

STUDY GUIDE

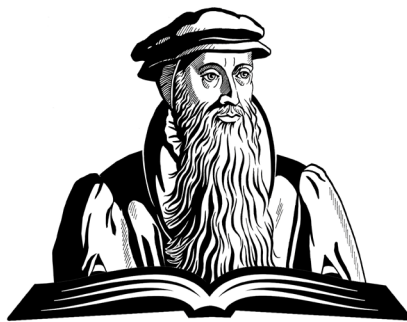
for

HERMENEUTICS

*Principles of
Scriptural Interpretation*

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

Lecture 7 HISTORY



The John Knox Institute
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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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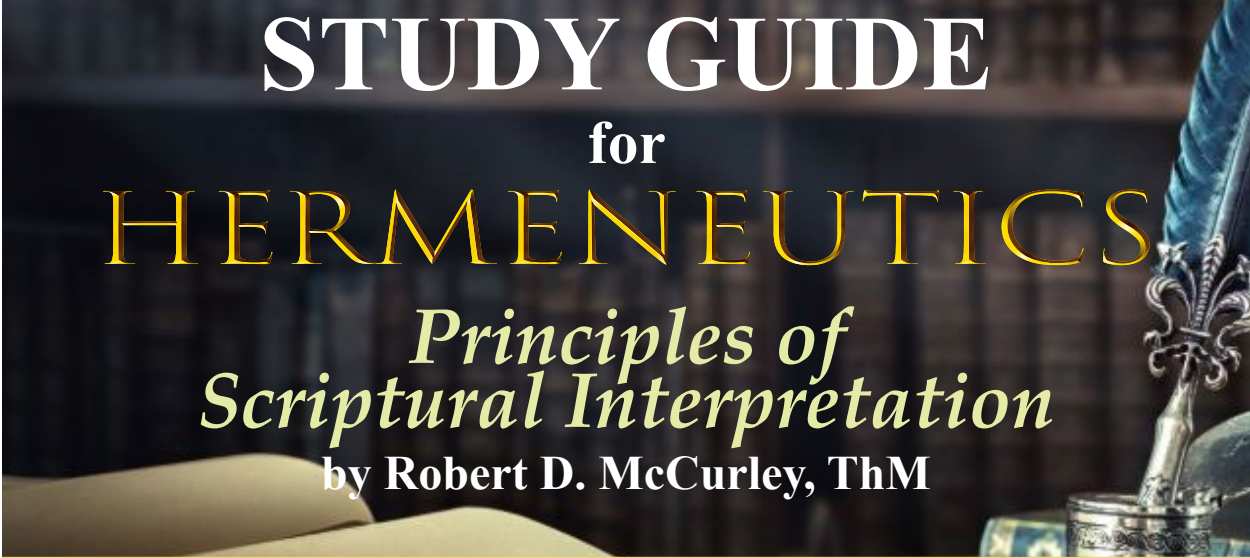
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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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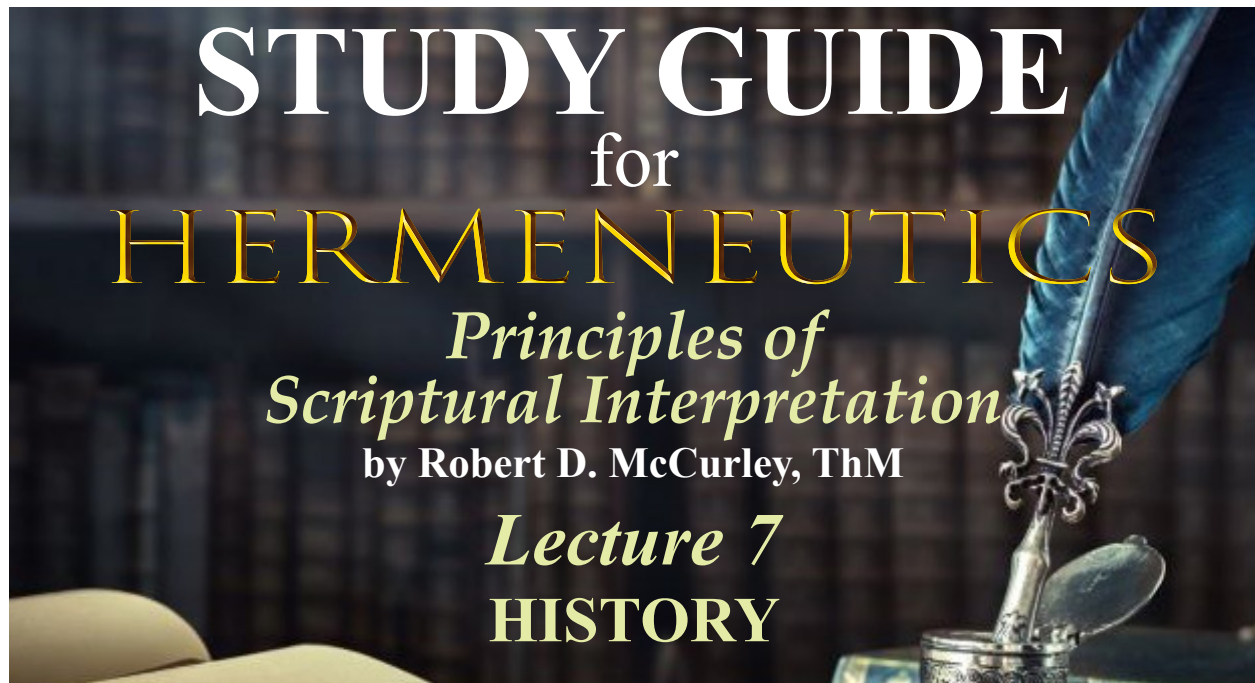


STUDY GUIDE for HERMENEUTICS

Principles of Scriptural Interpretation

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

1. Introduction
2. Foundation
3. Sense
4. Comparing
5. Context
6. Words
7. History
8. Genre
9. Christ
10. Exposition



Scripture Text

“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.”
—Psalm 137, verse 1

Key Points

1. Introduction: the Word of God originated in a *Historical Context*. You can only rightly understand it in light of that history.
2. The fifth principle: *Always interpret a Scripture passage in its historical context as recorded in other parts of Scripture.*
3. Consider the original author of the passage.
 - a. Who he was—his temperament, his disposition, his character, his gifts, his background.
 - b. Consider the history of the author’s life.
4. Consider the *General Historical Context*.
 - a. The sociopolitical and economic setting.
 - b. The religious background of the original audience.
 - c. The social customs of that time and place

5. Consider the *Specific Historical Context*.

- a. Find out to whom the author is writing.
- b. The purpose of the book.
- c. Consider how books are related.
- d. The geographical references—get maps and study biblical geography.
- e. Connect events of history that occur in that same location.

Review Questions

1. What is the fifth principle in this lecture? How is this similar to the fourth Principle for Scripture Interpretation? How is it different?

2. Why is it important to ascertain who was the original author of a passage? What types of things can be helpful to know about him? Give an example.

3. Give an example of how it might help to know the history of the original author's life?

4. What three categories are included in the *General Historical Context*?

5. How can knowing the sociopolitical and economic setting help to interpret a Bible passage? Give an example.

6. How can we better understand a Bible passage by knowing the religious background and the social customs of the original audience?

7. What points of consideration are included in *Specific Historic Context*?

8. What ways can we learn the purpose of any given book or epistle in the Bible? Give some examples.

9. How does it benefit our study and interpretation to note the relation of Bible books to each other? Give an example of this.

10. How important is it to study geographical references? What does Rev. McCurley mean when he says, “connect the events of different points of history that occur in the same location”? Give some examples of this.

Personal Applications

1. If you can, obtain good books with introductory articles about the books of the Bible. You can also find this information if you have a Study Bible, or a Bible dictionary, or commentaries by faithful Reformed writers. If not, make your own notes about the historical context of each Bible book as you read it, and start researching for clarification.

2. Biblical maps are very useful when studying geographical references. See if you have maps in the back of your Bible or try to get a book with maps on Biblical Context. Whenever you study relative Bible passages, try to find the locations and geography in those maps.
