

## Eight Rules of Interpretation (Part 1)

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### 1. *Rule of Definition*

Any study of Scripture... must begin with a study of words. (*Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, Ramm, Bernard, p. 129, W. A. Wilde Co., Boston, 1956)

Define your terms and then keep to the terms defined. (*The Structural Principles of the Bible*, Marsh, F. E., p. 1, Kregel Publications)

### 2. *Rule of Usage*

The whole Bible may be regarded as written for “the Jew first,” and its words and idioms ought to be rendered according to Hebrew usage. (*Synonyms of the Old Testament*, Girdlestone, R. B., p. 14)

### 3. *Rule of Context*

Many a passage of Scripture will not be understood at all without the help afforded by the context; for many a sentence derives all its point and force from the connection in which it stands. (*Biblical Hermeneutics*, Terry, M. S., p. 117. 1896)

### 4. *Rule of Historical Background*

Even the general reader must be aware that some knowledge of Jewish life and society at the time is requisite for the understanding of the Gospel history. (*The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Edersheim, Alfred, V. 1, xiii, Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1953)

(Excerpt from *God's Covenants and Our Time* by Guy Duty, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany Fellowship, Inc. 1965, 149-151; from Chapter Seventeen, Appendix: Eight Rules of Interpretation)