

(4) Technical...the term describes the use of language with some special meaning given to a phrase which is limited to that meaning alone. This is confusing and a good example is the term "day of the Lord" in the Old Testament and the observation that this is a technical term to indicate a time of God's wrath or judging of some aspect. The world, a nation, or a group of people may be involved. Therefore, all the "day of the Lord" references do not refer to the same time but to a common event: a time of judgment (wrath). The term never seems to carry any other sort of meaning although it would appear in Amos that the common people had not learned to understand this and thought of it otherwise. The prophet makes it plain that such will not be the case.

There is not a lot of technical language in the Bible but there is some and it is often the turning point in the particular application of a passage.

The whole matter of language is much more significant in the prophetic literature for we are interpreting and applying. We do very little of the two together in the historical books and as the nature of the communication is somewhat different, so the means of determination differs. As I have noted at various times, this is a battleground today in terms of understanding the Biblical message.

b. Perspective: the view of fulfillment and events that will come to pass.

Perspective refers to the arrangement of material in or from the view of the initiator. It is the way in which a prophet has constructed his material to emphasize what message is pressing or most important to him. In so doing he may not follow a chronological scheme but may rearrange matters to harmonize with his overall view. Out of this discussion grows the expressions that take up the "mountain peaks" of prophecy, etc. What it is important to know is that the arrangement of material in a prophecy has only the burden of the prophetic message in mind and does not necessarily look to any other scheme or arrangement.

An illustration may be had in the prophecies of the Messianic King: Isaiah 9:6-7. Failure to observe the perspective element may lead one to allegorize what is not necessarily allegorical.