

STUDY GUIDE

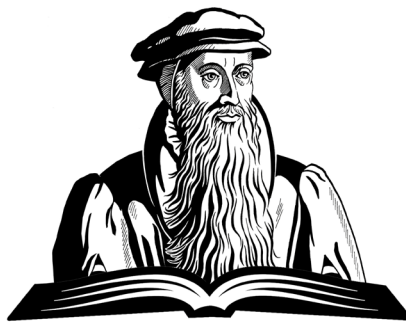
for

HERMENEUTICS

*Principles of
Scriptural Interpretation*

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

Lecture 8 GENRE



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

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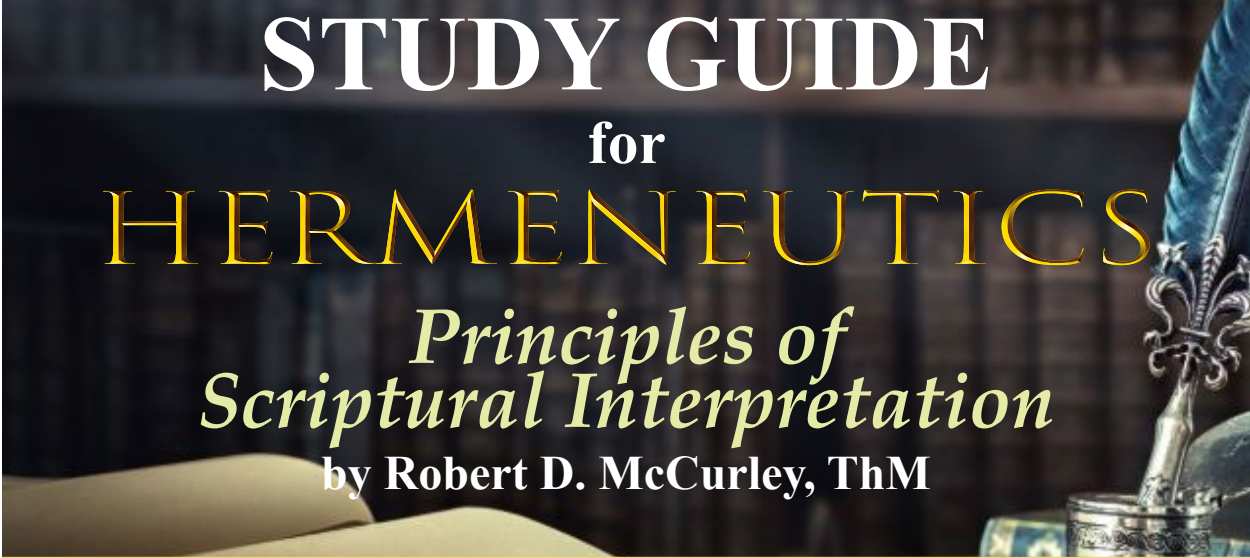
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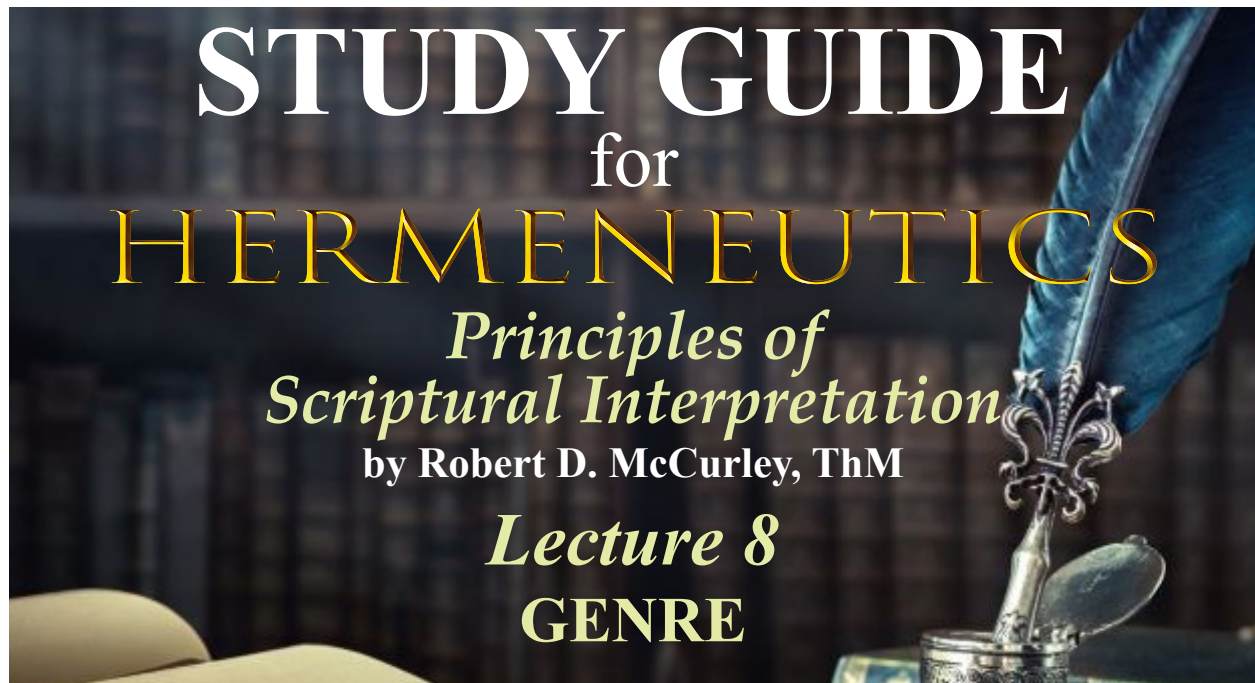


STUDY GUIDE for HERMENEUTICS

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

*“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,
and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”*

—John 10, verse 9

Key Points

1. The sixth principle: *Interpret biblical language in light of the divine truths they convey.*
 - a. Genre defined: the Bible contains many types of literature: history, laws, poetry, proverbs, epistles, apocalyptic, narrative, etc.
2. Metaphors and Symbolism.
3. Figurative Language.
 - a. Consider if the natural reading of a passage contradicts what the Bible teaches.
 - b. Internal indicators:
 - 1) Consider the kind of literature in which the text is found.
 - 2) Look for indicators within the book that show the language is figurative.
 - c. Figurative language is to be taken literally.
4. Typology: a representative character or object.
 - a. Need to understand progressive revelation in the Bible.
 - b. Types and antitypes.

c. Read the Old Testament and New Testament together.

5. Parables in the New Testament.

a. Simile: one thing is likened to another.

b. Parables reveal and conceal truth simultaneously.

c. Principle for interpreting parables: there is one central truth or point to each parable.

6. Poetry in the Old Testament: uses repetitive parallelism to express vivid emphasis.

a. Synonymous parallelism.

b. Antithetical parallelism.

c. Chiastic parallelism.

Review Questions

1. What does “genre” mean? What different types of genre are found in the Bible?

2. What is a metaphor? How does the Bible use metaphors and symbolism? Give some examples from Scripture.

3. How can we recognize figurative language in the Bible?

4. What internal indicators can help us interpret figurative language? Should we take it literally?

5. What is typology? What is the doctrine of progressive revelation and how does it help us to discern typology?

6. What is the difference between the “type” and the “antitype”? Please give some examples of type and antitype from the Bible.

7. What is a simile and how is it used in parables? What was the purpose of Jesus speaking in parables?

8. What principle should be used to interpret a parable? Please give an example of this.

9. Why does Hebrew poetry use “repetitive parallelism”? Give the three types of parallelism, and briefly define them.

10. Why should we read the Old Testament and New Testament together? How does the one help us understand the other? How is this related to “progressive revelation”?

Personal Applications

1. As you study your Bible, be watching for some of the genres discussed in this lecture and take notes on your discoveries. Watch for metaphors, symbolism, figurative language, typology, and the different types of literature in the Bible. How does the information in this lecture help to enrich your mind and heart as you study the Word of God?

2. Spend some time reading the books of Old Testament poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, or Lamentations) and see if you can recognize the different types of repetitive parallelism used in those books. We hope you will come to appreciate the beauty of God’s inspired Word as he reveals to us his salvation in Jesus Christ.
