



**THE SCIENCE AND
ART OF
INTERPRETATION**

**GRAMMATICAL-
HISTORICAL-
CONTEXTUAL
METHOD**

or

“Literal Method”

METAPHORICAL

Interpret according to
appropriate metaphorical
conventions



FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions
4. Omissions



OMMISSION

❖ Ellipsis - omissions

❖ Rhetorical Questions - not needed



FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions
4. Omissions
5. Overstatement



OVERSTATEMENT

A photograph of a university campus plaza. In the foreground, there are concrete steps and a small table with chairs. The middle ground shows a paved plaza with several people walking. The background is filled with lush green trees under a clear blue sky. A building is visible on the right side.

❖ Hyperbole - exaggeration

❖ Irony - different

FIGURES - Kinds

1. Symbols
2. Comparisons
3. Substitutions
4. Omissions
5. Overstatement
6. Inconsistency



INCONSISTENCY

❖ Paradox - seeming contradiction

❖ Oxymoron - opposites combined



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

4. Cultural

2. Contextual

5. Metaphorical

3. Historical

6. Literary

LITERARY

**Take literary form into
consideration in
interpretation**



LITERARY FORM



1. Discourse

2. Narrative

3. Poetry

4. Prophetic

5. Parabolic

6. Other

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

A scenic view of a park pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The water is dark green, and the fountain is spraying water upwards. The pond is bordered by a concrete curb in the foreground, and there is a grassy area in the background.

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Clarity

LOGICAL

**Utilize basic principles of
logic & communication**

SUPERNATURAL

**Interpret Scripture as a
divine book**

CLARITY

Scripture was intended to
be understood

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

A scenic view of a park pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The fountain is in the foreground, spraying water upwards. The pond is in the middle ground, reflecting the sky and trees. The background is filled with dense green foliage under a bright blue sky.

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Clarity

10. Progress

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

God has revealed His mind
over time

UNITY

**Use Scripture to interpret
Scripture**

ANALOGY

**No interpretation of a
passage can contradict
the rest of Scripture**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

A scenic view of a park pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The fountain is in the foreground, spraying water upwards. The pond is in the middle ground, reflecting the sky and trees. The background is filled with dense green foliage under a bright blue sky.

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Clarity

10. Progress

11. Unity

12. Analogy

13. Didactic

DIDACTIC

**Interpret obscure passages
in light of clear passages**



FINITE

**Interpret aware of mystery
in Scripture**

CHRISTOLOGICAL

**Interpret with Christ as
central to All Scripture**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

A scenic view of a park pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The fountain is in the center-left, spraying water upwards. The pond is in the foreground, and the trees are in the background. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Clarity

10. Progress

11. Unity

12. Analogy

13. Didactic

14. Finite

15. Christological