

Basic Principles to Apply in Order to Understand the Bible

- **Look for key words and clauses**
 - Purpose (Aim)
 - Result (Consequences)
 - Causal (Reason)
 - Conditional (If...then)
 - Comparative (Comparison)
 - Explanatory

Examples of Key Words that Introduce Key Clauses

And
As
Because
But
For
How
If
If...then
In
In order
In order that
In the same way
Now
Since
Since then
So
So that
That
Then
Therefore
When
Whenever

- **Determine the Tense of the verbs**
 - Past, Present, Future
- **Understand every word in its context**
 - Consider the Immediate context:
 - Verse, Paragraph, Chapter
 - Consider Remote context
 - Chapter, Book, Books

Important! Always compare Scripture with Scripture in order to allow the Scriptures to interpret themselves.

- **When reading the Bible be sure to note the "Type" or "Form" of revelation God is using to communicate His truth.**
 - Narrative
 - Gospels/Life of Christ
 - Doctrine
 - Parables
 - Poetry
 - Prophecy
 - **Then interpret each "Type" according to the Biblical pattern of interpretation**
- **Apply the Biblical truth (command or principle) from the Biblical situation to your own life.**

(Dt. 29:29; John 20:30,31; I Cor. 10:6; II Tim. 3:16,17)