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QUESTIONS

1. In what languages were the revelation of God in scripture originally written in?
2. As the chapter outlines, what was the alternative explanation of what culture is?
3. How should modern readers understand that the Word of God comes to us?
4. Why might we experience problems in trying to directly apply certain passages to our day?
5. When does contextualization become the servant of its handler?

ANSWERS

1. The revelation of God in Scripture was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek by writers who represented a variety of cultures that differed.
2. Culture is all learned behavior which is socially acquired.
3. The Word of God comes to us in the specific cultural and historical language of the pre-Christian century.
4. We may experience problems in trying to apply certain passages to our day because the values, associations, and meanings that they may have had in another era will not transfer easily into those of our own day.
5. Contextualization becomes the servant of its handler when the concerns of the contemporary interpreter supersede those of the text in such a way that the text is used merely as a springboard for issuing what moderns wish to say.

TERMS

Culture- The patterned way people do things together.

Contextualization- The translation of the unchanging content of the gospel of the kingdom into the verbal forms meaningful to the peoples in their separate cultures and within their particular existential situations.

Ethnohermeneutics- A cross-discipline that would wed the disciplines of hermeneutics and anthropology.

SUMMARY

The authors summarize this chapter in three horizons: that of the bible, that of the interpreter, and that of the receptor. It's important to understand that the bible was written in certain specific cultural contexts. For contemporary readers and interpreters, it's important to be aware that we too have a specific cultural background as well. It's important to always understand that our current culture ought not be in conflict with the culture from which the scriptures were written.