

# The Reformed Life



# BIBLE INTERPRETATION



# BEFORE YOU BEGIN

"The Bible is a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses, during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. These eyewitnesses report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and they claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin."

-Voddie Baucham

Because the Bible wasn't written in our current year, we are far removed from the events that took place within its pages. To be a careful interpreter of Scripture, we need to be good detectives. Here are some questions we should ask when studying any book/passage of the Bible:

1. **Who** is the author?
2. **Who** is the audience?
3. **When** was it written?
4. **What** is its purpose?
5. **What** is the context (historical, literary, and biblical)?





# INTERPRETIVE ENVELOPE

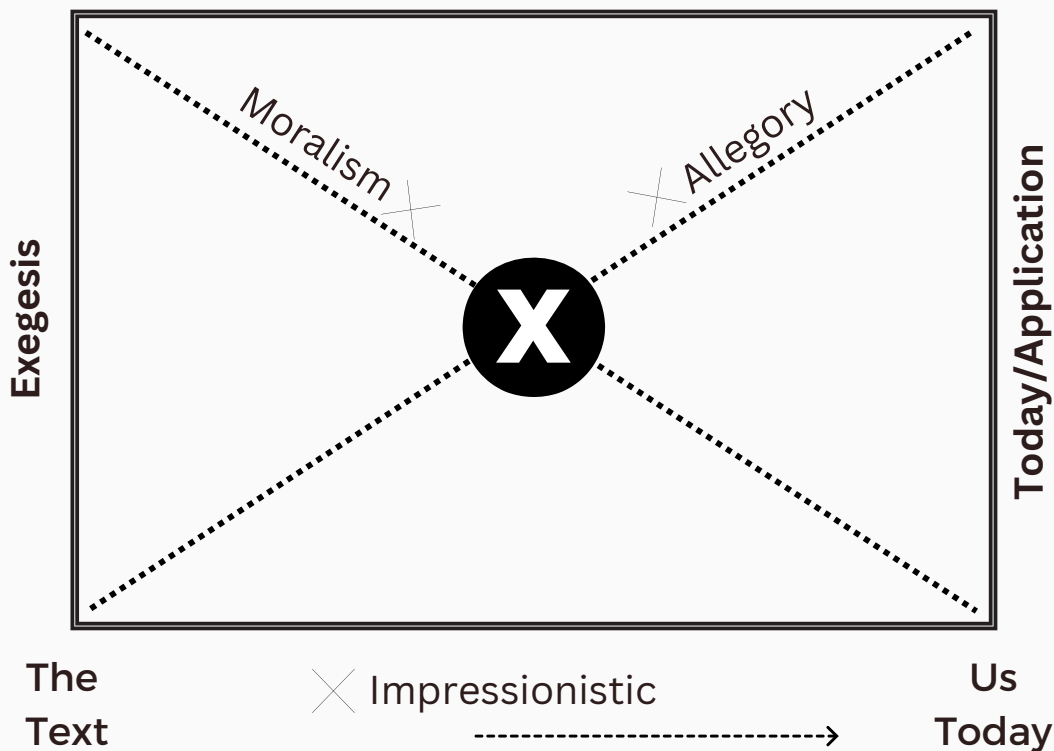
**2**

Them/  
Then

**3**

The  
Cross

Theological Reflection



**1**



# OBSERVATION

---



Author



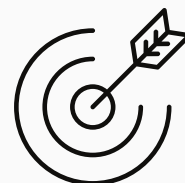
Audience



Date



Genre

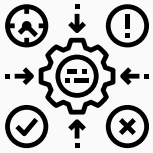


Purpose



# INTERPRETATION

---



## Context

What comes before/after my passage? How does this fit within the book?  
how does it fit within the testament? How does it fit within the Bible?



## Theological Reflection

How does this point to or reflect on the gospel? How is Jesus  
foreshadowed? What does this say about the person/work of Jesus?



## Application

Is there a command to obey? Is there something I need to pray? How can I  
respond?

# APPLICATION

---



what about this passage is important for how God unfolds His redemptive purposes?



How does this speak to the unbeliever? How does it call him/her to repentance? What does it say about their situation?



What does this say about our lives/roles in the public square, both as Christians and non-Christians (e.g., govt., neighborhood)



How does this point to Christ? How is He depicted?



How does this demonstrate the unity we have in Christ? How does it reflect our diversity? The life of the church?



What does this say about our work? Our relationships with employees/employer?



What does this say about our family? Roles within the family? Gender?



What does this mean for us as Christians? How does it call us to repentance/faith? Are we warned, rebuked, or motivated?