

Dr. David Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 13, Word Study, Context, Intertextual 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 13, Word Study, Context, Intertextual, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. David Bauer focuses on interpretation within inductive Bible study. He emphasizes the importance of deriving interpretive questions directly from textual observation to avoid eisegesis. Bauer then details various interpretive strategies, including word study using lexicons and concordances (like Blue Letter Bible), analysis of immediate, segment, and book contexts, and consideration of word usage within and outside the Bible (including the Septuagint). Further techniques involve examining scriptural allusions, parallel passages, literary forms, tone, authorial purpose, psychological factors, and grammatical inflections. The lecture stresses careful consideration of both continuity and discontinuity in applying these methods.

2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 13 – 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).



**Bauer_IBS_Session 1
3.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 13, Word Study, Context, Intertextual

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 - Interpretation, Word Study and Context

Overview: This lecture focuses on the crucial phase of interpretation in inductive Bible study, emphasizing that interpretation should directly address questions that arise from the text itself through careful observation. Dr. Bauer outlines a detailed methodology for answering these questions, focusing on word studies, context, and the use of intertextual allusions to the Old Testament. The lecture highlights the importance of moving beyond simple surface-level understanding and digging deeper into the original languages and historical-cultural contexts.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. The Importance of Questions Arising from Observation:

- Interpretation is the process of answering questions generated during the observation phase of inductive Bible study.
- "Those questions form the bridge really between observation and interpretation."
- Valid interpretation requires questions to come from the text itself, not from pre-conceived ideas (eisegesis).
- Deductive interpretation, which imposes questions on the text, leads to suspect answers.
- The interpretive agenda should match the communication agenda of the text.

1. Selecting Questions for Interpretation:

- Not all questions generated during observation are equally important, so selection is necessary.
- Selection criteria:
 - **Importance:** Which questions are most central to the passage's dynamics?
 - **Difficulty:** Where are the main challenges in understanding the text?
 - **Personal Interest:** Which questions are personally relevant even if not central.

- There is nothing wrong with choosing a question on the basis of personal interest.

1. **Preliminary Definition (Word Study):**

- When questions involve the meaning of a word, start with its basic definition.
- It's crucial to identify the original Greek word and its definition, not just the English translation.
- English translations can have "slippage" from the original language; multiple Greek words may be translated by the same English word and vice-versa.
- Resources like Greek Lexicons (e.g., Bower-Danker) and tools like Blue Letter Bible (using Thayer's lexicon) are vital.
- "It is not sufficient really to identify the definition of the English word that the translation has used because you want to get at the definition of the word that your author has employed..."
- Blue Letter Bible gives access to Thayer's lexicon and Strong's Numbers for Greek words.

1. **Evidence from Context:**

- Context encompasses all evidence within the same biblical book.
- Three levels of context:
- **Immediate Context:** Observations made about the passage itself in its immediate surrounding.
- **Segment Context:** Observations made about the larger section or segment in which a passage is found.
- **Book Context:** Observations made about the entire biblical book.
- Structure is vital, and one should ask, "What difference does structure make?"
- It's crucial to check for occurrences of the same Greek word elsewhere in the book, not just the same English word. "Does this word that I'm interpreting here...appear anywhere else in this book?"
- A Greek concordance is necessary for this type of study. Blue Letter Bible provides this function if the student doesn't know Greek.
- Contextual evidence is "always a relevant type of evidence".

1. **Word Usage:**

- Two types of word usage: in the Bible and outside the Bible. Focus is on biblical use.
- Use a concordance to locate all occurrences of the Greek word, not just the English word.
- Within biblical use, two levels:
- **Corpus Usage:** If the author wrote other books, study how they used the word across those books.
- **Testament Usage:** Study how the word is used in the rest of the New Testament, particularly if the author only wrote one book in the canon.
- Critical Conversation is essential. Don't simply "dump" all possible meanings from other passages into the current text.
- Beware of "illegitimate totality transfer" - James Barr.
- The goal is to discern continuity (similar use) or discontinuity (different use) with how the word is employed in your passage.
- "You have to ask yourself whether that word in the other passage seems to be used in essential continuity with the way the word is employed in your passage...". Differences can also be helpful in clarifying what is going on in your passage.
- If one knows Greek or has access to a Bible program that searches the Septuagint (Old Greek), then study how the word is used in that version. The Septuagint was "really their Bible" for the New Testament writers and influenced their vocabulary.

1. **Scriptural Testimony:**

- All evidence of whatever kind outside of the biblical book. This is in contrast to contextual evidence, which is found within the book.
- Three Types:
- **Conceptual:** Identify other passages discussing the same concept or theme, even without the same words. Resources like Topical Concordances (e.g., Kolenberger) are useful.

- **Scriptural Allusion or Quotation:** Examine passages directly quoted or alluded to by the author. Note points of continuity and discontinuity, or how the author is using or altering the allusion/quotation in order to make his point.
- Examples include Paul's allusion to Genesis 1-3 in Romans 5 and Peter's use of Genesis 19 in 2 Peter 2 and Peter's use of Joel 2 in Acts 2.
- **Parallel Passages:** Compare parallel accounts of the same event or teaching. This is especially relevant for interpreting Gospel passages, but it can be used for Old Testament historical texts as well (i.e., Samuel and Chronicles). Again, note the continuity and the discontinuity. "Are there elements here in the parallel account that you have reason to believe that the author of your passage assumed that his original readers would know?"
- Example include the parallel accounts of the sending of the twelve in Matthew and Luke.

1. **Literary Form/Genre:**

- Understanding the literary genre is crucial for correct interpretation.
- Allegorizing prose narrative, for example, is a violation of genre.

1. **Tone or Atmosphere:**

- The tone of the passage should be reflected in the interpretation and preaching/teaching.
- Tone can affect meaning, especially with sarcasm, when words mean the opposite of their definitions.
- Example includes Paul's sarcastic tone in 1 Corinthians 4:8.

1. **Author's Purpose and Viewpoint:**

- Consider the author's purpose in writing and their point of view relative to characters they include in the book.
- Determine if the author agrees or disagrees with the views of characters.
- Example includes how Luke uses Peter's quotation of Joel in Acts 2.

1. **Psychological Factor:**

- Consider the psychological state of mind of both the author and any characters in the book, if the text indicates an interest in such.

- Example includes the mental state of the author in Lamentations. Another is Elijah after the success on Mount Carmel.
- Beware of the "psychological fallacy" and of importing modern psychological theories that would not have been relevant to the biblical author.

1. Inflections:

- Study the changes in the form of a word that point to its grammatical meaning and significance.
- Example includes the plural "those who sought the child's life" in Matthew 2:20, which alludes to Exodus 4:19.

Key Quotes:

- "Those questions form the bridge really between observation and interpretation."
- "It is not sufficient really to identify the definition of the English word that the translation has used because you want to get at the definition of the word that your author has employed..."
- "Does this word that I'm interpreting here...appear anywhere else in this book?"
- "You have to ask yourself whether that word in the other passage seems to be used in essential continuity with the way the word is employed in your passage..."
- "Are there elements here in the parallel account that you have reason to believe that the author of your passage assumed that his original readers would know?"

Implications for Bible Study: Dr. Bauer's lecture emphasizes a rigorous, thoughtful, and contextual approach to Bible interpretation. He stresses that the focus should be on the text itself, with attention to original languages, historical context, and literary details. By following his methodology, students of the Bible can move beyond subjective readings toward a more accurate understanding of the inspired text.

This document should give you a good overview of the main points of Dr. Bauer's lecture. Let me know if you have any other questions.

4. Study Guide: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 13, Word Study, Context, Intertextual

Inductive Bible Study: Interpretation, Word Study, and Context

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences based on the provided lecture material.

1. What is the crucial link between observation and interpretation in inductive Bible study, and why is it important?
2. According to the lecture, how can personal interest legitimately influence the selection of questions for interpretation?
3. Why is it important to identify the definition of a Greek word, even if you are using an English translation?
4. Explain the three levels of context that should be considered when interpreting a biblical text.
5. How can the structure of a biblical text, as identified during the observation phase, inform its interpretation?
6. What is the significance of using a Greek concordance rather than an English concordance for word studies?
7. Explain the concept of "illegitimate totality transfer" as described in the lecture, and why is it problematic?
8. How can understanding how a word is used in the Septuagint (Old Greek) inform New Testament interpretation?
9. What are the three types of scriptural testimony, and how can each of them be helpful during interpretation?
10. How can recognizing the tone or atmosphere of a passage affect its interpretation?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The questions generated during the observation phase form the bridge between observation and interpretation. This ensures that the interpretive agenda corresponds to the communication agenda of the text and prevents eisegesis.

2. While not central to the text's dynamics, personal interest in a question is a legitimate basis for selection. It allows for individual engagement with the text, provided it doesn't overshadow more important questions.
3. The original author used Greek words, and there can be a slippage between the Greek and English translations. Identifying the Greek definition helps uncover the author's intended meaning.
4. The three levels of context are: immediate context (the passage itself), segment context (the larger section of the book), and book context (the book as a whole). Each provides increasingly broader evidence to inform interpretation.
5. Literary structure can reveal the relationships between parts of the text, offering essential evidence for understanding individual verses within their place in the overall structure of the segment.
6. Greek concordances show the precise Greek word used by the original author, while English concordances can use a variety of Greek words to translate a single English word and vice versa. This makes accurate word usage studies difficult.
7. "Illegitimate totality transfer" is the practice of uncritically importing the meaning of a word from one passage into another without considering the author's specific context. It assumes that all uses of a word carry the same implications, which may not be the case.
8. The Septuagint was the translation used by most New Testament writers, so their theological vocabulary was influenced by it. Understanding Septuagint usage provides insights into the author's frame of reference.
9. The three types of scriptural testimony are conceptual, allusion/quotation, and parallel passages. Conceptual refers to finding similar ideas elsewhere in Scripture; allusion/quotation looks at the author's use of a reference, and parallel passages compare similar accounts.
10. The tone of a passage affects how the content should be understood. For example, sarcasm often means the words have a meaning opposite of their definition, and the tone can influence a reader's engagement.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question thoroughly, drawing on the ideas and techniques explained in the lecture.

1. Discuss the relationship between the observation and interpretation phases of inductive Bible study. How does careful observation pave the way for responsible interpretation?
2. Describe the process of word study. What tools should be used and why? How does studying the usage of a word in its biblical context deepen understanding?
3. Explain the importance of context in biblical interpretation. What are the different types of context, and how should they inform our understanding of a passage?
4. Compare and contrast scriptural testimony and word usage. How does each contribute to the interpretive process, and what are the dangers to avoid?
5. Select a passage of scripture and apply all of the various types of evidence explained in the lecture to illustrate the way to a valid and comprehensive interpretation.

Glossary of Key Terms

Eisegesis: The process of reading one's own ideas or beliefs into a text, rather than drawing meaning from the text itself.

Exegesis: The process of interpreting a text by drawing out its meaning based on its context, grammar, and historical background.

Preliminary Definition: The basic definition of a word, usually obtained from a lexicon or dictionary, before considering its usage in context.

Immediate Context: The verses and passages directly surrounding the passage being studied.

Segment Context: The broader section or unit of a biblical book in which the passage being studied is situated.

Book Context: The entirety of the biblical book in which the passage being studied is found.

Concordance: An index of words in the Bible that lists where each word appears, often in the original language (Greek/Hebrew).

Corpus: A collection of writings by a single author (e.g., the Pauline epistles).

Illegitimate Totality Transfer: The practice of uncritically imposing the entire range of meanings of a word in one passage on that word in another passage, neglecting context and authorial intent.

Septuagint (Old Greek): The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament used by many of the New Testament writers.

Scriptural Testimony: Evidence found outside of the biblical book being studied to assist in its interpretation. This includes conceptual similarities, allusions/quotations and parallel passages.

Scriptural Allusion: An indirect reference to another passage of scripture.

Scriptural Quotation: A direct use of a passage of scripture in another passage.

Parallel Passages: Passages in the Bible that cover similar events or themes.

Literary Form: The genre or type of literature a text is (e.g., narrative, poetry, prophecy).

Psychological Factor: The emotional state or mindset of the author or characters in a passage, which can influence the meaning or interpretation.

Psychological Fallacy (Psychologizing): The inappropriate and unwarranted use of modern psychological categories or theories in the interpretation of a text.

Inflections: Changes in the form of a word that indicate its grammatical meaning or function (e.g., singular vs. plural).

Atmosphere (Tone): The overall mood or feeling conveyed by a text.

Author's Purpose & Point of View: The author's intention in writing a text and the perspective from which the author is writing.

5. FAQs on Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 13, Word Study, Context, Intertextual, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Inductive Bible Study and Interpretation

- **What is the primary goal of interpretation in inductive Bible study, and how does it differ from eisegesis?**
- The primary goal of interpretation in inductive Bible study is to answer questions that arise directly from the text itself, ensuring that the interpretive agenda aligns with the communication agenda of the text. This contrasts with eisegesis, which involves imposing questions or ideas onto the text that do not stem from it. In other words, interpretation seeks to understand what the text is trying to say on its own terms, whereas eisegesis risks distorting the text by imposing external ideas.
- **How should one select questions to focus on during the interpretive phase?**
- When choosing which questions to answer, priority should be given to those generated from the observation phase. Focus on questions that seem most important to understanding the passage, those that present the most difficulty, or questions that hold particular personal interest, even if they are not central to the text's core dynamics. Prioritizing questions this way ensures that interpretation remains grounded in what the text itself presents, while also allowing for personal relevance.
- **What is the role of preliminary definition in interpreting words, and how can one access it without knowing Greek?** Preliminary definition involves consulting original language lexicons (like Bower-Danker or Thayer's) to determine the basic meaning of the word used by the original author (e.g., Greek in the New Testament). Even without knowing Greek, resources like Blue Letter Bible can be used. By entering the verse and then clicking on Strong's number for a particular word, you can access Thayer's lexicon and obtain the basic definition. This step helps avoid the 'slippage' that can occur from simply using an English word because English translations may not be a one-to-one correlation with the original Greek.

- **How does context play a role in interpretation, and what are its three levels?**
- Context is crucial in interpretation as it encompasses all evidence within a biblical book. There are three levels of context: the immediate context (the passage itself), the segment context (the broader section of the book), and the book as a whole. By exploring the immediate context, the larger segment where the passage sits, and the whole book, one can find clues, patterns, and recurring themes. Observations made at all of these levels may be relevant in answering a specific question raised by a passage. Furthermore, it is important to consider how word usage in other places within the book affects its use in the passage at hand.
- **What are the different aspects of word usage that should be considered during interpretation?**
- Word usage encompasses how a word is used within the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, and potentially in the Old Testament if using the Septuagint (or Old Greek) is beneficial. First, one should examine the use of the word within the corpus of books by the same author and then within the rest of the New Testament. It is critical to engage in conversation between uses of the same word, and whether the word is used similarly in another passage or if there is discontinuity to be explored, rather than simply transferring the whole meaning. If one has access to a Bible software program it can be helpful to explore the word usage of the Old Greek.
- **What is scriptural testimony, and what are its three primary forms?**
- Scriptural testimony involves examining evidence outside the immediate context of the biblical book, including other places where a similar concept is discussed, whether a passage is quoted or alluded to from other passages, and parallel passages (particularly in the Gospels). The three forms are:
 - **Conceptual:** Looking for places in the Bible where the same concept is discussed, even if the specific word being studied isn't used. Topical concordances can help with this process.
 - **Allusion/Quotation:** Recognizing when an author is referring to or quoting another biblical text and considering how this relationship impacts the interpretation of the passage in question.
 - **Parallel Passages:** Comparing accounts of the same event or teaching, especially when interpreting the Gospels, noting points of continuity and discontinuity.

- **How does literary form (genre) affect interpretation, and why is it important to consider?**
- Literary form or genre has a significant effect on how the passage should be interpreted. Understanding the literary type, whether it be narrative, poetry, epistle, etc., is important as it shapes how the message will be communicated. For example, allegorizing a historical narrative would be a violation of genre. The literary form dictates the kind of interpretation appropriate to the passage.
- **Besides literary form, what other types of evidence should be considered when interpreting a passage of scripture?** Other types of evidence are: the tone of the passage and how it impacts the interpretation, such as in sarcastic passages where words can mean the opposite of their definition; the author's purpose and their viewpoint and how that may relate to a character or other voices within the book, and why the author might include these different viewpoints; psychological factors of the author or characters in a text and how this influences meaning; and inflections in language which point to the grammatical meaning and significance. Examining all of these aspects help to ensure a richer and fuller interpretation of a passage.