

E. New Testament Usage

Just about half of the Old Testament citations given in the New Testament are from the book of Psalms. It is important to see what the New Testament says about the Psalm or how it uses it. We think that Scripture interpreting Scripture is an ideal occurrence and helps at both ends of the message. Note how often Psalm 110:1 is cited in the New Testament. Note very interesting citations of Psalm 2 and Psalm 118. And in addition to the actual citations there are many allusions..John 10, for example, may well have allusionary concepts for psalm 23. Most reference Bibles will give you this material and I can offer further help on a general line. But it is a very important part of interpretation.

F. And general hermeneutical principles should be noticed:

1. Scripture is a unity
2. No doctrine is fully expounded until all relevant Scriptures have been consulted
3. Scripture agrees but must be taken to the same extent or confluence
4. No teaching is complete until moved into association with the total doctrinal program
5. The context must be considered as governing the immediate understanding of the passage. Observe both a "near" and "far" context.

and there are several more of these, worded in various ways by individual authors. The point of them all is to be accurate and consistent in your findings and final analysis.

G. Brief note on the character of language

Almost all varieties of language are found in the psalms. Literal language is descriptive of the sort of speech in which the term used actually describes the entity intended. Allegorical language is the sort of speech in which the term used metaphorically describes the entity given. Typical language is speech that uses the entity in a predictive sense of some future item or event. The figures of speech are prominent in all three. My feeling is that literal language is normative and that the others must be demonstrated in the context or by some statement.