

How to Read The Book

Lesson 8—Contexts¹

Historical-Cultural Contexts

Why bother?

This principle of interpretation is *essential* for learning how to read God's book: "For our interpretation of any biblical text to be _____, it _____ be _____ with the historical-cultural context of that text."²

Aspects of Historical-Cultural Context

The Biblical Writer

6 things to try to find out about the writer.

1. His _____
2. _____ he wrote
3. _____ he wrote
4. What kind of _____ did he have?
5. The _____ of the writer to the _____
6. The _____ they wrote

The Biblical Audience

6 questions to ask about the historical-cultural background of the audience itself.

1. Current _____
2. _____ circumstances
3. _____ circumstances
4. _____ they lived
5. How did they _____?
6. What was it _____?

Elements of the Text Itself

Remember, you're measuring the width of the river between us. How wide is that river of differences between us?

How Do I Find This Information???

First: the same way we've been learning to study: by observation and asking questions of the text.

Second: Tools to look at external historical and cultural studies.

¹This course is based primarily on content from *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible, 3rd Edition*, by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

²Duvall and Hays, 117-18.

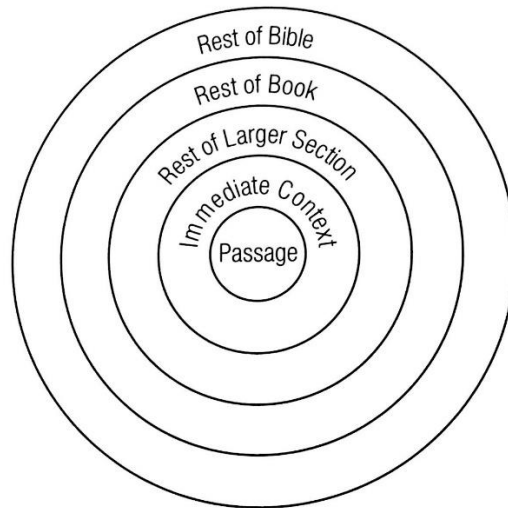
Literary Contexts

Genre

Genre is a French word that means _____.

Surrounding Context

Picture it this way:



It answers questions such as:

- What is this unit's role or _____ or _____ in this book?
- What would happen if it was _____ from the book?
- Why did the author, then, _____ this as a _____ part?

To find the surrounding context, there are three steps:

- 1) Identify how the book is _____ into _____ or _____.

Philemon		
NIV	NASB	ESV
1-3	1-3	1-3
4-7	4-7	4-7
8-11	8-16	8-16
12-16	17-20	17-20
17-21	21	21-22
22	22	23-25
23-25	23-24	
	25	

- 2) Summarize the _____ of each section in about a _____ words or _____.

- 3) Explain how your particular passage _____ to the surrounding _____.

The Dangers of Contexts

The Dangers of Studying Backgrounds

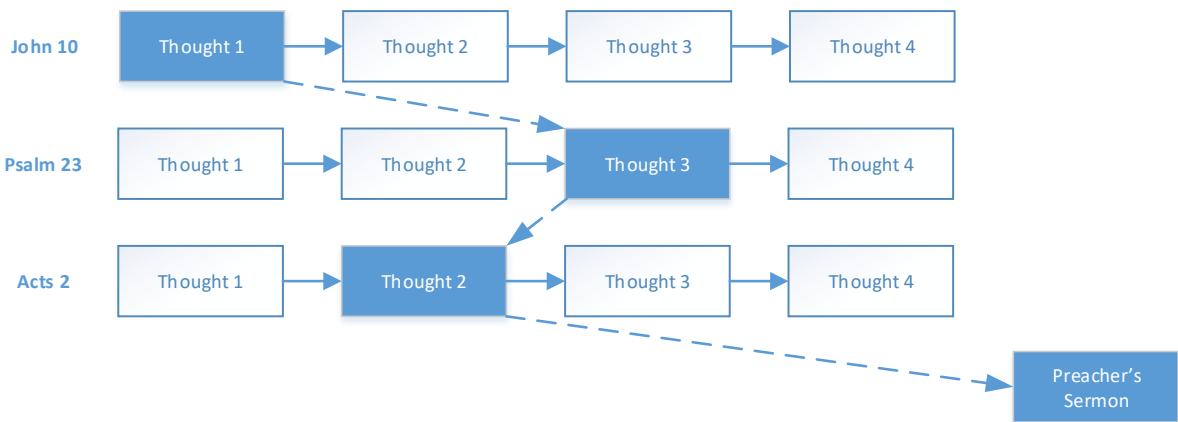
- 1) _____ background information.
- 2) _____ background information above the _____ of the text.
- 3) Walking, talking _____.

The Biggest Danger: But the biggest danger we run into is _____ studying the background information.

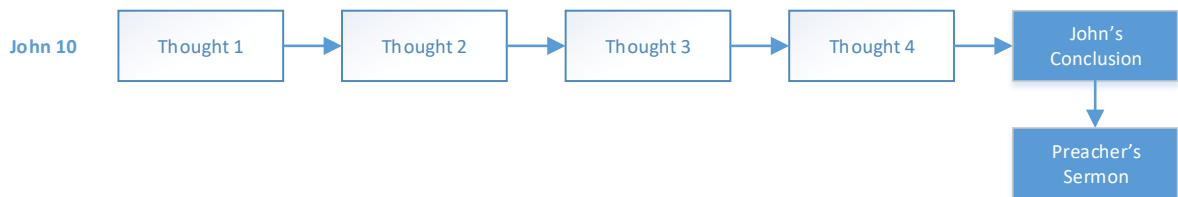
The Danger of Not Studying the Literary Context

_____ the Surrounding Context.

_____ Hermeneutics.



_____ *Hermeneutics*



Conclusion

“Context is _____!”