



Verse Analysis

Perhaps the basic and most helpful method of Bible study is the Verse Analysis Study. The Verse Analysis Study serves as a foundation for other inductive studies, which we will be doing. This method of study helps a student fully comprehend a verse within its immediate context.

Work through the elements of verse study in the following order. Following this plan will give organization and direction to your study and help you to discover the unfathomable riches of God's Word.

- I What is the thought preceding the verse? (Try to capture the main idea in a single paragraph. Indicate the references, which you feel incorporate this thought.)
- II What is the thought following the verse? (Follow the same pattern as in I.)
- III Look up key words in the verse in a standard dictionary and list key definitions that illuminate the meaning of the verse. Definitions drawn from a Bible dictionary may also be very useful.
- IV Consider the pertinent statements of fact in the verse.

The following areas of observation are suggested to help guide your analysis:

1. The six W's
 - a. Who
 - b. Where
 - c. What
 - d. Why
 - e. When
 - f. Wherefore
2. Other general helps
 - a. Note verbs used
 - b. Note adjectives, adverbs...
 - c. Does the word order have any special significance
 - d. Are there significant contrasts, comparisons, or repetitions in ideas, phrases, or people?
 - e. If people are mentioned what do you know about them that helps your understanding?

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- V Select cross references that:
1. Answer questions.
 2. Illustrate.
 3. Clarify or expand the thought.
 4. Possibly contradict.
- VI Outline or diagram the verse (if possible) and explain the thought of the verse. Draw upon your context (thoughts before and after), definitions, observations, and cross-references to fully expound the meaning of the verse.
- VII Create your own paraphrase of the verse. (A paraphrase is a free rendering-of the sense of the passage. Try to avoid excessive amplifying of the passage. Check to be sure that your paraphrase has not altered the meaning of the verse.)
- VIII Make a written application of the verse to your own life.

The following questions and suggestions are listed to assist you in making your application practical.

1. What is the truth of the verse? (Review VI.)
2. How does this truth relate to me?
 - a. What is already a part of my thinking?
 - b. What is new to me?
 - c. What requires a change of thought?
 - d. What is already a part of my action?
 - e. What can be immediately applied to my behavior?
 - f. What am I doing that is wrong?
 - g. What Action must I take now?
 - h. What will I need from this that will help me in the future?
3. When deciding upon a course of action:
 - a. Keep it simple.
 - b. Make it practical.
 - c. Set a time limit.
 - d. Plan a check-up and reward.

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Application Format

Area:

Specific:

Objective:

Verse:

Plan

I Materials

 Date

II When/Preparation

 Date

III Another Person

 Date

IV When/Actual

 Date

Evaluation

Date