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Chapter 11

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**Questions:**

1. How must specific sections in the New Testament be read?
2. How might we read an epistle to understand and grasp the full context?
3. What is a good criterion for assessing the validity and value of a theory?
4. What are some ways in which scholars approach interpreting the Bible theologically?
5. What percentage of the Bible deals with predictions of the future?

**Answer:**

1. These letters must be read in context
2. We should read the whole epistle straight through several times, perhaps with different English translations, until we become quite familiar with its contents, the concerns and apparent purposes of the author and the way the argument is developed.
3. Could the interpretation of a particular passage be supported even if we did not have the theory?
4. For some, it seems to be an exercise in discovering “contradictions” among the biblical authors (e.g., Paul vs. James) or even between two writings by the same author (e.g., Romans vs. Galatians)
5. 27% of the Bible deals with predictions about the future

**Terms:**

1. Occasional Writings: What scholars emphasize that Paul for example wrote his letters to meet specific historical needs.
2. Exordium: introduction of the facts
3. Inaugurated eschatology: A complex single sense in which the “now” and the “not-yet”

**Summary:**

This chapter outlines how we are to look at the full context of letters written in the Bible to understand and comprehend their full meaning. If we ‘read between the lines’ we can understand the historical context of the letter being written to grasp the deeper and broader meaning. It ends with saying however, that although they put emphasis on Epistles being historical documents, it does not take away that they are God-ordained and God-breathed.