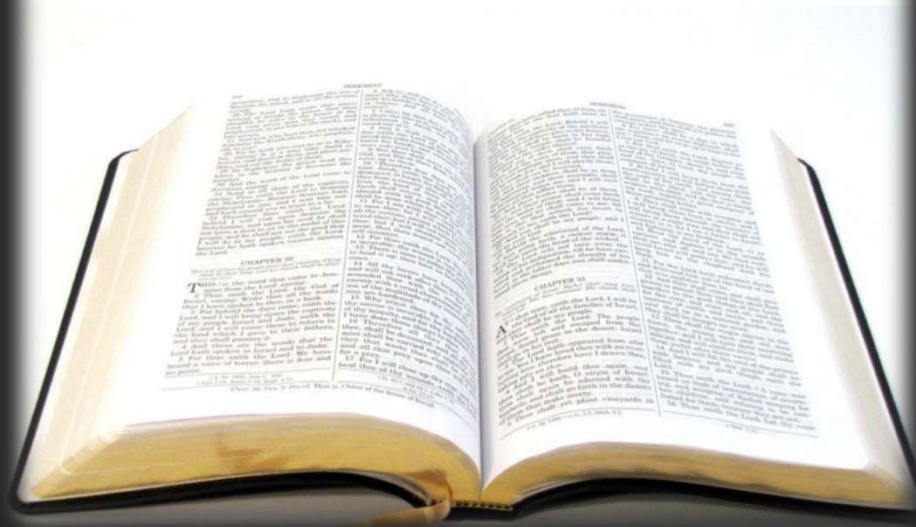


House of Judah
Seneca, SC
Interpretation Series

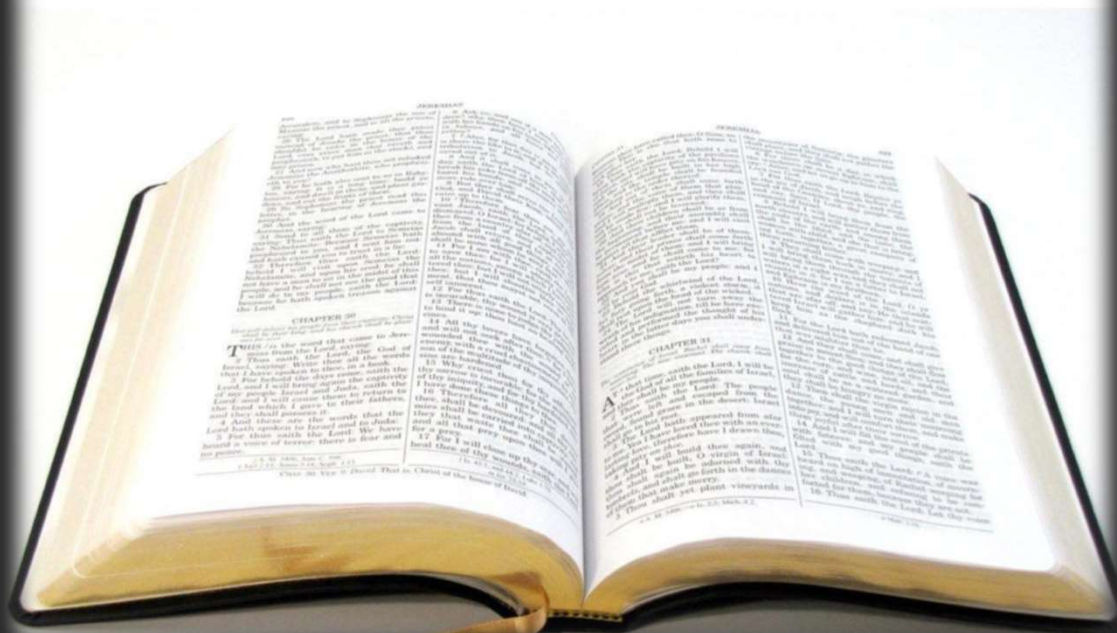
**How to Interpret
The Bible**



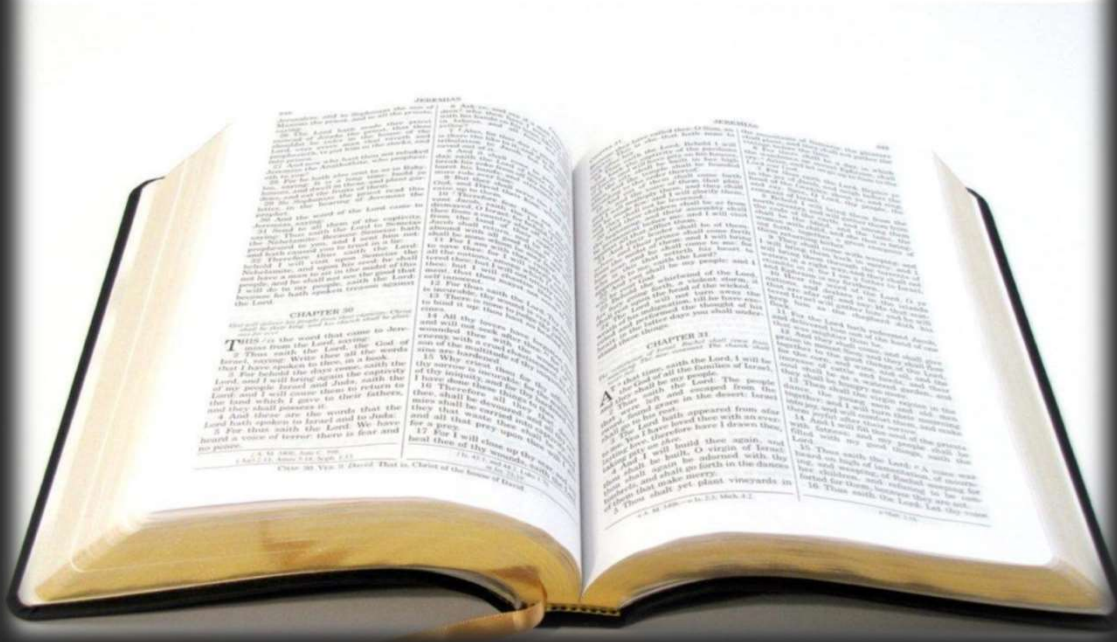
~ Visiting Teacher ~
Pastor Katie! E. Webb
23 July 2023

“TAG”
Thanksgiving
Appreciation
Gratitude
&
Prayer

How to Interpret
The Bible



How to Interpret The Bible



Who We Are:
Spiritual Beings Who are
One with Christ
Having a Human Experience:
Lesson 9

Scripture: 1 Cor. 13: 9 – 10, 12

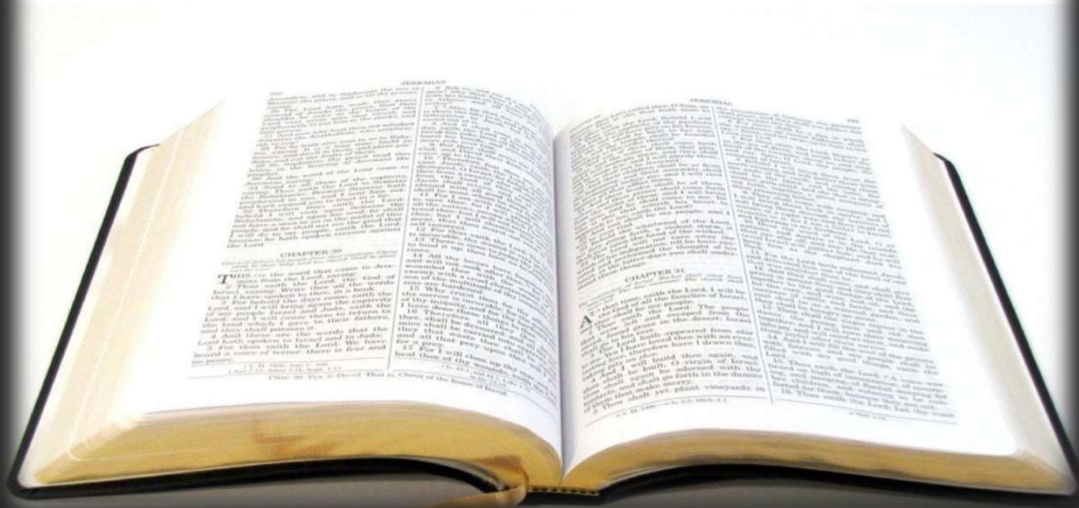
⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

(NKJV)

How to Interpret The Bible



What “Lens” are You Using?



WHEN I READ THE BIBLE, I CAN...

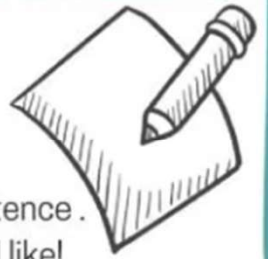


DRAW IT

Draw a picture of what I read.

WRITE IT

Write a favourite verse or sentence.
I can use in fancy lettering if I like!



RESEARCH IT

Use the info in my Bible to find out:

- who wrote this part?
- who did they write it too?
- why was it important to write down?
- where is this in the timeline of the Bible?



PRAY IT

Change each sentence a bit
to turn the words into a prayer.

IMAGINE IT

Imagine myself in the story.

What does it
feel/smell/sound/taste/look like?



PLAY IT

I can act it out or reenact it with stuffed animals,
make up a dance, shape it out of play dough,
or build it with blocks.



SING IT

Does this passage remind me of a song?
If not, I can make up my own song!

ASK IT

Does this passage remind me of another Bible passage?
What does this show me about God?
Is God asking me to do something in response to this?



SPEAK IT

Read it out loud. I can use
dramatic voices, weird accents,
or read it to someone else.

What's in Your Bag?

Fun Things...

Colors are not only beautiful, but also have spiritual meanings. Colors can also reflect our moods. Spiritual meanings of colors are:

- Red: passion, courage, vitality
- Blue: peace, wisdom, spirituality
- Green: growth, harmony, healing
- Purple: intuition, spirituality, royalty
- Pink: love, compassion, gentleness

Kaleidoscope

A device made of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of colored glass or paper.

The reflections produce changing patterns that are visible through an eyehole when the tube is rotated.

It has a constantly changing pattern or sequence of objects or elements.



1 Cor. 13: 9 – 10, 12

Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled. ¹² We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, (we will know) Him directly just as He knows us!

The 'Four Senses' of Interpretation:

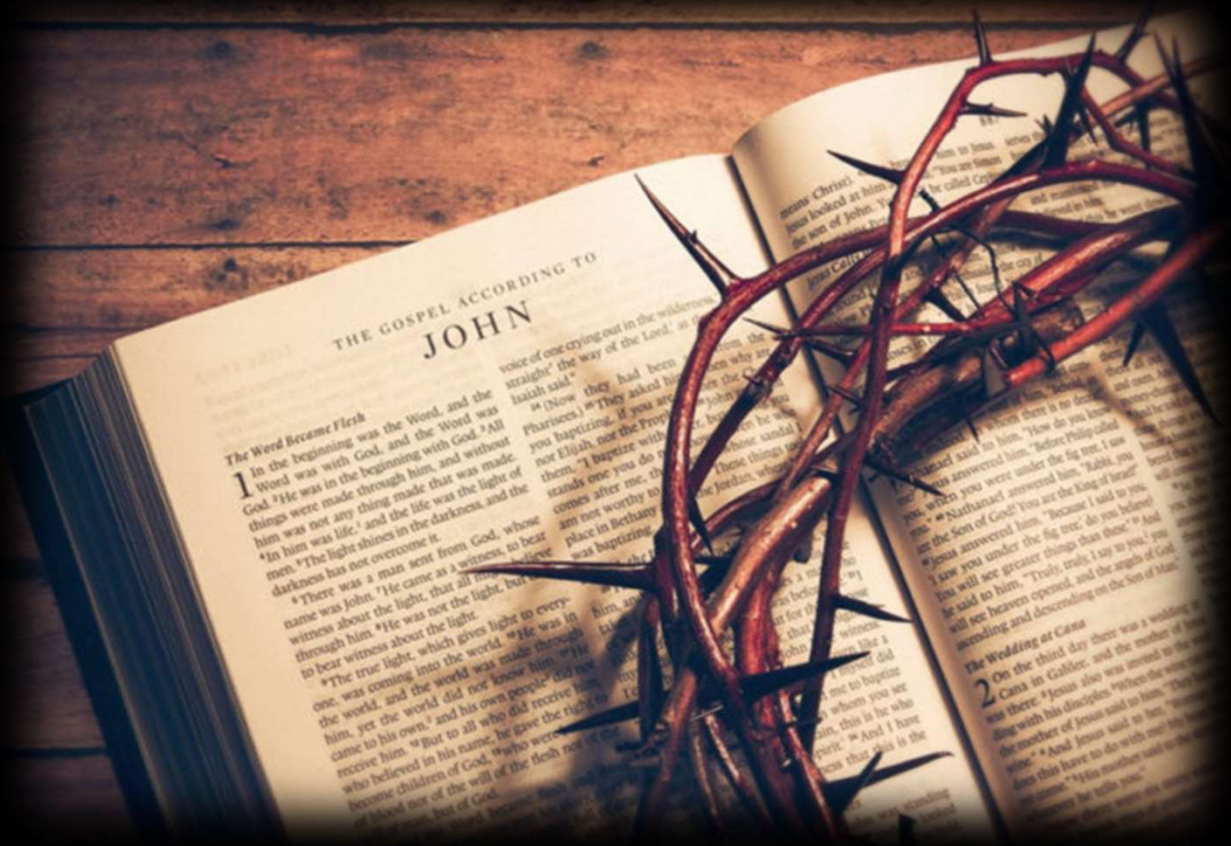
A monk, John Cassian (360-435 AD), identified four ways to understand the Bible: the literal, the symbolic, the ethical and the mystical. By the Middle Ages, the four methods of interpretation became standard among Christians.





The 'Four Senses' of Interpretation:

The Literal, The Symbolic,
The Ethical and
The Mystical



The Literal Approach:

To take biblical texts at face value.

This doesn't necessarily mean absolutely literally (e.g. that the rivers really should 'clap their hands' from Psalm 98.8).

Texts should be read in their 'basic' or 'historical' sense – because the text represents actual events, actual people and actual statements. The literal method is often considered the most important kind of interpretation of the Bible.



The Symbolic Approach:

Known as the allegorical or typological method. The apostle Paul wrote symbolically in the story of Abraham and his two wives, Hagar and Sarah. The story could be read allegorically to interpret the difficult relationship between Jews and Christians of his time in Galatians 4.22–31).

This type of interpretation was popular in the early Church. Many gave Christian meanings to the Book of Joshua: 'crossing the river Jordan to the Promised Land' was about baptism, the 'red rope of Rahab' symbolized the blood of Christ.



The Ethical Approach:

To look for an 'ethical' meaning. This is also known as the moral or tropological sense. It involves reading between the lines of a passage to see how it applies to daily life.

The apostle Paul quotes the Old Testament about oxen and 'explains' that the text implied that (ethically) the apostles had the right to financial support .



The Mystical Approach:

Interpreting texts to reveal something about the future. For ex: Revelation 21.2 the word 'Jerusalem' refers to the heavenly future of Christians. Therefore, wherever else some interpreters found the word Jerusalem in the Bible, they concluded that it also inferred something about heaven.

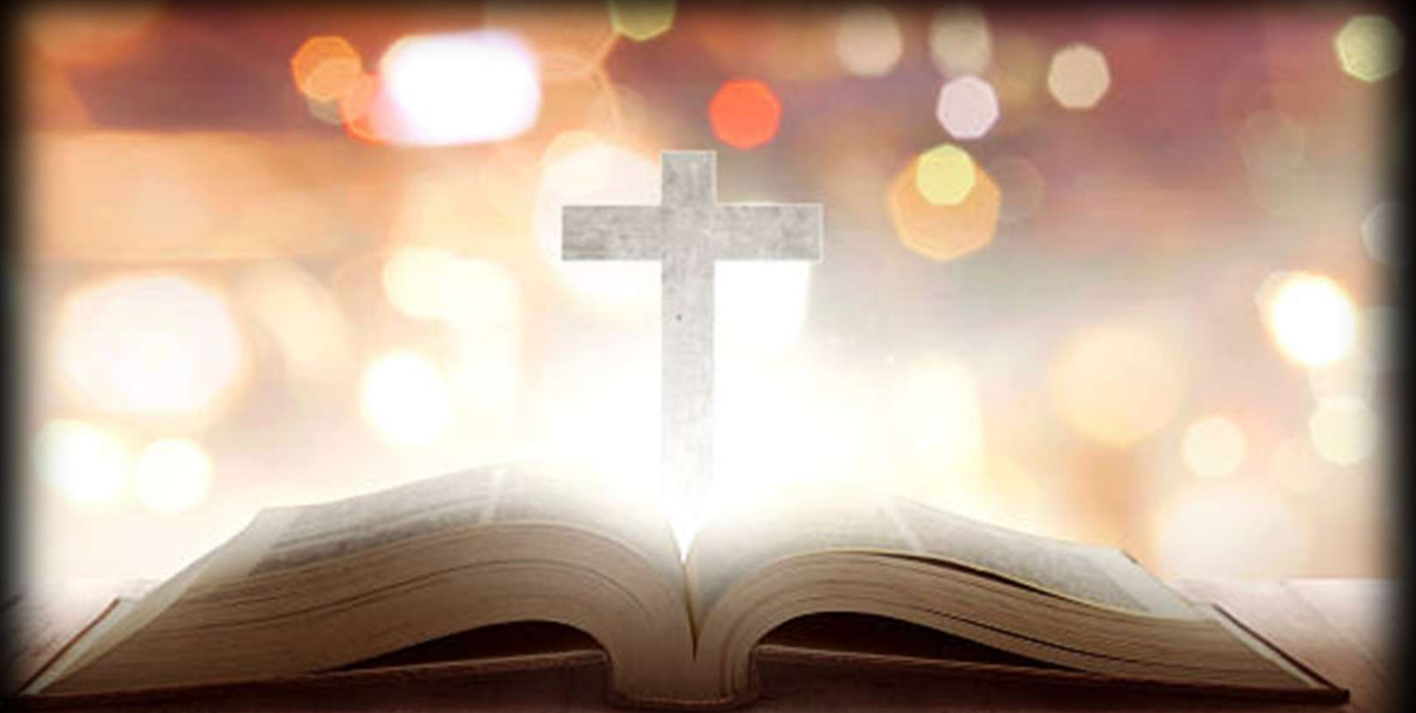
Mystical interpretation also involves finding secret codes regarding "the here and now."

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

What “Lens” are You Using?



Invitation and Benediction:



We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

¹² We will see things clearly.

It won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright!

We'll see it all. We will see as clearly as God sees us, (we will know) Him directly just as He knows us!