

### QUESTIONS

- 1) How should one properly interpret the “then and there” of the biblical texts?
- 2) What is one of the most important aspects of the human side of the Bible?
- 3) What matters play a role in seeking to learn about the historical context behind a passage?
- 4) What is the crucial task of exegesis?
- 5) What is textual criticism?

### ANSWERS

- 1) One must not only know some general rules that apply to all the words of the Bible, but one also needs to learn the special rules that apply to each genre.
- 2) In order to communicate his word to all human conditions, God chose to use almost every available kind of communication.
- 3) The matters that play a role in historical context include the time and culture of the author and audience as well as the historical occasion.
- 4) The crucial task of exegesis is discovering the meaning of a scripture in its proper context.
- 5) Textual criticism is the science that attempts to discover the original texts of ancient documents.

### TERMS

Eternal Relevance: Scripture’s ability to speak to all humankind, in every age and in every culture

Historical Particularity: Each document is conditioned by the language, time, and culture in which it was originally written (and in some cases also by the oral history it had before it was written down).

Exegesis: This involves the careful, systematic study of the Scripture to discover the original, intended meaning.

### SUMMARY

In this reading, the authors emphasized the relationship between exegesis and hermeneutics when it comes to rightly understanding a text. As they write, the exegesis has to do with the “there and then”, as hermeneutics have to do with the “here and now”. For many contemporary exegetes, finding a good translation is helpful in accomplishing this. English speaking persons who do not know the original languages must be aware that they are translating from either Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek.