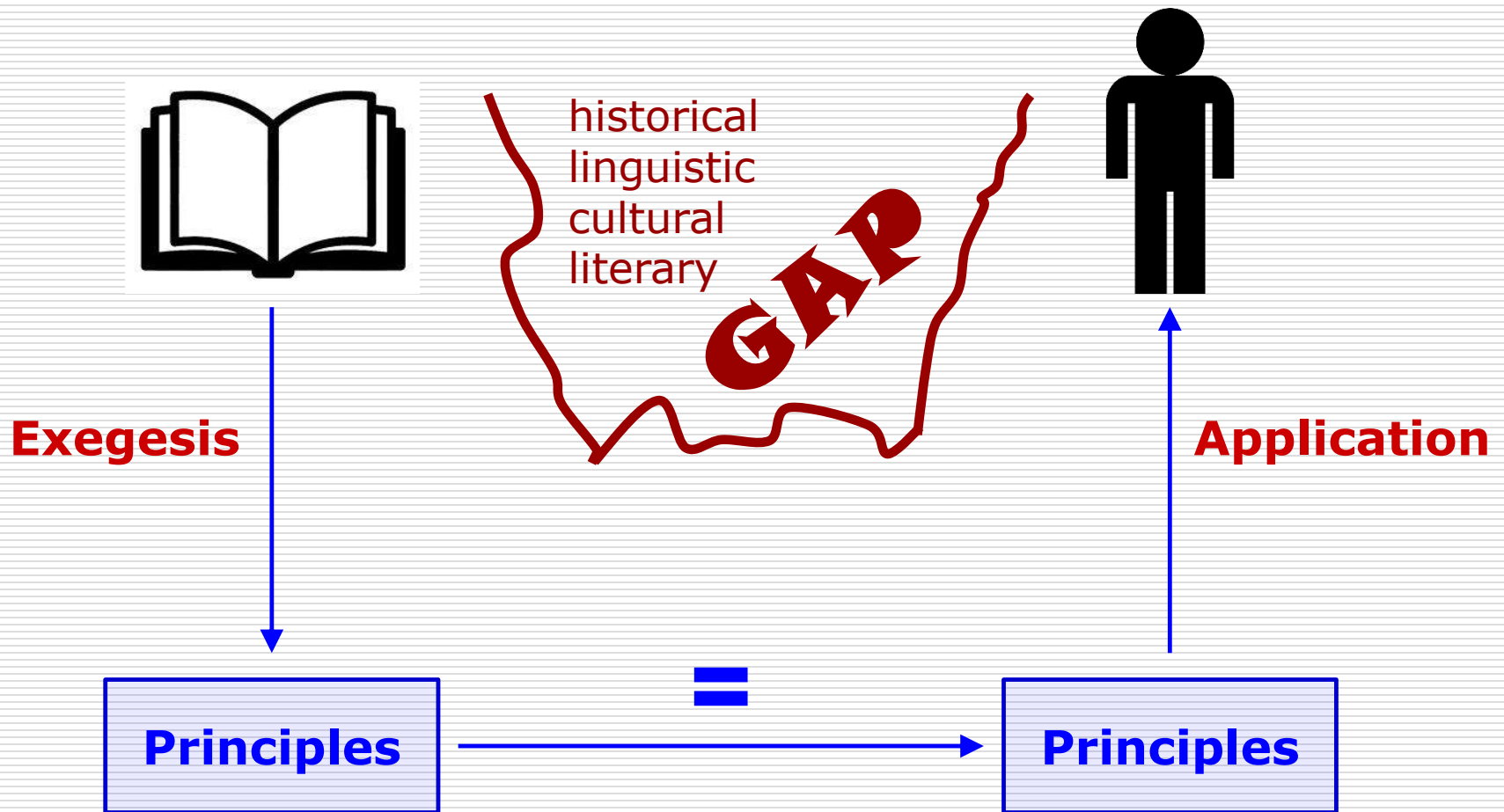


# Exegesis – what?

---

- ☐ Detect the original meaning, that is what the text itself says
  - ☐ Bridge the context to recognize its present meaning
-

# THE EXEGETICAL BRIDGE



# The Task

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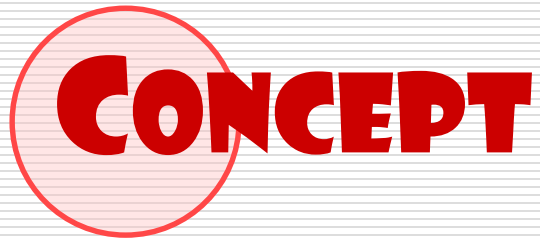
„scholars’ tasks  
are not for sissies.“

- (Greek lexicographer, Frederick W. Danker)

# Serious Bible Study Isn't for Sissies

---

- ☐ Bible Study is not to get a spiritual buzz.
  - ☐ Paying attention to detail and thinking clearly are not antithetical to loving Jesus.
  - ☐ The Spirit's guidance wasn't intended to serve as a cheat sheet.
-



# **STEPS OF BIBLICAL EXEGESIS**

---

# Exegesis – what?

---

## Goal of Exegesis

- ☐ Detect the **original** meaning of the text (What did it say?)
  - ☐ And to bridge the context, so that the **present** meaning of the text is visible.
-

# 10 Steps

---

- ☐ Always good to know
  - ☐ Dependent on the text
  - ☐ In about this succession
-

# Step 1: Prayer for...

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- ☐ The guidance of the Holy Spirit
  - ☐ Respect
  - ☐ Openness
  - ☐ Flexibility
-



## Step 2: Choose a Text & Take Your Time With It

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- ☐ What is the text unit? Why?
  - ☐ Always choose a text unit
  - ☐ The less text material, the easier the in-depth research
  - ☐ Read, read, read („with fresh eyes“ & „by heart“)
    - Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, compare translations
-

# Step 3: Textual Observation

---

- ☐ Which text is really there? (textual criticism)
  - ☐ Collect questions to the text:
    - What is difficult to understand?
    - Which questions do I have?
  - ☐ Recognize the „red thread“
-

## Step 4: Literary Analysis

---

- Beginning & end. Look for the „red thread“!
  - Key words, lead words (3x), repetition of words, ideas, chiasms, cohesion, themes, parallelism, rhythm
    - Always ask: Why does it stand as it stands? (Function)
-

# WHY ARE FIRETRUCKS RED?

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# WHY ARE FIRETRUCKS RED?

---



## Step 4: Literary Analysis

---

- Beginning & end. Look for the „red thread“!
  - Key words, lead words (3x), repetition of words, ideas, chiasms, cohesion, themes, parallelism, rhythm
    - Always ask: Why does it stand as it stands? (Function)
  - Determine the genre
    - Parable, apocalyptic, miracle story, letter, hymn, psalm, ...
  - Useful questions:
    - Who is speaking to whom? Who are the actors in this narrative scene? Who is active, who is passive? Who is doing what with which purpose? Who gains from the things said and done?
-

# Step 5: Context Analysis

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# Context

---

B

---



# Context

---

12 3 4

---

# Context

---

A B C

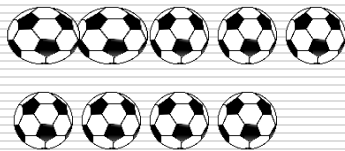
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# Context

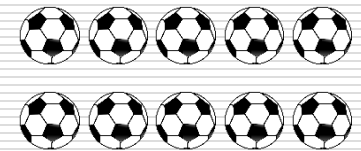
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Psalm  
9:10



**AC Milan vs Real Madrid**  
**9:10 Penalties**  
Friendly Game 30.07.2015



# Step 5: Context Analysis

---

- ☐ What's before? What's after?
  - ☐ Textual relations
    - Parallel texts, e. g., synoptic gospels
    - Citation, allusion, echo
    - How to argue for textual relations?
  - ☐ Connections from NT to the OT
-

# Step 6: Linguistic Analysis

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- ☐ Overview of the text passage
  - ☐ Strange grammatical elements (use grammar)
  - ☐ What needs to be explained?
  - ☐ Word studies
    - Verbs (active / passive, e. g. „to sin“ in I John)
  - ☐ Syntactic and text-grammatic structure
-

# Step 7: Historical Analysis

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- Introductory question
  - Special questions
    - Political, economic, social, cultural, religious situation
    - How as life at that time?
    - Geography, flora, fauna
    - Any true historical question is allowed?
-

## Step 8: Theological Analysis

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- ☐ Which theological themes do you find in the text?
  - ☐ What does it say about God and humans, about themes like salvation, covenant, end time, sanctuary, righteous living, love ...?
  - ☐ What is the contribution of the text for the theology of the Bible?
-

## Step 9: Read again – Literature

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- ☐ Bible lexicon, Bible encyclopedia
  - ☐ Monographs on the Bible
  - ☐ Commentaries
  - ☐ Writings from Ellen G. White.
  - ☐ => Literature can enlarge my horizon, correct my ideas
-



# Step 10: Application – Please change my life

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- ☐ What does the text say to my life questions?
  - ☐ How is the text relevant ...
    - (a) for me
    - (b) for my church
    - (c) for the times I am living in?
  - ☐ How is the text changing my life? What I am asked to do? What should I do?
  - ☐ What memorable motto can I formulate (slogan) to not forget „my“ text?
  - ☐ Decide & PRAY about it!
-

# Serious Bibel Study

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## Nota bene:

- Only through hours of practice will the methodological procedure become second nature.
  - Result: You see „at first sight“ what the text requires you to study.
  - Remember: Method and systematic organisation do not annul the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Spirit might want you to expose yourself to the biblical text for a longer time so that he can guide you for a longer time. 😊
-