



# GRASPING GOD'S WORD

A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible



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Reading, Interpreting,  
and Applying the Bible

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This book emphasizes *grasping* the Bible.

The Bible is not to be an object that is to just be analyzed and scrutinized.

But is to be carefully read, interpreted wisely and committing to apply what we know.

John 14:21 “The person who has my commandments and obeys them is one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

“A person who truly grasps God’s Word will find that Word grasping them.”



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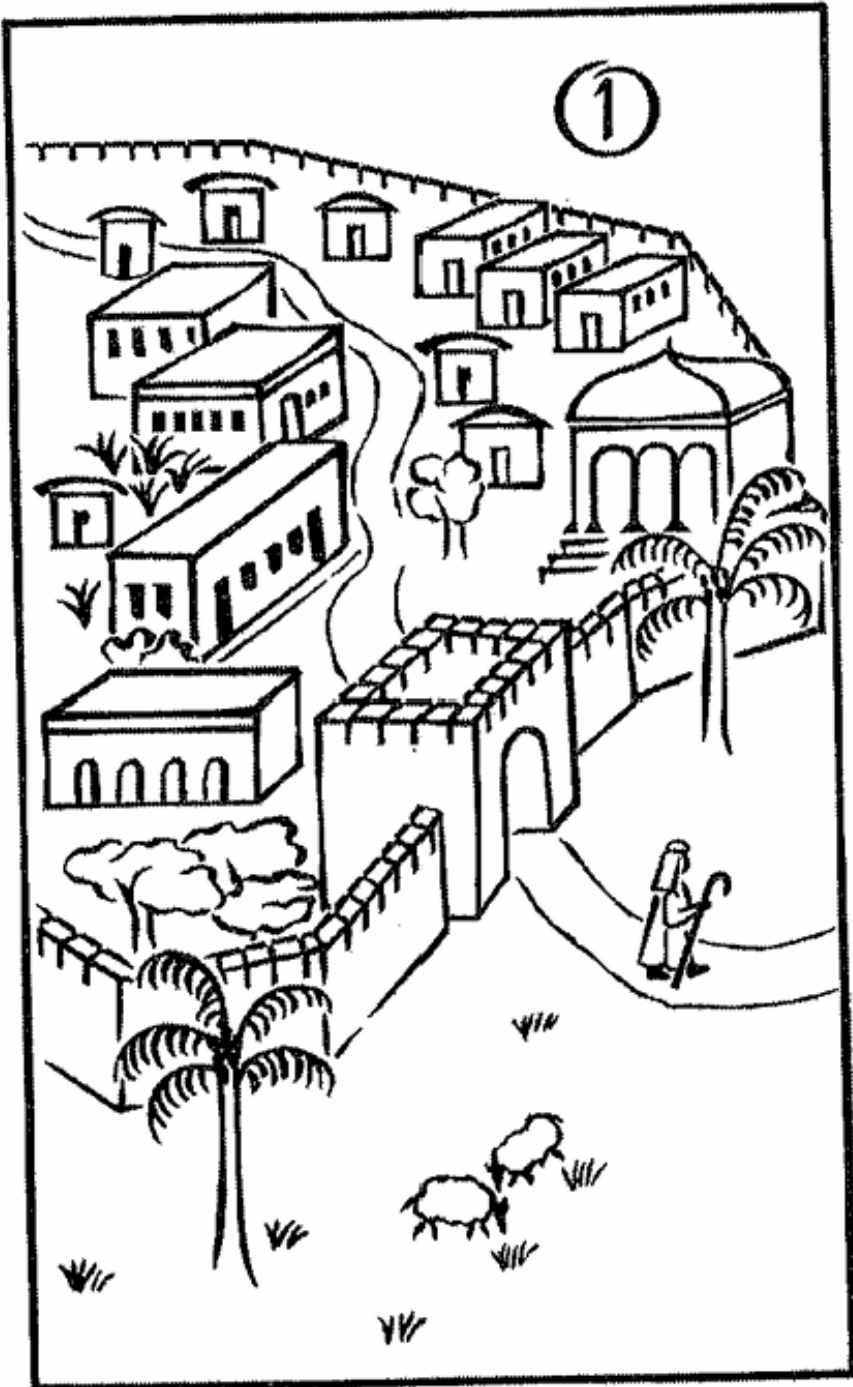
## Interpretive Journey

- Interpretation does matter, but proper interpretation is a MUST
- Christians read the Bible because they believe in it!
- The Bible encourages us, lifts our spirit, comforts us, guides us, chides us, builds us up, gives us hope, and brings us close to the living God
- READING the text thoroughly and carefully lies at the beginning of the journey.
  - Able to see meaning in biblical context to the biblical *audience*
- What separates us from the Biblical Audience?
  - Culture, customs, language, situation, vast expanse of time, change in covenant,
- The list above is a large river to cross but there is a safe way to cross

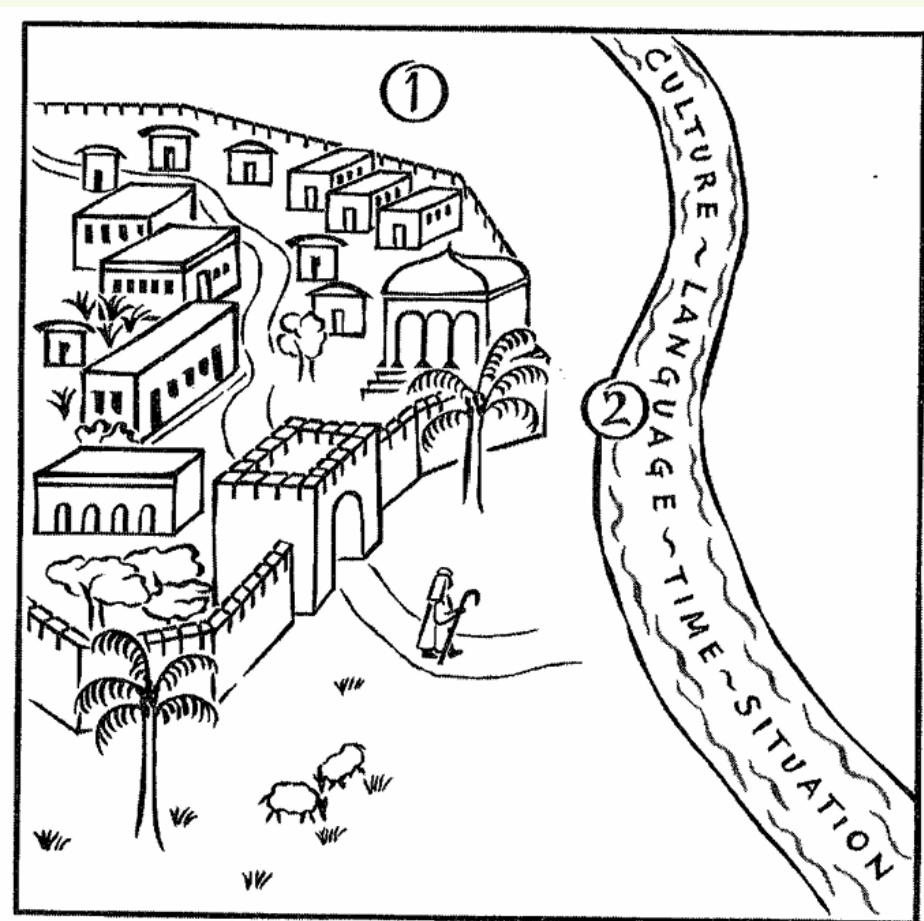
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Our goal is to **grasp** the meaning of the text **God** has *intended*.

- Steps in the Interpretive Journey will allow us to find that meaning but not to forget it is **HARD WORK**
- Step 1 Grasping the Text in their Town
  - What did the text mean to the biblical audience?
    - Read carefully
    - Look, look, look...see all you can
    - Scrutinize the grammar
    - Analyze all significant words
    - Study historical and literary context
    - What are the words before and after your passage of scripture.
- Caution- careful to not to generalize or form theology yet



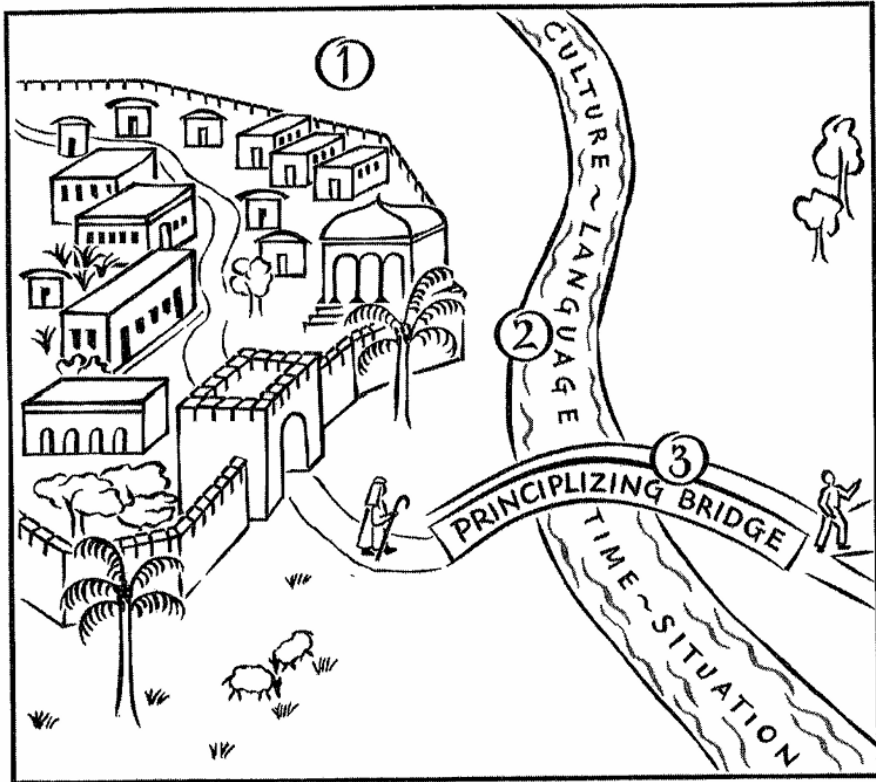
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## Step 2: Measuring the Width of the River to Cross

- Identify common differences, in culture, language, situation, time, and often covenant
- Focus on the unique differences found in a specific text
- If you are studying an Old Testament passage, you must account for the life and work of Jesus Christ.

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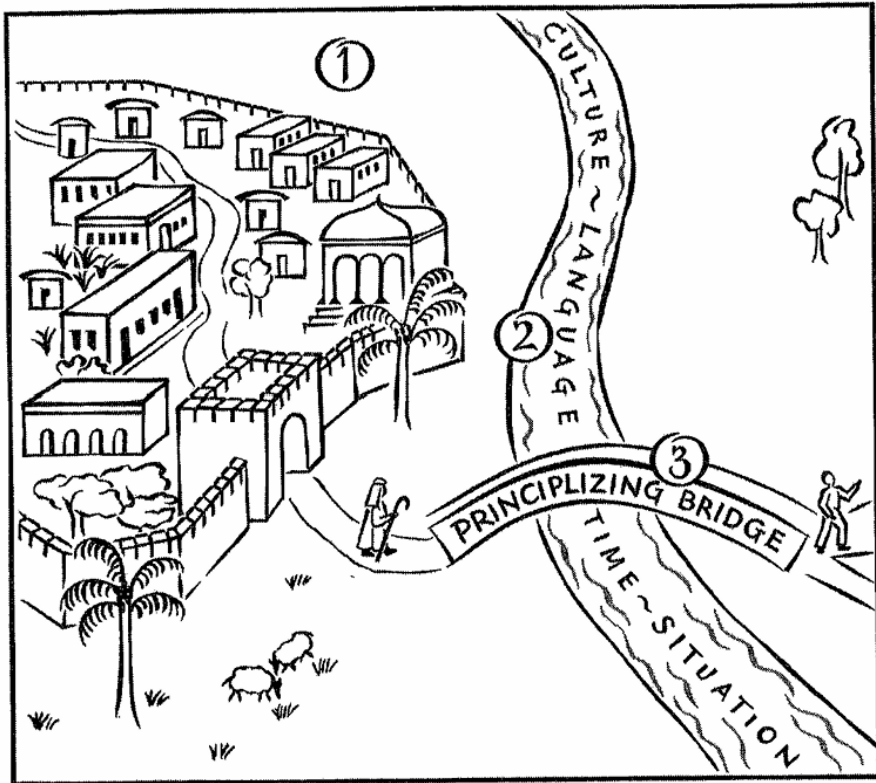


## Step 3 – Crossing the Principlizing Bridge

- Reflect on the theological principles/point or principles/points found in Step 1
  - We are not to create the meaning but to discover the meaning
- Recall the differences you indentified in Step 2
- Identify any similarities between the situation of the biblical audience and our situation
- Differences + similarities + meaning for the biblical audience = The Message or The Point

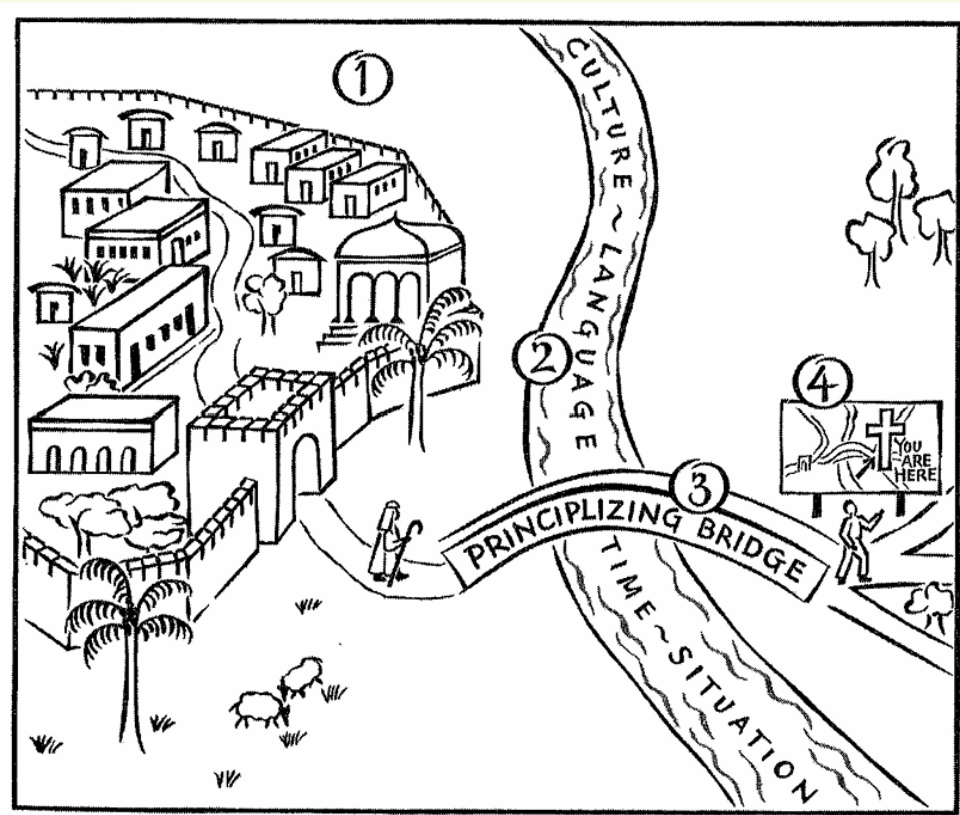
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## Step 3 – Crossing the Principlizing Bridge



- Are we on the right track with the Theological Principle/Point
  - It should be reflected in the text
  - It should be timeless and not tied to a specific situation
  - It should not be culturally bound
  - It should correspond to the teaching of the rest of Scripture
  - It should be relevant to both the biblical and contemporary audience
- **The Principle/Point or Principles/Points should only be 1 or 2 sentences.**

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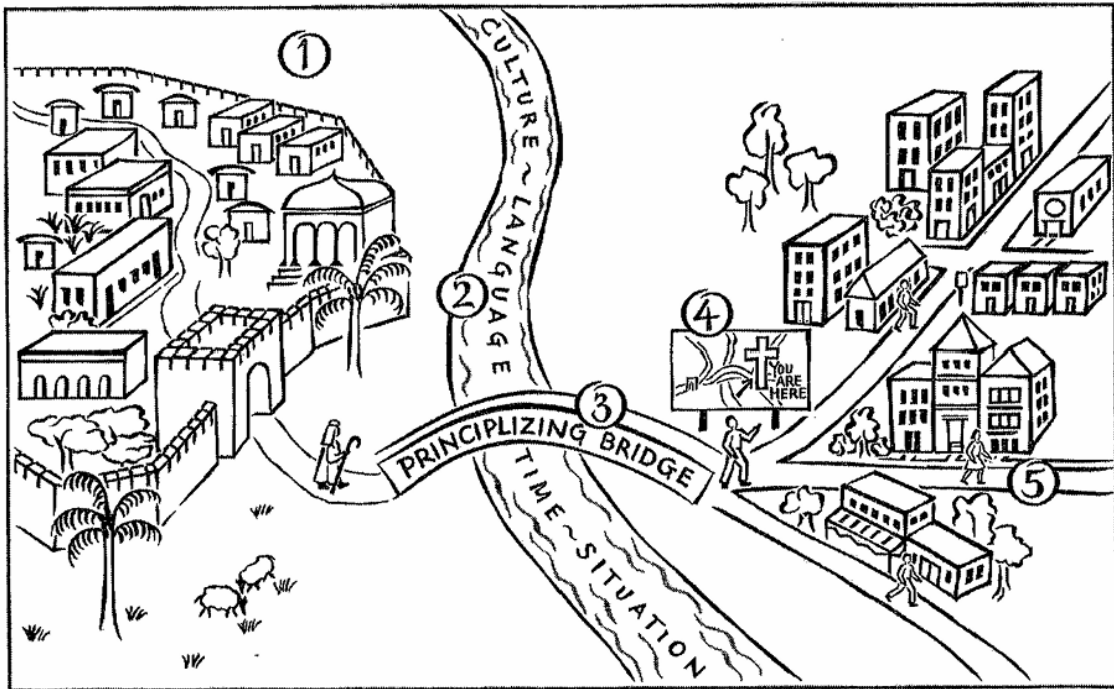


## Step 4 – Consult the Biblical Map

- Is your principle/point consistent with the rest of scripture.
  - Harmony of scripture
- If the principle is valid it should fit with the rest of scripture
- If your principle comes from a Old Testament reading, you will want to run it through the New Testament –
  - How does the New Testament add or modify



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## Step 5 – Grasping the Text in our Town

- How does the Principle/Point apply in real-life situations today?
- Each passage will only have a few or often only one Principle/Point
  - The point will have numerous applicable possibilities
    - Due to current life situations
    - Where we are in our relationship to God

**NEXT WEEK  
HOW TO READ THE BOOK-SENTENCES**

