

## Deconstructionism

There are two words, involving the ways people interpret literature, that really help the reader understand hermeneutics. The first and most common way is *eisegesis*, meaning “reading into the text.” *Eis* is the Greek word for “into.” *Egesis* is the ending of the word *exegesis*, which means “explanation.” It is reading what is not there. Many people interpret the Bible or any literature this way. They call it “reader response method” or “deconstructionism.”

They ask the question, “What does this mean to me?” But, when reading the Bible, a person should really be asking, “What did the author intend for it to mean?” What an eisegeter does is impose his or her own meaning onto the text. Don’t be an eisegeter when reading the Word of God. We are supposed to be mastered by the text of God’s Word, not the other way around.

The other way to interpret literature is *exegesis*. *Exegesis* is the Greek word for “explanation.” The Greek word *exe* means “out of.” It’s a process that attempts to understand what the author was trying to say to its original audience. This process looks at the context of the passage to determine its meaning. The context is what surrounds the passage to determine its meaning. An expositor looks at what the passage says and then looks at what the paragraph says, the chapter says, the book says, and then what the whole of Scripture has to say in order to determine the passage’s meaning.

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