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Laws of Biblical Study.

Understanding Scripture from a Biblical Hebrew perspective requires studying through the lens of ancient culture, language, and context. Below are key principles, their references in Scripture, and examples of their application.

1. Peshat (Literal or Plain Meaning)

- **Definition:** Understanding the straightforward, literal meaning of the text

- **Biblical Reference:**

- Nehemiah 8:8: *“They read from the Book of the Law of Yah, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.”*

This shows the importance of the plain meaning as the foundation for understanding.

- **Examples of Use:**

1. **Creation:** Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning, Yah created the heavens and the earth.”*

The plain meaning is Yah’s act of creation.

2. **The Ten Commandments:** Exodus 20:13: *“You shall not murder.”*

The command is straightforward and requires no hidden interpretation.

2. Remez (Hint or Allegorical Meaning)

- **Definition:** Discovering deeper or symbolic truths hinted at in the text.

- **Biblical Reference:**

- Psalm 78:2: *“I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old.”*

This highlights the intentional use of hints and symbols to convey spiritual truths.

- **Examples of Use:**

1. **The Bronze Serpent:** Numbers 21:9: *“So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole.”*

Yahshua explained this as a foreshadowing of His crucifixion: *“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up”* (John 3:14).

2. **Manna from Heaven:** Exodus 16:15 describes manna as bread from Yah. Yahshua later revealed its symbolic meaning: *“I am the bread of life”* (John 6:35).

3. Derash (Comparative or Midrashic Meaning)

- **Definition:** Exploring meanings by comparing and harmonizing Scriptures.

- **Biblical Reference:**

- Hosea 12:10: *“I have spoken through the prophets and multiplied visions; I have given parables through the prophets.”*

This encourages using Scripture to interpret Scripture.

- **Examples of Use:**

1. **Out of Egypt:** Matthew 2:15 quotes Hosea 11:1: *“Out of Egypt I called My son.”*

Hosea Originally refers to Israel, but Matthew applies it to Yahshua, showing a deeper fulfillment.

2. **The Suffering Servant:** Isaiah 53:7: *“He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.”* This is linked to John 1:29: *“Behold, the Lamb of Yah, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

4. Sod (Mystical or Secret Meaning)

- **Definition:** Uncovering the hidden or mystical significance of words and events.

- **Biblical Reference:**

- Proverbs 25:2: *“It is the glory of Yah to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.”*

Yah conceals deeper truths for seekers to uncover.

- **Examples of Use:**
 1. **Melchizedek:** Genesis 14:18 introduces Melchizedek as a king and priest, but his mystical role is revealed in Hebrews 7:3, identifying him as a type of Yahshua.
 2. **The Binding of Isaac:** Genesis 22 describes Isaac's near sacrifice, a prophetic foreshadowing of Yahshua's ultimate sacrifice. The ram caught in the thicket represents substitutionary atonement.

5. Contextual Analysis (Setting and Audience)

- **Definition:** Considering the historical, cultural, and situational context of the text.
- **Biblical Reference:**
 - Deuteronomy 31:12: *"Assemble the people—men, women, and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear Yah."*

The audience and cultural setting help clarify Yah's commands.

- **Examples of Use:**
 1. **The Good Samaritan:** Luke 10:30-37 gains depth when understood in the context of the cultural hostility between Samaritans and Jews.
 2. **The Shema:** Deuteronomy 6:4: *"Hear, O Israel: Yah our Elohim, Yah is one."*

The Shema is central to the Israelite understanding of monotheism in a polytheistic world.

6. Hebrew Language Nuances

- **Definition:** Exploring the deeper meanings of Hebrew words and phrases.
- **Biblical Reference:**
 - Psalm 119:130: *"The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."*

Hebrew's layered meanings reveal Yah's depth in Scripture.

- **Examples of Use:**
 1. **Shalom:** Commonly translated as "peace," it also means completeness or wholeness (Isaiah 26:3).

2. **Ruach:** The Hebrew word for “spirit” also means “wind” or “breath,” enriching texts like Genesis 1:2: *“The Ruach of Yah was hovering over the waters.”*

7. PaRDeS: Layered Approach

- **Definition:** Combining Peshat, Remez, Derash, and Sod for a comprehensive study of Scripture.
- **Biblical Reference:**
 - Luke 24:27: *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.”*

Yahshua used all layers of interpretation to reveal His role in Scripture.

- **Examples of Use:**
 1. **Passover:**
 - **Peshat:** A memorial of Yah delivering Israel from Egypt (Exodus 12).
 - **Remez:** Hints at Yahshua as the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).
 - **Derash:** Links to Yahshua’s Last Supper.
 - **Sod:** Points to eternal redemption.
 2. **The Tabernacle:** Exodus 25-40 outlines its construction, but Hebrews 9:24 reveals it as a shadow of heavenly realities.

Tips for Hebraic Biblical Study

Let's explore the principles and how to apply them:

1. Context Matters

Understanding a passage in its context is essential to avoid misinterpretation.

How to Study Context:

- **Immediate Context:** Read the verses before and after. Ask: What is happening? Who is speaking? To whom? Why?
- **Historical Context:** Consider the time, place, and audience. Use the Bible and historical resources to understand customs, geography, and political settings.
- **Cultural Context:** Learn about Hebraic traditions or idioms. For example, “binding and loosing” (Matthew 16:19) refers to the authority to permit or forbid actions based on Torah.
- **Literary Context:** Identify the genre—law, prophecy, wisdom, narrative, epistle, or poetry. Each has unique interpretive rules.

Practical Example:

Jeremiah 29:11 (“For I know the plans I have for you...”) is often quoted for personal encouragement, but the context shows it was Yah’s message to Israel in exile.

2. Original Languages

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew. Studying this language will uncover deeper meanings.

Tools for Original Languages:

- **Strong's Concordance:** Links English words to Hebrew and Greek roots.
- **Interlinear Bibles:** Display the original language alongside English translations.
- **Lexicons (e.g., Brown-Driver-Briggs, Jeff A. Benner, Thayer's):** Provide definitions and nuances.
- **Online Tools:** Blue Letter Bible, Bible Hub, or apps like Logos Bible Software.

Example:

The Hebrew word for “peace” (*shalom*) in Isaiah 9:6 means more than absence of conflict—it implies wholeness, completeness, and harmony with Yah.

3. Scripture Interprets Scripture

The Bible is a unified work, and one part can clarify another.

How to Cross-Reference:

- Look for repeated themes, phrases, or concepts in other books.

- Use study Bibles with cross-reference notes to identify related passages.
- Consider the broader message of Scripture to harmonize difficult texts.

Example:

Hebrews 10:16-17 explains Jeremiah 31:33-34 about the New Covenant, showing that Yah's laws are written on believers' hearts.

4. Meditation and Repetition

Meditation allows the Word to transform your heart and mind.

How to Meditate:

- Choose a passage or verse.
- Reflect on its meaning and application throughout the day.
- Journal insights or prayers related to the text.

Techniques for Repetition:

- **Memorization Tools:** Use flashcards or apps like ScriptureTyper.
- **Daily Recitation:** Repeat a passage aloud during prayer or quiet time.

Example:

Meditate on Psalm 1:2-3, imagining yourself as a tree planted by streams of water, nourished by Yah's Word.

5. Testing Against Torah

Torah (Yah's instructions) is the foundation of Scripture. Interpretations must align with its principles.

Steps to Test Teachings:

1. Study Torah commandments and principles in their entirety (Genesis through Deuteronomy).
2. Compare any doctrine or teaching with Torah's moral, ceremonial, or civil guidelines.
3. Reject interpretations that contradict Yah's established instructions.

Example:

Mark 7:9-13 illustrates Yahshua rebuking traditions that nullify Torah, affirming its authority over man-made rules.

6. Practical Study Tools

Utilize resources to enhance understanding.

Essential Resources:

- **Concordances:** Locate where words or phrases appear in Scripture.

- **Study Bibles:** Provide notes on historical context, cultural insights, and cross-references.
- **Commentaries:** Consult Hebraic or Messianic commentaries for deeper insights.(be careful)
- **Bible Dictionaries:** Define key terms or concepts (e.g., altar, covenant).
- **Bible Study Software:** Logos, Accordance, or free apps like eSword.

Example Study Plan:

1. Start with a passage (e.g., Isaiah 53).
2. Use a concordance to find other references to “Servant.”
3. Read cross-referenced passages (e.g., Psalm 22, Matthew 27).
4. Study key words (e.g., “stripes” or “iniquities”) in Hebrew/Greek.
5. Pray and meditate on the implications for your life.

Putting It All Together

A structured approach might look like this:

1. **Pray for understanding and humility.**
2. **Read the passage multiple times in context.**
3. **Use tools to explore original words and cultural background.**
4. **Cross-reference related Scriptures.**
5. **Test interpretations against Torah’s foundation.**
6. **Meditate on the passage and journal insights.**
7. **Apply the lesson in your life and share with others.**

By applying these principles, we uncover the depth and richness of Yah's Word. Through Hebraic study, Yah's eternal truths are illuminated, inviting us into a deeper relationship with Him and His purposes.

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