

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 1 (Session 1) LOCATING THE PROJECT: WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE INTERPRETING?	9
CHAPTER 2 (Session 2) DEFINING THE TASK: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ‘INTERPRET’, AND WHY DO IT?	21
CHAPTER 3 (Session 3) CLEARING THE WORK SITE: WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES THAT STAND IN THE WAY?	31
CHAPTER 4 (Sessions 4-5) IDENTIFYING THE WORKERS: WHO SHOULD SHOW UP FOR THIS PROJECT?	41
CHAPTER 5 (Sessions 6-7) OBEYING THE BUILDING CODE: HERMENEUTIC RULES	63
CHAPTER 6 (Sessions 8-9) SECURING THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN: A MODEL FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE	89
CHAPTER 7 (Session 10) READYING THE TOOLS: AN INTERPRETER’S WORKBENCH	117
CHAPTER 8 (Session 11) APPRENTICESHIP IN GENESIS 22:1-19	135
CHAPTER 9 (Session 12) APPRENTICESHIP IN PSALMS 117; LUKE 24:13-48; EPHESIANS 1:3-14	141

CHAPTER 10 (Session 13)	161
INDWELLING THE SCRIPTURES AND HONORING THE DIVINE HOST THE INTERPRETIVE LANDSCAPE AND THE NEIGHBORS NEXT DOOR	
APPENDIX A	172
RESOURCES AND WORKS CITED	
APPENDIX B	179
CLEARING THE WORK SITE: WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES THAT STAND IN THE WAY?	
APPENDIX C	183
TEXTUAL COMPETENCE AND THEOLOGICAL VIRTUE	
APPENDIX D	188
CREED AS CRITERION	
APPENDIX E	197
REFOCUSING HERMENEUTICS	
APPENDIX F	200
HERMENEUTIC RULES	
APPENDIX G	232
A SHORT GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF BIBLICAL WORDS	
APPENDIX H	235
A SHORT GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF SYNTAX	
APPENDIX I	238
“LITERAL” INTERPRETATION	
APPENDIX J	243
BIBLE VERSIONS	

PREFACE

ABOUT USING THIS BOOK AS CURRICULUM

Like volume 1, *Introduction to the Bible*, this book is designed to be read and studied as a stand-alone volume or used as a curriculum in any of a variety of settings and formats, including church and academic classrooms, Bible study groups, teacher and leader training, and campus ministries. As a curriculum, many decisions have been left intentionally for teachers and leaders to determine how best to prepare and to guide others through the material. Decisions will have to be made, for example, on whether the suggested number of sessions for the study (13 weeks) is feasible, whether or how the extended discussions in the ten appendices will be used, and whether this volume will serve solely as a teaching tool or will be studied by participants in the class or group setting as well. In the latter case, additional copies may be purchased by contacting The MIQRA Institute at the address below.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vernon J. Steiner has extensive experience in church and academy, as pastor, professor, lecturer, and author. His teaching specializations include both Old and New Testaments, biblical languages, and biblical theology. He has degrees in Bible, History, and Philosophy (B.A.; Grace University); Pastoral Ministry (M.Div.; Western Seminary); Biblical Literature (Th.M.; Western Seminary); and Exegetical Theology/Old Testament (Ph.D., Trinity International University). Vern has authored *Introduction to the Bible* (volume 1 in Reading Scripture, Hearing God), *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (coauthored with John Sailhamer), and more than 40 published articles at both general and technical levels. Vern and his wife Carol live in Lincoln, Nebraska, where they are members of Oak Lake Church. They have two grown children.

ABOUT THE MIQRA INSTITUTE

Taking its name from the Hebrew word *miqra* (pronounced mik-ra), ‘reading’ or ‘what is read’, namely, ‘scripture’, The MIQRA Institute exists to serve the Church by training and supporting especially its leaders in their high calling of handling the Scriptures in such a way that God’s voice is heard clearly and completely. To this end, the Institute provides a variety of biblical courses, seminars, conferences, and related resources, including a quarterly journal *MIQRA*, for those who aspire to or are engaged in biblical study and teaching ministries. These include present and prospective pastors and teachers, present and prospective seminary students, Christian educators, youth and children’s ministers, campus ministers, missionaries, and other servants of the Lord. The Institute also offers creditable courses, lectureships, student referral, and internships to seminaries, universities, and colleges.

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