

Lecture 10 – Interpretation (cont.)

“The Bible is keyed to historical truths rather than philosophical or psychological truths, historical particulars rather than universal, rational propositions.” Michael Williams

Key Terms

Written revelation, context, translation, historical, progressive, redemptive, literary

Objectives

- *List and explain the various aspects of the nature of scriptural revelation.
- *Consider the “real world, in your life” implications of each of these aspects.

Interpretation (cont.)**III. Intentional Presuppositions for Interpretation**

4. The Bible is a written revelation.
 - a. Need to pay attention to the particularities of language
 - b. Context: The meaning of words in sentences, in paragraphs, in discourses, in books, in genres, in testaments, in the canon of Scripture
 - c. *Sensus literalis*: The natural meaning of the text
 - d. The Reformation criticism of allegorical interpretation
 - e. Grammatical-historical interpretation
 - f. Be careful not to absolutize grammar.
5. We read the Bible in translation.
 - a. The Reformation commitment to the biblical text in the original languages
 - b. All translations are interpretations.
 - c. Translation strategies
 - 1) Formal equivalence
 - 2) Paraphrase
 - 3) Dynamic equivalence
 - d. The King James Bible
6. The Bible is an historical revelation.
 - a. What happened?
 - b. What did God do?
7. The Bible is a revelation which is historically removed from us.
 - a. The issue of distantiation
 - b. We need to understand the original setting.
 - c. What of “literal” interpretation?
8. The Bible is a progressive revelation.
 - a. We cannot assume that the biblical authors knew about the fullness of biblical religion.
 - b. As the story grows and develops, it also changes.
 - c. The typological patterning of the history of redemption
9. The Bible is a redemptive revelation.
 - a. The Bible is not a scientific textbook.
 - b. The Bible has a theocentric and redemptive focus.
 - c. The Bible is not a collection of morality plays and moral exemplars.
10. Biblical proclamation comes to us through a number of literary genres.
 - a. Genre
 - b. Form

c. Literary devices

11. The Bible is God's Word for us.

12. Biblical interpretation will not solve every theological issue.