

Biblical Exegesis

Literary Context

(Bible Composition)

Three Dimensions of Bible Composition

I. Testaments

Old Testament: Tanakh:

Torah (Law)

Nevi'im (Prophets)

Ketuvim (Writings)

Three Dimensions of Bible Composition

II. Text and Translation

A. Determining the Best Text

Canon (*cunah*): measuring rod

They said nothing to anyone, because they
were afraid.

[The earliest manuscripts and some other
ancient witnesses do not have verses 9–20.]

When Jesus rose early on the first day of
the week, he appeared first to Mary
Magdalene...

Three Dimensions of Bible Composition

II. Text and Translation

B. Translating the Text

Literal: *KJV, NASB*

Free: *Phillips, Living*

Dynamic Equivalent: *NIV, GNB, JB*

Three Dimensions of Bible Composition

III. Literary Genre

A. Narrative

Primary Narratives: Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jonah, Haggai

Portions of: Exodus, Numbers, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Job, Gospels, Acts.

A. Narrative

I. To illustrate a doctrine

II. To illustrate a nature of God

III. To provide a record of history

B. Law

*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus,
Numbers, Deuteronomy*

Suzerainty Treaty

C. Prophets

4 Major Prophets:

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

12 Minor Prophets: *Hosea thru Malachi*

Typology

Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Typology

Matt 2:14-15 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Typology

1 Cor 10:1-4 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Typology

2 Cor 13:1 (Dt 19:15) This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

D. Psalms

Connection to God

1. They show to express ourselves to God, no matter what we are feeling or experiencing.

2. They help us consider God's ways.

D. Psalms

Poetic Language

Metaphor: **Ps 1:3** That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

D. Psalms

Poetic Language

Hyperbole: **Ps 32:3-4** When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

D. Psalms

Poetic Language

Repetition: **Ps 42: 5, 11** Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

D. Psalms

Poetic Language

Parallelism: **Ps 116:3** The cords of death
entangled me, the anguish of the grave came
over me

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

I. Laments:

Individual Laments: 3, 22, 31, 39, 42, 57, 71, 120, 139, 142

Communal Laments: 12, 44, 80, 94, 137

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

2. Thanksgiving:

Individual: 18, 30, 32, 34, 40, 66, 92, 116, 118, 138

Communal: 65, 67, 75, 107, 124, 136

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

3. Praise:

Creator of the Universe: 8, 19, 104, 148

Protector of Israel: 66, 100, 111, 114, 149

Lord of History: 33, 103, 113, 117, 145-147

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

4. Salvation History:

78, 105, 106, 135, 136

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

5. Celebration and Affirmation

Covenant Renewal: 50, 81

Royal (spiritual role of Kings): 2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 101, 144

Enthronement (God as King): 24, 29, 47, 93, 95-99

Songs of Zion or Jerusalem: 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

6. Wisdom

36, 37, 49, 112, 127, 128, 133

D. Psalms

7 Primary Categories

7. Trust

11, 16, 23, 27, 62, 63, 91, 121, 125, 131

E. Wisdom

4 Primary Sources and Types

I. Ecclesiastes

Cynical wisdom, in narrative form,
addressing the purpose and meaning of life

E. Wisdom

I. Ecclesiastes

2:22-24 What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless. A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil.

E. Wisdom

4 Primary Sources and Types

2. Job

Popular wisdom, in narrative form, addressing the cause and nature of suffering.

E. Wisdom

4 Primary Sources and Types

3. Proverbs

Compilation of probability statements...
not promises.

E. Wisdom

3. Proverbs

16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do
and your plans will succeed.

E. Wisdom

3. Proverbs

15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath.

E. Wisdom

3. Proverbs

22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

E. Wisdom

4 Primary Sources and Types

4. Song of Songs/Song of Solomon
Beautiful narrative of romantic love between a husband and wife.

F. Gospels

3 Types of Teaching

1. Explanations

2. Imperatives

3. Parables

G. Acts

1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

G. Acts

I. Teachings Are to be Understood

G. Acts

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Acts 2:22-24

G. Acts

2. Universal Commands Are to be Obeyed

G. Acts

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

Acts 2:37-40

G. Acts

3. Examples Are to be Considered

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:41-47

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Acts 10:44-46

Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:47-48

On the first day of the week we came
together to break bread...

Acts 20:7

H. Epistles

1. Historical Context

2. Geographical Context

H. Epistles

3. Literary or Writer's Context

~Who were the people?

~What were the places?

~What was the problem?

~What was the plan?

H. Epistles

2 Tim 2:1-2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

H. Epistles

I Tim 5:23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and frequent illnesses.

H. Epistles

Heb 3:13 Encourage one another daily...

2 Cor 13:12 Greet one another with a
holy kiss.

H. Epistles

I. A text cannot mean something to us that it did not mean to its original readers.

H. Epistles

2. Whenever we share similar life situations as the readers, God's Word must be to us what it was to them.

I. Apocalyptic

Primary example is Revelation

Additional examples are parts of Isaiah,
Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah

Ten Common Fallacies of Exegesis

1. Pre-understanding Fallacy

2. Incidental Fallacy

3. Obscurity Fallacy

4. Etymological Root Fallacy

5. Illegitimate Totality Transfer Fallacy

Ten Common Fallacies of Exegesis

6. Selective Use of Meaning Fallacy

7. Maverick Fallacy

8. Greek Scholar Fallacy

9. Any Verse Can Fit Any Situation Fallacy

10. All Scripture Reads the Same Fallacy

Four Safeguards in Using the Word

Study

Humility

Expository

Security

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage —with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry

2 Tim 4:2-5