

•H•G•I• Handy Guidelines for Interpretation

#1: If a word is repeated multiple times in a passage, it's important.

#2: Locating a story within the larger Gospel and within a historical context can lead to a deeper understanding of the passage.

#3: If a story reminds you of a scene from the Hebrew Scriptures, it's probably done purposefully. This is called a "type-scene."

#4: We have no audiovisual documentation of the conversations in the Bible. How a line is delivered is a matter of interpretation.

#5: The Bible is often funny. Respect the text enough to laugh when you recognize its humor.

#6: Once you make an interpretative decision, it's perfectly fine to change your mind if it doesn't seem to work.

#7: If you have identified an important word in the passage, see where and how it is used elsewhere in the text. A concordance can help.

#8: A "parallel structure" is a popular way the Bible uses to add emphasis.

#9: Each passage of scripture is about multiple things. A single pass can't hit every point a passage makes, so the sensitive interpreter knows when to let something go.

#10: Apply your interpretation to your own life. An interpretation of the Bible that fails to impact your life needs further revision.

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