

A Historical-grammatical and Canonical-theological Method for Preaching-Teaching Ministry

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“For Ezra had **set** his heart to **study** the Law of the Lord, and to **do** it and to **teach** his statutes and rules in Israel” (Ezra 7:10 ESV).

1. Preparation “For Ezra had **set** his heart ...”

1.1 Prayer

Seeking the illumination of the text by the Holy Spirit

1.2 Presuppositional Self-check

Bracketing oneself to prevent “eisegesis” of the text

1.3 Resource Round-up

Gathering needed tools for studying the text

1.4 Topic and Approach Selection

Choosing a topic/question and how to approach the text

2. Observation “... to **study** the Law of the Lord ...”

2.1 Genre Analysis

Determining the genre(s) of the text

2.2 Textual Analysis

Establishing the text to match its most probable form in the original autograph

2.3 Grammatical-syntactical Analysis

Examining the language of the text and the grammatical-syntactical relationships therein

2.4 Semantic Analysis (i.e., Word Study)

Unpacking the meaning of key words in the text

2.5 Literary Analysis

Reading the text within its widening literary context

2.6 Discourse Analysis (i.e., Argument Diagramming)

Tracing the logical and rhetorical flow of the text

2.7 Structural Analysis

Outlining the literary structure of the text

2.8 Intertextual (i.e., Inner-biblical) Analysis

Discovering the intertextual connections made in the text

2.9 Historical-cultural Analysis

Uncovering the historical-cultural background of the text

2.10 Translation

Translating the text into a receptor language and reviewing others’ translations of it

3. Interpretation

3.1 Biblical-theological Analysis

Understanding the integration of the text into the historical progression of the whole biblical narrative of creation, redemption, and consummation that climaxes in Christ

3.2 Historical-theological Analysis

Surveying and evaluating how past and present exegetes and theologians have understood the text throughout Christian history (e.g., Protestant Reformers, Ellen G. White, etc.)

3.3 Systematic-theological Analysis

Discerning how the text theologically coheres in the whole doctrinal system and is consistent with canonical Scripture

3.4 Philosophical-theological Analysis

Identifying how the text answers important philosophical questions about reality (e.g., metaphysics, epistemology, axiology, ethics, aesthetics, logic, etc.)

4. Application “... and to **do** it ...”

4.1 Personal Reflection

Living the text in one’s own personal context

4.2 Practical-theological Analysis

Apprehending the contemporary setting and relevantly applying the text to the church and the world of today

5. Proclamation “... and to **teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.”

5.1 Plan Formation

Deciding how to present the text with accuracy and relevance to achieve the biblical objective(s)

5.2 Presentation

Delivering the text creatively and dynamically

5.3 Appeal

Calling the church and the world to join in living the text personally