

Dr. David Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 10, Survey of Division, Sections, Segments Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 10, Survey of Division, Sections, Segments, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture excerpt from Dr. David Bauer's Inductive Bible Study course focuses on analyzing biblical texts. **Specifically**, it details a three-tiered approach to textual observation: **first**, surveying the entire book; **second**, examining parts and wholes (divisions, sections, segments); and **third**, identifying the literary genre. **Different genres**, such as discursive, narrative, poetry, parable, and apocalyptic literature, are discussed, emphasizing how genre significantly impacts interpretation. The lecture concludes by recommending Bible dictionaries as valuable resources for further study and provides examples of helpful dictionaries.

2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 10 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introduction & Languages → Introductory Series → Inductive Bible Study).



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3. Briefing Document: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 10, Survey of Division, Sections, Segments

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpt by Dr. David Bauer on Inductive Bible Study:

Briefing Document: Inductive Bible Study - Survey of Parts, Wholes, and Genre

Overview: This lecture excerpt from Dr. David Bauer focuses on the second level of observation in inductive Bible study, which involves surveying parts and wholes within a biblical book. This level entails understanding the divisions, sections, and segments of a book, as well as identifying the genre of a passage. Bauer emphasizes the importance of structural analysis and genre recognition for accurate interpretation. He also cautions against premature interpretation and encourages careful observation of textual clues.

Key Themes and Concepts:

1. Levels of Observation:

- Inductive Bible study involves three levels of observation.
- Level 1: Survey of the book as a whole. (Previously covered with examples of Jude and James)
- Level 2: Survey of parts and wholes (Focus of this lecture).
- Level 3: (Not covered in this excerpt).

1. Terminology of Parts:

- **Divisions:** The main units of a book.
- **Sections:** Subdivisions of divisions.
- **Subsections:** (Optional) Intervening category between sections and segments.
- **Segments:** Units defined by length; typically two or more paragraphs about the length of an average chapter, bound by a common theme and structure.
- A major division might also be a segment. Example given: James 1:2-27 is a division and a segment.
- "When you do a survey of the book, the main units of the book would be considered divisions. And divisions are themselves broken down into or divided into sections. And sections are divided into segments."

1. **Segment Survey Process:** The process of segment survey is similar to book survey. It involves:

- **Identification of Material:** Giving brief titles to each paragraph to aid in recall.
- **Structural Analysis:** Identifying main units and subunits; determining major structural relationships within the segment.
- A major relationship is one that controls the bulk (more than half) of the segment.
- Definitive, rational, and implicational questions should be asked about major structural relationships
- **Literary Form/Genre:** Identifying the literary form (genre) used. This is crucial for proper interpretation.
- **Major Impressions:** Noting any other significant observations about the segment.

1. **Importance of Genre:**

- **Every passage involves a genre:** Each speech act belongs to a specific form.
- **Implicit code:** Genres function as an implicit code, guiding the reader on how to interpret a passage.
- **Reading Strategies:** Recognizing the genre is essential for applying the appropriate reading strategies and avoids misinterpretation. *"When a writer makes use of a certain genre, the writer assumes that his readers will recognize the genre, will be able to recognize that this is a genre that he is employing, and will also recognize the character of that genre and will know what kinds of reading strategies, what kinds of reading moves are necessary in order properly to construe this passage according to the genre in which it is cast over against reading it according to other kinds of genre."*
- **Levels of Genre:** General genres can be subcategorized into more specific ones. The focus at the segment survey level is on more general genres, to avoid premature interpretation.

1. **Major Biblical Genres:**

- **Discursive:** Logical argumentation, typically found in epistles. Language is assumed to be literal unless there are clear indications otherwise. Thematic, not chronological sequencing. *"One of the characteristics of discursive, logical*

argumentation, or discursive genre is that it is assumed, unless there are clear indications to the contrary, that the language that is used will be literal rather than figurative."

- **Prose Narrative:** Stories or historical accounts. Language assumed literal unless there are indications to the contrary. Generally moves chronologically but flashbacks and foreshadowing are exceptions. *"In prose narrative, over against what we said about discursive, the default assumption is that the passage does move along chronologically."*
- **Poetry:** Characterized by rhythm (meter) and often parallelism, most common in Old Testament.
- **Synonymous Parallelism:** Second line restates the first in different words.
- **Antithetical Parallelism:** Second line contrasts with the first.
- **Synthetic Parallelism:** All parallelism that is not synonymous or antithetical.
- **Parable:** Story from everyday life pointing to a spiritual truth.
- The key issue is the relationship between the story and the spiritual truth.
- **Allegory** (historical interpretation): each detail has its own spiritual counterpart.
- **Jülicher's view:** Parables have only one point.
- **Sider's view:** Parables have one main point but the details do have spiritual counterparts that support and develop that point (a balance of Jülicher and Allegory)
- **Apocalyptic:** Presents divine action in an encoded form, using symbolic and visual language; common in marginalized socio-religious movements. Language is assumed to be figurative unless there are indications to the contrary. Topical, not necessarily chronological sequence.
- The language is highly symbolic and figurative
- *"The default assumption in apocalyptic is that the language will be figurative rather than literal... and also there is the assumption that a passage moves along, not necessarily chronologically, but rather topically."*
- **Drama/Dramatic Prose:** Uses prose, personification, and vivid descriptions to represent cosmic realities rather than to relate historical events.

- The key is the metaphorical or symbolic use of events and characters.
- 1. **Violation of Genre:** Occurs when a passage is interpreted as though it belongs to a different genre, often leading to misinterpretation. Example: reading apocalyptic as prose narrative.
- "it's important to interpret passages according to their genre and not engage in what we might call a violation of genre, which happens... if you interpret a passage that belongs to one literary genre as though it belonged to another"
- 1. **Recommended Resources:**
 - **Bible Dictionaries:** Multi-volume Bible dictionaries are essential for detailed study of biblical genres and other topics. Specific recommendations are made for the:
 - Anchor Bible Dictionary
 - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) edited by Bromley (not Orr)
 - New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible

Implications for Inductive Bible Study:

- **Accurate Interpretation:** Proper genre identification is crucial for accurate interpretation.
- **Avoidance of Premature Interpretation:** Recognize that some levels of genre identification lean more heavily on interpretation, so they should be avoided during observation.
- **Application of Reading Strategies:** Use specific interpretive strategies based on the passage's genre.
- **Critical Thinking:** Develop an understanding of the assumptions and structures within different genres.
- **Resource Utilization:** Be aware of and make use of credible resources, like Bible dictionaries, to support analysis.

Next Steps (Mentioned in Lecture):

- The next segment will focus on applying these principles to a segment survey of James chapter 1.
- Students are encouraged to read James chapter 1 and attempt their own segment survey prior to viewing the next lecture.

Conclusion: This lecture provides a framework for a more detailed analysis of scripture by emphasizing the importance of recognizing the literary form as a key element of proper interpretation. The key concepts discussed in this document should be used as guidelines for how a more detailed study can be conducted.

4. Study Guide: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 10, Survey of Divisions, Sections, Segments

Inductive Bible Study: Lecture 10 Review

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. What are the three levels of observation in inductive Bible study, according to Dr. Bauer?
2. How are divisions, sections, and segments related in a book of the Bible?
3. What defines a segment, and how is it similar to and different from a division?
4. What are the two main components of structural analysis in a segment survey?
5. What is the relationship between literary form and genre, according to the lecture?
6. Why is identifying general genres preferable to specific genres at the observation stage?
7. Explain how discursive genre functions regarding literal vs. figurative language and chronological sequence.
8. How do the default assumptions about literal vs. figurative language and chronological sequence differ between discursive genre and prose narrative?
9. What are the three types of parallelism found in biblical poetry?
10. Describe how the interpretation of parables has evolved historically, according to the lecture.

Quiz Answer Key

1. The three levels of observation are the survey of the book as a whole, the survey of parts and wholes, and the survey of segments. The first involves looking at the book in its entirety, the second looks at the book's divisions and sections, and the third focuses on smaller units of meaning.
2. Divisions are the main units of a book, which are broken down into sections. Sections, in turn, are divided into segments, which are the smallest units of study

considered in this lecture, with subsections sometimes intervening between sections and segments.

3. A segment is defined by its length (two or more paragraphs about the length of an average chapter), a common theme, and common structure. It is similar to a division in that it's a coherent unit of meaning but smaller and more focused.
4. The two components are the identification of main units and subunits (the breakdown) and the identification of major structural relationships within the segment. The major relationship should control the bulk and more than half the material of the segment.
5. Literary form and genre are considered synonymous terms; they both refer to the recognized forms that a writer uses. Each form has its own implicit code and rules that guide how the passage should be understood.
6. It is preferable to identify general genres at the observation stage because getting into more specific genres involves interpreting the text, which is premature. Focusing on broad categories helps to avoid reading the text according to preconceptions at this stage.
7. In the discursive genre, the language is assumed to be literal unless there are clear indications to the contrary. Also, passages in this genre are expected to move along thematically rather than chronologically, and we do not assume temporal sequence.
8. In discursive, language is assumed to be literal unless otherwise noted and does not move chronologically. In prose narrative, language is generally assumed to be literal unless noted otherwise, and the text is assumed to move chronologically (with exceptions for flashbacks or foreshadowing).
9. The three types of parallelism are synonymous, where the second line says essentially the same thing as the first; antithetical, where the second line contrasts with the first; and synthetic, a catch-all for parallelism that is neither synonymous nor antithetical.
10. Historically, parables were often interpreted allegorically, with each detail having a spiritual counterpart; this changed with Jülicher's view that they had a single point. Later, John Sider argued that Jesus' explanations should be taken seriously, suggesting one main point with details that support that point.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the importance of identifying genre in biblical interpretation, and explain how misidentifying genre can lead to incorrect conclusions.
2. Compare and contrast the characteristics of two different genres (e.g., discursive and prose narrative) in the Bible, and give examples of how these differences impact interpretation.
3. Explain the concept of structural analysis in a segment survey, and discuss how this process enhances understanding of a biblical text.
4. Analyze the historical development of parable interpretation, explaining the key differences between allegorical interpretation, Jülicher's one-point theory, and the approach advocated by Sider.
5. Describe the key characteristics of apocalyptic literature and discuss how those characteristics might lead to diverse interpretations.

Glossary of Key Terms

Apocalyptic: A genre that attempts to present transcendent divine action in an encoded, symbolic form, often characterized by highly visual and figurative language and a non-chronological, topical structure.

Antithetical Parallelism: A form of parallelism in poetry where the second line or stanza stands in contrast to the first.

Discursive: A genre characterized by logical argumentation, where language is assumed to be literal unless there are clear indicators to the contrary, and where passages move along thematically rather than chronologically.

Divisions: The main units of a book of the Bible, typically broad sections or overarching themes.

Ellipsis: A flashback; when an author pauses from the storyline and text to describe an event that occurred earlier in time.

Foreshadowing: The author pauses from the storyline and text and describes an event

that will take place in the future in relation to where the reader is in the text.

Genre: The category or type of literary composition, characterized by specific forms, structures, and conventions. Also considered synonymous with literary form.

Literary Form: See "Genre."

Meter: The rhythm of poetry, involving a specific number of beats per line, which can indicate areas of emphasis and how stanzas relate to one another in terms of sense.

Parable: A story, often from everyday life, that points to a spiritual truth, often having a relationship between the details of the story and the spiritual truth to which it points.

Prose Narrative: A genre of story or history, in which the default assumption is that the language is literal, and the passage moves chronologically, although there may be exceptions such as flashbacks and foreshadowing.

Sections: Subdivisions of divisions within a book, serving as intermediate-sized units of meaning.

Segments: The smallest units of study that consist of two or more paragraphs about the length of an average chapter, bound together by a common theme and structure.

Structural Analysis: The identification of main units and subunits of a text and the identification of major structural relationships within the text.

Subsections: An optional intervening category between sections and segments, used for large or long sections.

Synonymous Parallelism: A form of parallelism in poetry where the second line or stanza says essentially the same thing as the first, using different words.

Synthetic Parallelism: A category of poetic parallelism that includes all parallelism that is neither synonymous nor antithetical.

5. FAQs on Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 10, Survey of Divisions, Sections, Segments, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Understanding Biblical Texts Through Inductive Study

- **What are the three levels of observation in inductive Bible study, and how do they relate to each other?** The three levels of observation are: 1) a survey of the book as a whole, 2) a survey of parts and wholes, and 3) a detailed observation of individual passages. The survey of parts involves examining divisions, sections, and segments within a book. The survey of the whole book provides a context for understanding its parts, which are then further broken down for more specific study.
- **How are divisions, sections, and segments defined in the context of biblical study?** Divisions are the main units of a book. Sections are subdivisions of divisions. Segments are smaller units typically consisting of two or more paragraphs about the length of an average chapter, unified by a common theme and structure. Subsections may be present between sections and segments if a section is large enough. It's important to note that a major division of a book can also be a segment.
- **What does a survey of segments involve, and how does it relate to a survey of the book?** A segment survey mirrors a book survey in that it focuses on structural analysis, including the identification of main units and subunits, and their relationships. You also identify key verses, literary form, and other relevant impressions. The process is similar, but applied to a smaller unit of text. Unlike a book survey, higher critical data is not revisited during segment survey as it should have been done for the entire book.
- **Why is identifying the genre of a biblical passage important?** Genre, or literary form, is crucial for proper interpretation because each genre has its own "rules" or conventions. Recognizing a passage's genre informs how we should read it. For instance, language is often more literal in prose narratives and discursive texts, whereas figurative language is expected in apocalyptic literature. Genre clues provide guidance on whether to interpret language literally or figuratively, and whether to assume a chronological or thematic progression. Genre involves an implicit code, informing the reader on how to understand the passage appropriately.

- **What are some major literary genres found in the Bible, and how do they differ in their assumptions and interpretations?** Major genres include:
 - **Discursive:** Logical argumentation, often using literal language and thematic progression.
 - **Prose Narrative:** Story or historical account, usually with literal language and a chronological sequence.
 - **Poetry:** Characterized by parallelism (synonymous, antithetical, and synthetic) and often figurative language.
 - **Parable:** A story from everyday life that points to a spiritual truth. Its details have a spiritual counterpart that enhances the main point, rather than distracting from it.
 - **Apocalyptic:** Typically uses symbolic, figurative language to describe divine actions and often moves topically rather than chronologically.
 - **Dramatic Prose:** Presents events or ideas through personification and vivid description with the purpose to convey a cosmic reality.
- **How should parables be interpreted, and what are some historical perspectives on this?** Traditionally, allegorical interpretations where each detail of a parable had a spiritual counterpart were common, but the dominant view today is that each parable has one main point. The details do have spiritual counterparts but serve to support and develop that singular main idea.
- **Why does apocalyptic literature use symbolic and figurative language, and what is the appropriate way to interpret it?** Apocalyptic literature uses symbolic and figurative language to depict divine actions and the end times, often due to the movement's concern with hidden or marginalized expressions of God's actions. It is a genre that does not necessarily move chronologically but topically and with consistent figurative language. The language is primarily symbolic, and interpretation should focus on the consistent figurative meanings rather than chronological sequencing.
- **What resources are recommended for further study of biblical genres and literary forms?** Multi-volume Bible dictionaries are crucial resources, the Anchor Bible Dictionary, the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, and the New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible are suggested. These dictionaries contain detailed articles on different literary forms and their significance.