

My Approach to Bible Study – Chuck Latham Ministries

Example: 2 Corinthians 1:20

The following outlines my approach to Bible study.

I take an exegesis approach (ek-suh-jee-suhs) – is critical interpretation of a text under Hermeneutics (hur-muh-noo-tiks)

Opposite an eisegesis (ahy-si-jee-sis) method – which expresses the interpreter’s own ideas, bias, rather than the meaning of the text.

One suggested approach is a six-stage model process:

1. Establish text – what version will you use
2. Literary context – what is the framework, i.e., narrative, poem, etc. Observe the text, look for themes and the text meaning
3. Historical context – what did this mean to the biblical audience, what was the cultural setting, location, politics, customs, etc.
4. Establish meaning – what did it mean to that audience, cross references, what do the commentaries say, compare with OT/NT, the author
5. Determine theological principles – timeless facts not tied to a specific situation or culture (feasts), matches rest of scripture, relevant to any audience...past and present
6. Application – what does this principle look like in our world to us? Determine original application. Find appropriate applications for today that implement those principles.

My approach is very similar but the sequence is different sometimes.

1. Establish text – I determine what scripture and then determine the version, usually KJV or NKJV and I’ll have my Hebrew Bible and/or a concordance close by for particular word references and translations.
2. Always pray first and then look at literary context. I’m asking a lot of questions here pertaining to the text and looking at each word/line for the meaning.
3. Ask more questions – after writing down notes on what the Spirit reveals, and look for the theological principles.
4. Historical context – determine what history and background for the scripture was and who it was intended for.
5. Application – I apply the “so what” principle to determine why this may be relevant for us today and how we can apply it to our lives.
6. I’ll develop an outline then I’ll research:
 - a. Establish meaning – what do some of my favorite commentaries say. I do this last to either confirm what I’ve already found and consider what I may have missed.
7. Test it against the Spirit and go to press.

Example: Let's try my approach on the following verse.

2 Corinthians 1:20

²⁰For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Next I ask Questions/Observations:

- What are the promises of God?
- If His promises are yes and amen – this means God keeps His promises.
- Keeping His promises brings Him glory.
- The promises are to us so when we stand on the promises, God gets glory by us and through our faith.

The start of this is understanding His promises.

- Over 8,000, 7,487 to man

Some of the Key promises include – forgiveness, mercy, everlasting life, power, new life, victory, peace, everlasting life, etc.

How has God kept His promises?

- History, Israel, the Feasts, Christ, Holy Spirit, your experience

Can we fall short of His promises? How?

- Not standing on the promises by not having faith,
- Not knowing what they are,
- Deception from enemy, world,
- Circumstances and trials cause us to forget.
- Fear and doubt.

How did heroes in the OT stand on the promises?

- Constantly reminded by God through their journey. Why? Because we forget.
 - Lack of patience, lack of faith

Why does God keep His promises?

- His nature,
- His plan for us,
- He receives glory from this,
- His great love for us.

How do we bring glory to God?

- Standing on the promises

- Our testimony of how He delivered us
- Demonstration of our faith while we wait and go through
- Telling others about the promises of God.

Application:

- Know the key promises and stand. Apply the promises to your life and make them your own.
- How? Receive Christ.
- Look for evidence along the way...understand the process and plan.
- Understand the spiritual principles – He will bless you on purpose...part of the plan.
- Understand how the devil tries to get you to move off this foundation....deceit while you wait; take matters into your own hands rather than trusting in Him.

Commentaries state:

History – Paul is going through problems. Defending his ministry and integrity against the accusations that he is fickle. Works to prove that his ministry is true based on the truth of God.

Cross references – refer to covenant discussion

Adam – curse, promise of a savior

Noah – Gen 9, preservation of humanity

Abraham – Gen 12, 15. Promised Land, descendants & blessing and inheritance extended to all believers

Moses – Ex 19. The Law with curses and blessings

David - 2 Samuel 7. Coming King from his line to rule.

New – Luke 22:14-23

Numbers 23:19

Key point: Can we imagine God the Father ever saying "no" to God the Son? God the Father will always say **Yes** to the Son and will always affirm what the Son says

So the verse is interpreted: ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Christ are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

- NIV - For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Matthew 16:13-19 – Why I save the commentaries for last. Jesus tells Peter he is blessed to receive the revelation from above. Jesus presents questions to his disciples and this draws the revelation out of Peter. Likewise, I like to ask questions as well.

