

Of the many other speech or language devices...another course is due.

IX. Biographical and Historical Settings

- A. Study the lives as given--not so that we can live as they did or repeat their lives--but so that we can see how they were useful to God or detrimental to the testimony. The only perfect life in Scripture is that of the Lord Jesus. For both of these items consider Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10
- B. Study the historical sections to see lessons of fidelity and encouragement as well as challenge and direction. Try 2 Chronicles 20 but there are many of them and they all point to the dependence we owe to the Lord and the thankfulness that should be ours in the light of His Providence.

X. Conclusion

This has been a very hurried study and is mostly suggestive as to how we can understand the Bible. In conclusion of all the ideas together:

- Make sure you have a good study Bible and a simple text Bible. The latter for reading in narrative fashion...the former for getting the ideas and suggestions of editors and scholars. Never allow these to replace your own reading and study but take advantage of them.
- View understanding as a practical experience. One may not have the desired grip today but more light is always available. Continue to read, study, and pray.
- There are, in light of this, different levels of perception...they come with growth, experience, and learning.
- The Holy Spirit is the infallible teacher but the Spirit works with students of whom some are in kindergarten while others are in graduate school and some are in all levels in between. This, friends, is a bit of allegory and as one continues to study and submit to the Word, one grows in understanding and application.
- So remember that whatever you know, stay humble! Knowledge tends to puff up and that is disastrous. Whatever we have we have received and need to be thankful. Use your understanding, whatever it is, to edify others...never to abuse others or to feel superior. There is enough that none of us knows to keep us all humble and dependent.