

# High-Impact Bible Study

*How to Gain Deeper Insight  
in Shorter Time  
for Greater Influence*

Mark W. Gaither

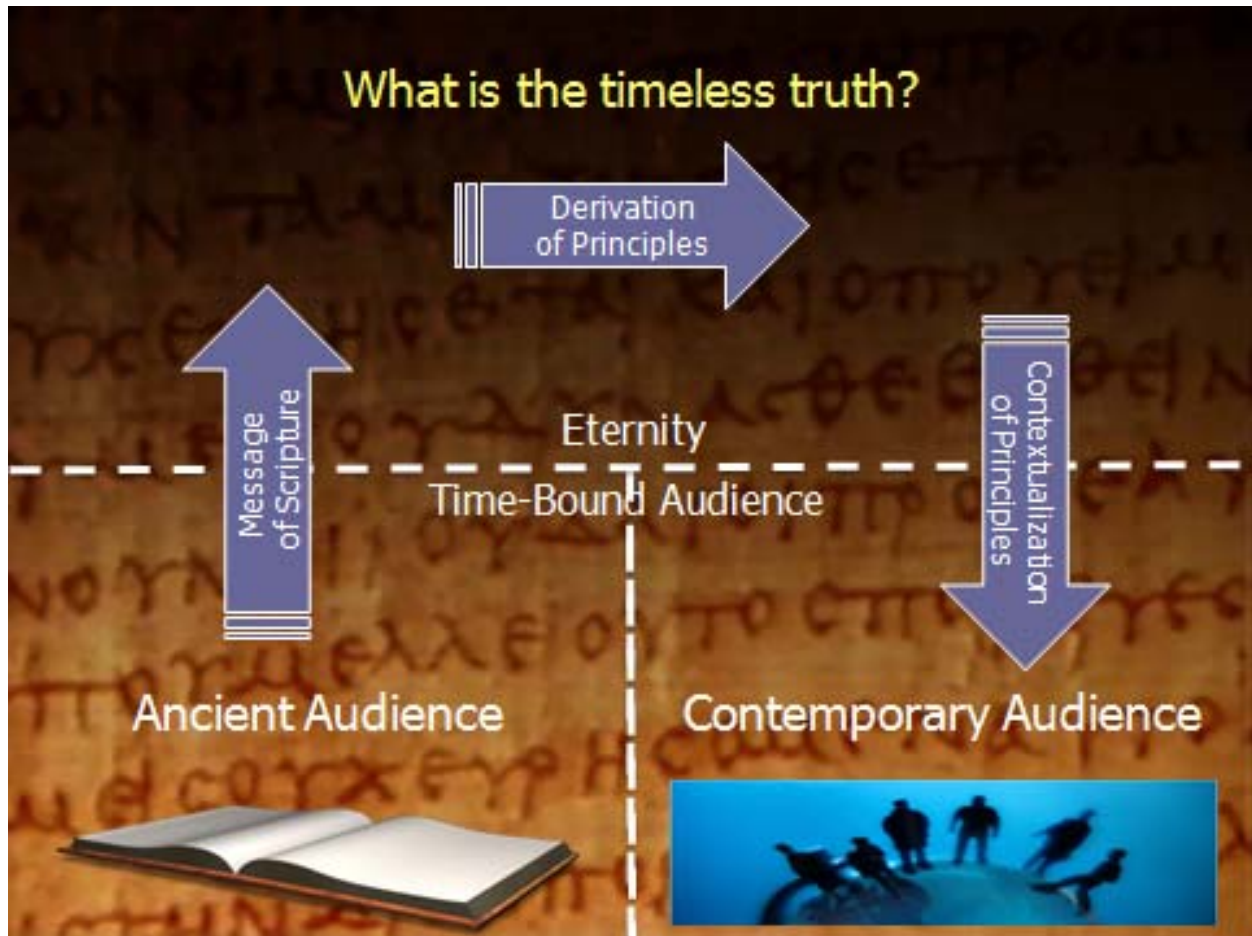
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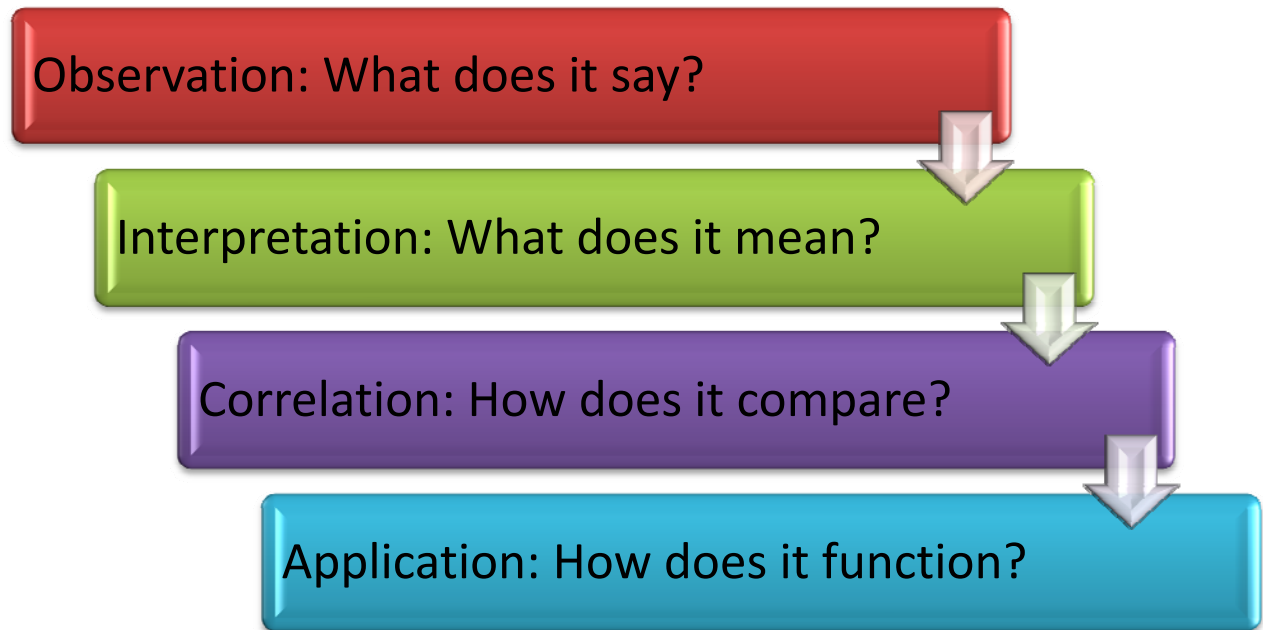
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# Inductive Bible Study Process



## Four-Step Bible Study Method



### Step 1: Observation

Key Question: "What does the text say?"

#### What to Observe

- Who is involved?
- Where are they?
- When does this occur?  
(Within the literature and in the Bible)
- What is the issue at hand?
- Why does the writer include this?

## Details to Examine

- Main Verbs (tense, voice, mood, number)
- Contrasting Conjunctions
- Repeated Words
- Unusual Words
- Cause-Effect Relationships
- Unusual Prepositions

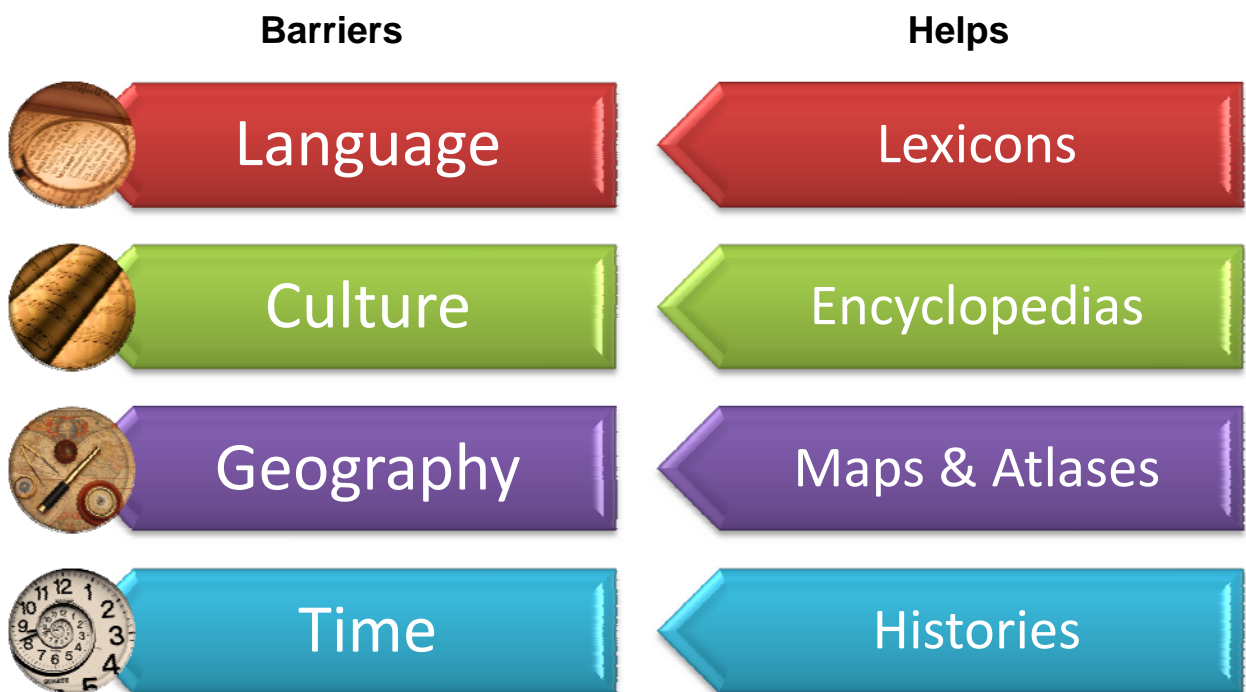
### Compare Versions

NASB	NIV	NKJV	The Message
And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and <b>began to be grieved and distressed.</b>	He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and <b>he began to be sorrowful and be troubled.</b>	And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and <b>He began to and deeply distressed.</b>	Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he <b>plunged into an agonizing sorrow.</b>

## Step 2: Interpretation

Key Question: "What does the text *mean*?"

### Barriers to Interpretation (and Available Helps)



## Step 3: Correlation

Key Question: “How does the text *compare*?”

### Investigate

- Parallel passages, especially in the Gospels
- Quotations or allusions to other Scripture
- Passages related to the same topic
- Cross references suggested in study Bibles

## Step 4: Application

Key Question: “How does the text *function*?”

Eventually we want to derive from the Text one or more timeless truths. Each timeless truth can be expressed as a Theological Statement, such as (for Matt. 26:36–46):

**“When tried by temptation, the spirit is willing but the body is weak; we need supernatural help to obey God during those difficult times.”**

Based on this timeless truth, we now imagine specific ways we can alter our behavior accordingly. For example, taking Jesus’ response to temptation as a worthy example, I might say:

**“When tried by temptation, the spirit is willing but the body is weak; therefore, prayer is our best response when tempted to disobey. I will pray no less than three times, submitting to the Father’s will and asking for deliverance from temptation.”**