

The Old Time Gospel

The Good News Now

1

Rules of Interpretation

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1. **Every word** must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible. *Proof*, Matt. 5:18.
2. **All Scripture is necessary**, and may be understood by a diligent application and study. *Proof*, 2 Tim.3:15-17.
3. **Nothing revealed** in Scripture can or will be **hid** from those who ask in faith, not wavering. *Proof*, Deut.29:29; Matt.10:26,27; 1Cor.2:10; [p-49] Phil.3:15; Isa.45:11; Matt.21:22; John14:13,14; 15 :7; James 1:5,6; 1John5:13-15.
4. **To understand doctrine, bring, all the Scriptures together** on the subject you wish to know: then let every word have its proper influence; and, if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error. *Proof*, Isa.28:7-29; 35:8; Prov.19:27; Luke24:27,44,45; Rom.16:26; James5:19; 2Pet.1:19,20.
5. **Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself.** If I depend on a teacher to expound to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom, is my rule, and not the Bible. *Proof*, Ps.19:7-11; 119:97-105; Matt.23: 8-10; 1Cor.2:12-16; Eze.34:18,19; Luke11:52; Matt.2:7,8.
6. **God has revealed things to come**, by visions, in figures and parables; and in this way the same things are oftentimes revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must **combine them all in one.** *Proof*, Ps.89:19; Hos.12:10; Hab.2:2; Acts2:17; 1Cor.10:6; Heb.9:9,24; Ps.78:2; Matt.13:13,34; Gen.41:1-32; Dan.2nd, 7th & 8th; Acts10:9-16.
7. **Visions are always mentioned as such.** 2Cor.12:1.
8. **Figures always have a figurative meaning**, and are used much in prophecy to represent future things, times and events-such as mountains, meaning governments; Dan.2:35,44; beasts, meaning kingdoms; Dan.7:8,17; waters, meaning people; Rev.17:1,15; day, meaning year, &c. Eze.4:6.
9. **Parables** are use as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be **explained in the same way as figures**, by the subject and Bible. Mark 4:13.
10. **Figures** sometimes have two or more different signification, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time, namely, first, indefinite; Ecel.7:14; second, definite, a day for a year; Eze.4:6; and third, a day for a thousand years. 2Pet.3:8. The right construction will harmonize with the Bible, and make good sense; other constructions will not.
11. **If a word makes good sense** as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, it is **to be understood literally**; if not, figuratively. Rev.12:1,2; 17:3-7.
12. **To learn the meaning of a figure**, trace the word through your Bible, and when you find it explained, substitute the explanation for the word used; and, if it make good sense, you need not look further; if not, look again.
13. To know whether we have the **true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy**: If you find **every word** of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) **is literally fulfilled**, then you may know that your history is the true event; but if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development; for God takes care that history and prophecy shall agree, so that the true believing, children of God may never be ashamed. Ps.22:5; Isa.45:17-19; 1Pet.2:6; Rev.17:17; Acts3:18.
- 14 **The most important rule of all is, that you must have faith.** It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth, the world and all its desires - character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we ever believe so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts. We must believe that God will never forfeit his word; and we can have confidence that He who takes notice of the sparrow's fall, and numbers the hairs of our head, will guard the translation of his own word, and throw a barrier around it, and prevent those who sincerely trust in God, and put implicit confidence in his word, from erring far from the truth.