

# BITH551 BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## INTRODUCTION

The aim of this course is to develop a working knowledge of the basic skills of biblical interpretation. Students will be introduced to the various skills needed to work with the different types of literature, or genre, found in the Bible as well as matters of context and content. The goal of this course is to help students to become skilled, life-long exegesis of God's Word. This Course will help:

1. To strengthen the student's faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in the authority, sufficiency, and trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures.
2. To equip the student with the essential tools for the proper and faithful interpretation and application of the Word of God.
3. To assist the student in gaining a fundamental knowledge of and appreciation for the various literary genres found in the Scriptures and the unique rules of interpretation and application that govern each.
4. To encourage and train the student in the effective communication of the Biblical

### **The Revelation of God**

By definition, God is beyond human understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9). However, to the extent that God has revealed things about himself, we can indeed describe the nature of God affirmatively. Therefore all we can know about God is what He has revealed to us. There are two primary categories of God's revelation: general revelation and special revelation.

### **General Revelation**

General Revelation is what God has revealed about himself generally to all humanity. It is found in three primary areas:

1. **Nature.** God reveals his character through creation.
2. **History.** God is involved in human history. He has preserved Israel. He has entered history himself as human in the person of Jesus.
3. **Human constitution.** All humanity has an understanding of morality and an understanding of the supernatural.

## Special Revelation

### The Word of God

God does not limit his self-revelation to nature. He has also provided special revelation. God has revealed himself through the Word of God. The term word in the Greek is logos, and it carries with it an expansive idea of not just language, but rationality and reason. God's self-revelation, His Word, was with God at the beginning and was indeed God from the very beginning (John 1:1).

### Characteristics of the Word of God

The special revelation through God's word has unique characteristics (Erickson 2002, 177ff):

1. Special Revelation is **Personal**. God's revelation is not a set of theological truths, but a personal God presenting himself to persons.
2. God's revelation comes in forms that are part of the ordinary, everyday human experience. Humans do not need to learn the language of God, for God has revealed himself in the language of humans.
3. Special Revelation is **Analogical**. God's revelation uses language which is qualitatively the same as the underlying truth, but is limited by finite human understanding. God's revelation uses analogies, symbols and metaphors in order for us to understand his nature.

### The Process of Revelation

The process of Bible Study will mirror the process of God's revelation. The chart below illustrates how God's thoughts are transferred to our thoughts through the process of revelation (Ryrie, Basic Theology n.d., 117).

### Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:

Lesson 1 - The Revelation Of God

Lesson 2 - Inspiration

Lesson 3 - Transmission

Lesson 4 - Understanding Various Methods Of Bible Study

Lesson 5 - Grammatical Structure Of God's Language

Lesson 6 - Observing The Structure Of A Book Purpose Of A Book Chart

Lesson 7 - Narratives (Or Is It Called Literary Genres? Check)

Lesson 8 - Interpretation Defined (Or Is It Called Word Studies? Check)

Lesson 9 - Interpretation, Correlation, And Verification

Lesson 10 - Application