**PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION**

1. **INTERPRET A VERSE LITERALLY**

* Ex. Jesus is Lord
* Give and it will come back to you-Luke 6:38
* Forgive one another
* Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also (must do).

1. **IF IT CANNOT BE INTERPRETED LITERALLY, INTERPRET IT SPIRITUALLY.**

* Ex. **The first will be last, and the last will be first.**

This could also be done by interpreting according to context.

* Mat 25:29 **'For to everyone who has, more will be given**,

and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

Again this also could be done according to Context.

1. **INTERPRET IT ACCORDING TO CONTEXT (Connecting Text)**

* Context is usually 2 verses before and after a verse.
* It you cannot get the context in 2 verses before and after, move further until you see the whole picture.
* Ex. Philippians 4:19
* And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
* Many Christians claimed this for themselves without taking it from the context.
* Phil 4:15-Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.
* Phil 4:16 For even in Thessalonica you sent [aid] once and again for my necessities.
* Phil 4:17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.
* Phil 4:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things [sent] from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
* V-15-It was only the Philippians who shared with Paul concerning giving and receiving.
* V-16-When Paul was in Thessalonica, the Philippians were still sending him gifts.
* V 17-Paul does no seek the gift but what would abound on the generous givers.
* V-18- This gifts are sweet-smelling aroma to God
* V-19- Then Paul and my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches and glory
* IF YOU DO NOT DO WHAT THE THESSALONIANS ARE DOING, DO NOT CLAIM THIS VERSE FOR YOU.
* 2Cr 9:10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have [sown] and increase the fruits of your righteousness,
* Our seed (what we give) will be multiplied by God, thus Paul shall supply all your needs.
* **Another Example:**
* Jhn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
* Jhn 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.
* John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
* Jhn 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
* Jhn 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
* Jhn 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
* **IN OTHER WORDS JESUS IS GOD.**

1. **INTERPRET A VERSE AS IN A FIGURE OF SPEECH**
2. **SIMILE**

* A simile is a comparison between two different things, designed to create an unusual, interesting, emotional or other effect often ...
* -using the word “is like”, “like”.
* Ex. Mat 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice **is like a wise man** who built his house on the rock.
* Mat 13:31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of **heaven is like a mustard seed**, which a man took and planted in his field.

1. **HYPERBOLE-**

* A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; an extravagant statement.
* Exaggerating the point discussed or referred to
* Ex. John 21:25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose **that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.**
* Gen 15:5 He took him outside and said**, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them."** Then he said to him, **"So shall your offspring be."**

1. **PERSONIFICATION**

* The act of personifying.
* A person or thing typifying a certain quality or idea; an embodiment or exemplification.
* Names in Bible means a lot
* Ex. Abram-to cross many nations
* Abraham-Father of many nations
* Sarai-distress due to barrenness
* Sarah-mother of many princess
* Simon-listening
* Peter-Rock
* 1Sa 4:21 She named the boy **Ichabod**, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel"--because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband.
* Mat 1:23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel"--**which means, "God with us."

1. **METAPHOR**

* A figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit comparison.
* Mat 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you **can say to this mountain**, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."
* Mountain is the hardest thing to be removed. So it could be our problems or any hindrances in our desire to follow the Lord.
* Mat 14:28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "**tell me to come to you on the water."**
* This could be water of fear, doubt, unbelief, and or problems
* As long we fix our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith we can walk over them.

1. **IRONY-**

* The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning; a statement or situation where the meaning is contradicted by the appearance or presentation of
* Ex. Luke 16:8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

1. **INTERPRET IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OTHER VERSES**

* 2Cr 13:1 This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses
* Support your interpretation with other verses. Not just one verse.

1. **DO NOT INTERPRET A VERSE WHEREIN IT CONTRADICTS OTHER VERSE/VERSES.**

* Ex. 1Jo 4:12 **No one has ever seen God**; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
* If you interpret this as no one has seen God as above, you’re wrong
* Jhn 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father**. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?
* Hbr 1:3 **The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
* Another example:
* To those who say drinking is a sin, they are saying Jesus is a sinner.
* Mat 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'
* Mat 11:19 **The Son of Man came eating and drinking**, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."' But wisdom is proved right by her actions."
* 1Pe 2:22 **"He committed no sin**, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

1. **INTERPRET IT ACCORDING TO RECIPIENT**

* To whom it was intended. Like the Philippians
* Act 15:29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.
* The context here was, there was a trouble maker Jews who enticed the Gentile believers to abstain from these things prohibited in the Old Testament.
* The Apostles agreed in a meeting to send a letter and say this to avoid arguments but in fact we can eat them as below.
* 1Cr 8:7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.
* 1Cr 8:8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.
* 1Cr 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.
* 1Cr 8:10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols?
* 1Cr 8:11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.
* 1Cr 8:12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
* 1Cr 8:13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

1. **INTERPRET IT ACCORDING TO CULTURAL BACKGROUND.**

* Ex. John 13-Washing of the Disciples’ feet
* Why was it so humiliating?
* Because if the owner of the house doesn’t have a slave, the poorest among the visitors have to wash the feet of the other visitors.
* By washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus was claiming to be the poorest among them.
* John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
* John 13:15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
* Another example:
* Mat 19:24 Again I tell you**, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle** than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
* One could be a figure of speech exaggerating the impossibility of a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.
* Two is, according to their culture. Since camels feet are so dirty, they undergo two poles wherein it takes ages for all the camel to go through. The space in between the poles is just enough for the camel to squeeze in and pass through. By this delaying technique. They can clean the feet of the camel.
* Another example is their culture of not counting the women among the men. The women are considered as the weaker vessel.

NOTE: USE EVERY POSSIBLE PRINCIPLE YOU CAN APPLY:

THE REST OF THE NOTES WILL FOLLOW: