

TOOLS OF INTERPRETATION

1. Ask the Right *Questions*: Bombard the text with questions. “The Bible is never embarrassed to be asked questions. That doesn’t mean it will answer all of them. But you still need to ask them to determine if they can be answered.” (Hendricks)
2. Find the *Answers*: Look for the answers to the questions.
3. Discover the *Genre*: the type of literature, i.e. narrative, parable, wisdom, poetry/song, didactic/instructional/epistolary, prophetic, apocalyptic, etc.
4. Determine the *Context* (setting). All the Word of God was not written directly to us, but it all was written for us. Therefore, understanding the historical context will help us understand the proper interpretation of the text.
 - a. Political: Who’s Ruling?
 - b. Geographical
 - c. Economic
 - d. Legal
 - e. Agricultural
 - f. Military
 - g. Family – Genealogical
6. *Integrate* the pieces into a meaningful whole. Integration: Reconstruct the meaning of a passage after you’ve taken it apart to inspect the details. Put it together into a meaningful whole!

Acts 1:6-11 - NASB

⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” ⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Observations: _____

Interpretative Q/A: _____

Interpretative Statement: _____

OBSERVATIONS FROM ACTS 1:8

1. The beginning of the verse starts with the word “but” and that *could* mean the speaker is replying to a question. [CONTRAST to what came before]
2. “But” must mean there is a “flip side” to the equation of this verse.
3. Who comprises the group that is referred to as “you”? (cf. Acts 1:12-13)
 - A. Peter
 - B. John
 - C. James
 - D. Andrew
 - E. Philip
 - F. Thomas
 - G. Bartholomew
 - H. Matthew
 - I. James the son of Alphaeus
 - J. Simon the Zealot
 - K. Judas the son of James
4. What kind of power is being spoken of? Answer: The Holy Spirit’s power.
5. The power will be received for what purpose? *To be witnesses for Christ!*
6. When will this power come? *When the Holy Spirit comes upon them.*
7. The word “you” is used three times. (*Repetition*)
8. Four specific locations are mentioned: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and “the remotest part of the earth”.
9. The word “and” is used four times.
10. “They” will be His witnesses. Who are “they”? *The disciples plus possibly other followers.*
11. There is no question that “they” will receive this power.
12. The word “My” is capitalized, meaning they are Jesus’ witness.
13. Does the Holy Spirit’s power have a connection with them being “witnesses”?
14. The witnessing mandate is given for all locations (...remotest part of the earth).
15. The Speaker is commanding and commissioning the listeners.
16. The time or place “when” the Holy Spirit would come is not listed in this verse. In other words, Christ did not tell the disciples the time and place.
17. The end of the verse is finished with a period and quotation marks.
18. There are no quotation marks at the beginning of the verse.
19. This phrase (verse) must be part of a larger quote. There must be more!
20. The words seem to be instructive and constructive (encouraging).
21. The “Holy Spirit” is capitalized in the English Bible; therefore this Person must be Deity (as accurately translated from NT Greek).
22. It appears that the starting point for witnessing will be Jerusalem.

Observations from Acts 1:6-11

23. Acts 1:6 – “They” were “together” and they asked their Lord a question.
24. Acts 1:7 – Jesus answered their question.
25. Acts 1:9 – The Lord was “lifted up” or taken away while His followers looked on, and they watched until He was out of their sight.
26. Acts 1:9 – The Lord went into Heaven right before their very eyes!
27. Acts 1:10 – The followers were looking up, completely riveted to the sky.
28. Acts 1:10 – Two men stood next to the disciples and spoke to them (heavenly beings of some kind).
29. Acts 1:11 – Jesus will come down (return) from Heaven in the exact way (“same way”) in which He left this earth.
30. Acts 1:11 – Jesus will be returning! (Proof text)

Further Observations (2nd Assignment)

1. Acts 1:6 – It appears that “they” asked Jesus the first question as a group.
2. Acts 1:6 – “They” (the disciples/followers) were still expecting Jesus to restore earthly kingdom power to Israel (at least it appears this way from the standpoint of the context).
3. Acts 1:6 – “They” had come from various places and had gathered “together”. And it would seem they were all interested in the issue of an Israeli kingdom.
4. Acts 1:6 – The quote “They were asking Him”, is separated from the rest of the verse by commas, therefore it could be deduced that they were “asking” Him this question over and over, or many times.
5. Acts 1:7 – Jesus spoke to all of “them” not just to some.
6. Acts 1:7 – The Father Himself arranges by “His own authority”.
7. Acts 1:7 – There are “times” that God has arranged that we are simply not to know.
8. Acts 1:8 – The action of reception (receiving) will be when the Holy Spirit comes.
9. Acts 1:8 – They will be whose witnesses? Answer: Jesus’ witnesses.
10. Acts 1:8 – As witnesses, they will be telling about Jesus, who is the essence of the Good News!
11. Acts 1:8 – The recipients of this message are the same people who asked Jesus the first question (“Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom of Israel?”)
12. Acts 1:9 – The disciples (or followers) were the last people to see the Lord before He ascended.
13. Acts 1:9 – They saw the ascension with their human eye-sight.
14. Acts 1:9-10 – The disciples (followers) were apparently outside (out-of-doors) during this entire happening, or at least during the second half.
15. Acts 1:9 – There were clouds in the sky.
16. Acts 1:10 – The word angel is not used in this passage.
17. Acts 1:11 – All those “gazing intently” were men. (They were addressed as such)
18. Acts 1:11 – All those “gazing intently” were Galileans.
19. Acts 1:11 – The men from Galilee were questioned.
20. Acts 1:11 – The men from Galilee were also told some facts.
21. Acts 1:11 – The term “this” precludes the naming of Jesus in this verse.
22. Acts 1:11 – Jesus will return by way of the sky.

Basic Observations taken from the Entire Context (Verses: 6-11)

23. The term “they” is used four times.
24. The term “you” is used seven times in the context of the “Men of Galilee”.
25. This paragraph is written in a narrative fashion.
26. This was the final face to face “question and answer session” they had with Jesus.
27. This is a passage of final words, in a sense.
28. This paragraph is a passage of promise.
29. This passage is great evidence for God’s power!

THE BIBLE. ALIVE.

NORTH PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

JOSHUA 1:8 ASSIGNMENT

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Joshua 1:8 - NASB

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth,

but you shall meditate on it day and night,

so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it;

for then you will make your way prosperous,

and then you will have success.

Observations: _____

Interpretative Q/A: _____

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