### **Essay Questions**

LESSON ONE

### INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS



1. What is biblical hermeneutics?

2. Describe the three main hermeneutical processes.

3.	What are the biblical roots of scientific hermeneutics?

4. What are some historical examples that illustrate developments in scientific hermeneutics?

5.	Describe the priorities of approaching the Scriptures using scientific hermeneutics?
6.	What are the biblical roots of devotional hermeneutics?

7.	What are some historical examples of biblical scholars who practiced devotional hermeneutics?
8.	Describe how devotional hermeneutics shapes our priorities for the process of interpretation?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON TWO

## PREPARATION FOR INTERPRETATION



1. What is the doctrine of inspiration?

2. Describe the two important aspects of organic inspiration.

3.	What is the doctrine of illumination?
4.	Why is human effort important when preparing to interpret Scripture?

5. Describe the three major influences on our efforts when we prepare to interpret Scripture?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON THREE

### INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE



1. What is original meaning?

2. What is the theological basis for giving attention to the biblical writers in our exploration of the meaning of Scripture?

3. Why is studying the original audience of the Bible essential to the process of investigating Scripture?

4. How do organic inspiration and divine accommodation help us understand the original meaning of biblical documents?

5. Describe some of key examples of the proper investigation of Scripture found in church history?

6. What are some of the challenges in the modern church that have discounted the importance of original meaning?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON FOUR

## APPROACHES TO MEANING



1. List and explain the three major approaches towards the objects and subjects of knowledge?

2. Explain the philosophical and cultural background of objective approaches to interpretation?

4.	Explain the philosophical and cultural background of subjective approaches to interpretation?

3. What influence have objective approaches had on biblical interpretation?

5.	What influence have subjective approaches had on biblical interpretation?
6.	Explain the philosophical and cultural background of dialogical approaches to
	interpretation?

7. Compare and contrast the authority-dialog and objective models and the authority-dialog and subjective models.

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON FIVE

## THE COMPLEXITY OF MEANING



1. What do we mean when we refer to the "literal sense" of a passage?

2. What problems arise from arguing for multiple meanings of Scripture?

3.	Explain how Thomas Aquinas and other interpreters argued for a singular meaning of Scripture.
4.	What characteristics help up discover the "full value" of a passage?

5.	What do we mean by the "original meaning" of a text?
6	List and describe the three types of biblical elaborations often used in Scripture.
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7. How can our legitimate applications assist us in finding the full sense of Scripture?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON SIX

#### DISCOVERING MEANING



1. Explain why knowing something about the writer of a biblical text is significant to interpreting Scripture?

2. When we interpret Scripture, how does paying close attention to all the features a biblical document benefit us?

3. How does knowing the identity of the original audience of a biblical book serve as a helpful guide to interpretation?

4. List and describe the three interpretive fallacies. Comment on ways to avoid falling into one or more of these fallacies.

5.	What do we mean when we say that the Bible is complex in nature?
6.	How can the uniqueness of the biblical interpreter lead us to multiple summaries of biblical texts? Why are multiple summaries important to interpretation?

7. Explain why we should adapt our summary of a biblical passage to the needs of the intended audience?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON SEVEN

#### APPLYING SCRIPTURE



1. Why is it so important to understand the original meaning of Scripture when we seek to apply the Bible to our lives today?

2. Describe the critical aspects of God's immutability, and explain how God's immutable qualities affirm that we believe in the same God as the original audience of Scripture.

3. How is the world in which we live similar to the worlds of the original audiences of Scripture? Give examples.

4. Describe at least three ways that people today are similar to Scripture's original audiences.

5. Name some epochal developments that have occurred over the course of redemptive history. How have these developments made our world different from the world of the Bible?

6. What cultural developments distinguish our culture today from the cultures addressed in the Bible?

7. Describe some personal developments over the course of redemptive history that differentiate people today from the Bible's original audiences.

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON EIGHT

## MODERN APPLICATION & OLD TESTAMENT EPOCHS



1. Describe various ways theologians have divided Old Testament history and explain the reasons for this diversity.

2. List and explain the major divine covenants in the Old Testament.

3. What are some key reasons why New Testament believers should never apply the Scriptures as if they live in earlier periods of history? Include some biblical examples with your answer.

4. Describe the two main characters behind the Old Testament epochal developments. Who are they, what are their main purposes, and how are they working to accomplish their goals?

Explain the developing storyline of Scripture, and explore how each stage of biblical history contributes to the overall, unified narrative.				
Why did Old Testament authors frequently apply earlier epochs to the audiences of their own time?				

7. What types of connections did biblical authors draw between the past and the present, and how should modern audiences respond to these connections?

# He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON NINE

## MODERN APPLICATION & THE NEW COVENANT



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#### **Essay Questions**

1. According to Daniel 9:24, why did God postpone the promise of the new covenant that was foretold in Jeremiah chapter 31?

2. Describe the two great ages of history that most Old Testament rabbis referred to. What did the rabbis teach about the transition from one age to the next?

3. How does the New Testament explain the fulfillment of Jeremiah's hope for a new covenant?

4. Define what New Testament scholars mean by the phrase "inaugurated eschatology." List and describe the three main stages involved in the fulfillment of the new covenant age.

5. What are some general guidelines for appropriately connecting the original meaning of Old Testament passages to contemporary audiences? What are the guidelines for New Testament passages?

6. Using the Bible's emphasis on warfare, illustrate the general guidelines we should use in modern application.

# He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON TEN

## BIBLICAL CULTURE & MODERN APPLICATION



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#### **Essay Questions**

1. Describe the biblical foundations that establish the importance of culture. How do the early chapters of Genesis lay out God's plan for the world and human culture?

2. What are the two opposing cultural patterns pursued by human beings throughout history? How does the Bible establish these ideals?

3.	How did cultural variety first develop through both special revelation and general revelation?
4.	Why was culture important and essential in the development of biblical history?

5. Describe how the two opposing cultural ideals developed over the course of biblical history. Define the groups that followed each ideal in the Old Testament and explain how and why this changed in the New Testament.

6. Explain how cultural variety developed in the Scriptures. Give examples of cultural variations that occurred in different communities at the same time and variations that occurred in the same community over time.

7. Y	Why is culture	e an important	factor in the	modern application	of Scripture?
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8. Explain how the two opposing cultural ideals impact the modern application of Scripture. Give four ways that God directed cultural patterns in Scripture that will aid us as we apply the Bible today.

9. What do the apostle Paul's experiences and insights teach us about embracing cultures that are different from our own? How should we deal with cultural variety when we apply Scripture in our modern context?

# He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON ELEVEN

## MODERN APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS



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#### **Essay Questions**

1. List and describe some of the instructional variety found in the Bible.

2. Why must people apply the Scriptures in different ways? Give examples to support your answer.

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4.	What evidence do we have that Old and New Testament leaders were the primary recipients of Scripture?

3. Explain the difference between higher and lower instructions.

5. Explain how the content of the Old Testament books spread from the leaders to the larger community. Include at least three examples from Scripture.

6. Describe in as much detail as possible how the early church community learned and applied the Scriptures.