

Observation



Observation

Discovering what
the passage says.



Observation

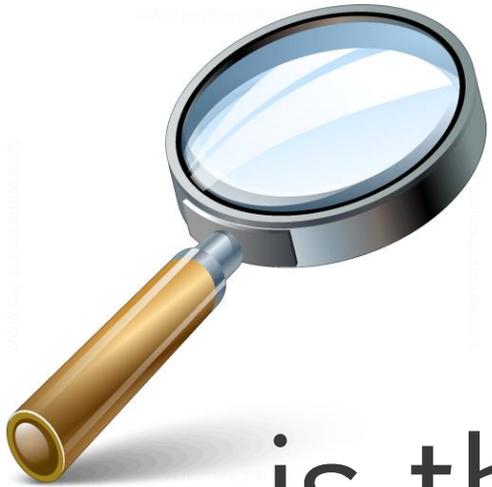


Observation
is the 1st stage in studying the
Bible. Observation is the
active process of trying to
discover content and
context

CONTENT

CONTEXT

Observation



Observing the context
is the discipline of discovering
the setting & surroundings
of what was said.

Context

First, discovering the overall context of a passage is where we try to *immerse* ourselves in the world and *situation* in which the passage was originally written.

Context

This process requires becoming familiar with the **setting** in which the text was written. We try to find out as much as possible about the 'who', 'when' and 'where' of the writing.

Context

Second, this process also requires becoming familiar with the surroundings in which the text was written. We try to find out as much as possible about what was happening in biblical and world history before-during-after this writing.

Context

Finally, discovering the context includes putting all the pieces of content & context together to paint a precise picture of what is being said and why.

Context

This includes understanding how each paragraph and chapter fits into the main theme/message of the book.

Steps for Discovering Content



STEPS

Step 1

Answer Context Discovery Questions



The first step
is to answer very
important context
discovery questions in
order to gain a basic
understanding of the
setting in which the
passage was written.



Context discovery questions;

Who said it? When was it said?

Who was it said to? Why was it said?

What was happening before it was said?

What happened after it was said?

Context discovery questions;

When did this event/writing take place?

Where was the writer located?

Where were the recipients located?

Why did this need to be written?

*What are major cultural considerations
we must make?*

Step 2

Outline the Book



The second step
is to outline the entire
book/passage...and
divide the book by
chapter and
paragraph
numerically.



The goal is to gain perspective of the **structure** and **flow** of the book and to understand how each chapter and paragraph plays its own important **role** in developing the overall message.

Chapter 1

Paragraph 1: Verses 1-6

Paragraph 2: Verses 7-11

Paragraph 3: Verses 12-21

Chapter 2

Paragraph 1: Verses 1-8

Paragraphs should be broken by thought pattern and theme, not necessarily by the translators numerical or prearranged breaks.

Step 3

Summarize the Book



The third step
is to summarize the
entire theme/point of
the book into 3-4
sentences
(a basic paragraph).



The goal is to write an initial
summary statement
for the entire book.

Summary of Ephesians:

Ephesians is Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus. Paul reminds the believers that they are now God's holy community, and they have gained this **great position** by His gift of grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul urges them that this holy community of believers should now **walk in accordance** with their heavenly position.

Step 4

Summarize each Chapter



The fourth step
is to summarize each
chapter within the
book in 1-3 sentences.



The goal is to write an initial
summary statement
for each chapter within the book.

The objective is to keep it simple and basic, by trying to encapsulate **the single major concept of** the book and subsequent chapters.

Chapter 1: Summary

Paragraph 1: Verses 1-6

Paragraph 2: Verses 7-11

Paragraph 3: Verses 12-21

Chapter 2: Summary

Paragraph 1: Verses 1-8

Chapter 3: Summary

Chapter 1 Summary

The believer has a incredible **position in Christ**. We have been adopted into the family of God, we have been chosen, forgiven and redeemed. We have been marked with a seal and given the Holy Spirit as a down payment of our inheritance.

Chapter 2 Summary

Paul reminds us of God's great love for us, that even when we were dead, Christ made us alive in Him. We have been raised and seated with Christ in heaven and all of this comes by His Grace that we receive through faith. Paul reminds us that Christ has made one Church out of those who had the covenant (Jews) and those who were hopeless and without God (Gentiles) and reconciled both to God through the work of the cross. Now we have access to the same Father and His Holy Spirit lives in us.

Step 5

Summarize each Paragraph



The fifth step
is to summarize each
paragraph within the
chapters in 1-2
sentences.



The goal is to write a brief
summary statement each
paragraph within each chapter.

Again, the objective is to keep it simple and basic, by focusing on **the single major concept of** the paragraph, especially as it relates to the major concepts in the chapter and book.

Chapter 1: Summary

Paragraph 1: Summary

Paragraph 2: Summary

Paragraph 3: Summary

Chapter 2: Summary

Paragraph 1: Summary

Paragraph 1:

God deserves incredible praise and honor for the grace that he poured on us through Christ.

Paragraph 2:

Through believing the Gospel, believers have been given an incredible position and inheritance, both which are guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1: The believer has a incredible position in Christ. We have been adopted into the family of God, we have been chosen, forgiven and redeemed. We have been marked with a seal and given the Holy Spirit as a down payment of our inheritance.

Paragraph 1: God deserves incredible praise and honor for the grace that he poured on us through Christ.

Paragraph 2: Through believing the Gospel, believers have been given an incredible position and inheritance, both which are guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.

Step 6

Identify Chapter Theme(s)



The sixth step
is to identify the main
theme of each chapter.



The goal is to narrow the focus even more, by **identifying the singular main thrust** of each chapter. It is important to remember the chapter summaries and the subjects within those chapters to identify the main theme...as well as the book summary.

Chapter themes should hold up, point to and support the book summary.

Chapter 1:

**The believer's great position
in Christ.**

Step 7

Identify Paragraph Theme(s)



The seventh step
is to identify the main
theme of each
paragraph.



Similarly, the goal is to narrow the focus even more, by identifying the singular main thrust of each paragraph. It is important to remember the chapter summary and the subjects within those chapters to identify the main theme of each paragraph.

Again, paragraph themes should hold up, point to and support the specific chapter summary.

Paragraph 1: Summary

God deserves incredible praise and honor for the grace that he poured on us through Christ.

Paragraph 1: Theme
**The glory due God because
of his grace.**

Paragraph 2: Summary

Through believing the Gospel, believers have been given an incredible position and inheritance, both which are guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.

Paragraph 2: Theme

**The incredible position given
to believers.**

Paragraph 3: Theme
The incredible future
guaranteed to believers because
of God's grace.

Observation

Applying observation skills to Ephesians 4.

NEXT WEEK

