

Learning How to Read

Contra Costa Gospel Church
Adult Sunday School

Two Contexts

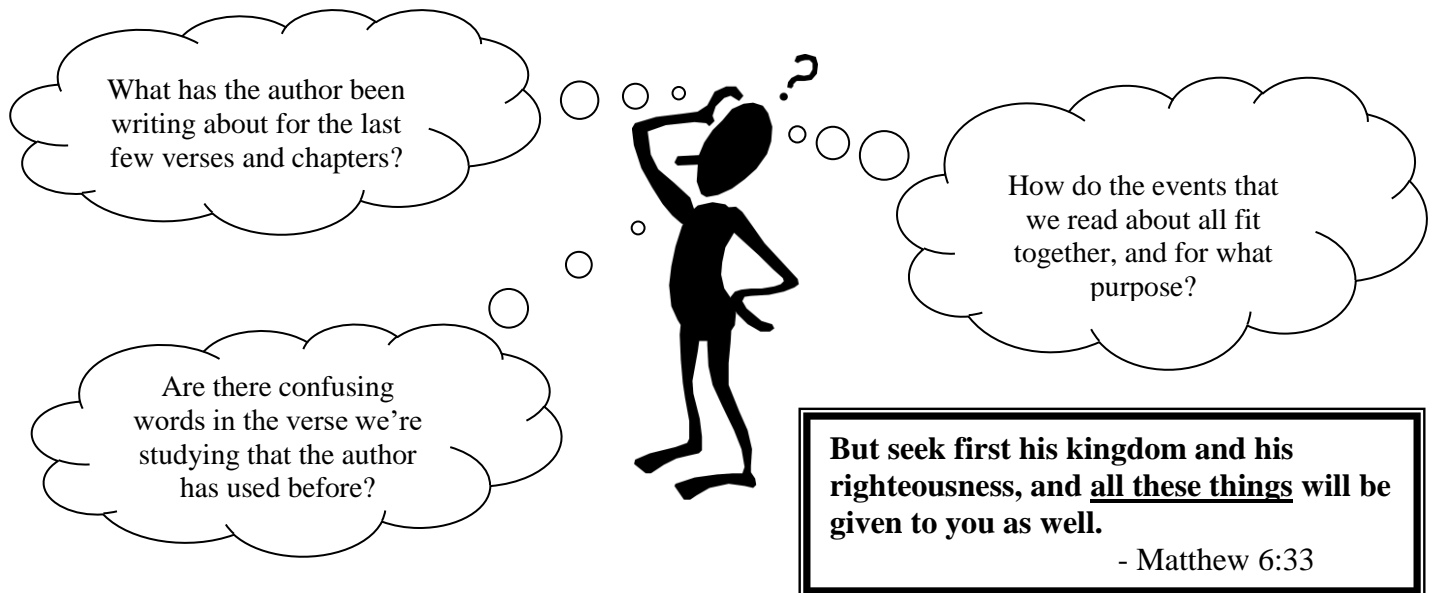
We look again at the first two major principles of Bible interpretation.

- 1) Synthesize the whole before you analyze the parts.
- 2) Don't analyze the event in isolation. The event always has its place in the larger narrative.

To this we add a third major principle:

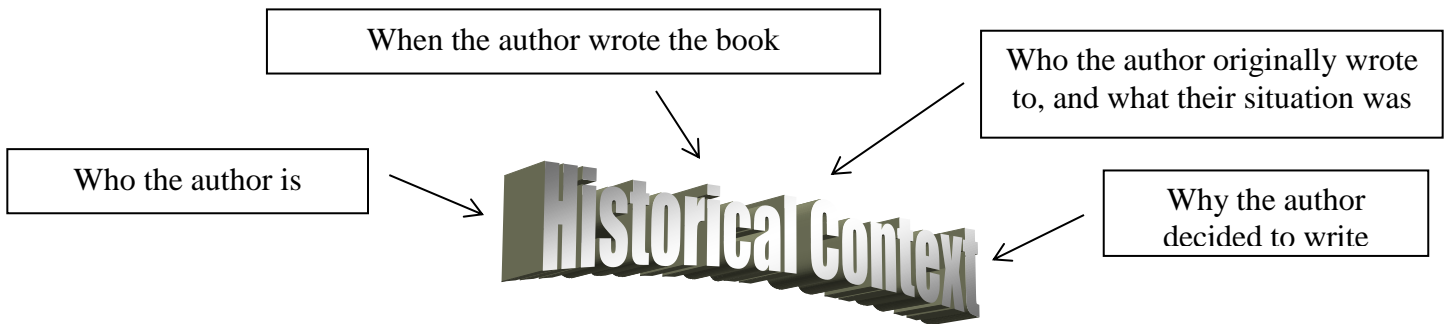
- 3) We must consider both _____ and _____ context in the task of interpreting Scripture.
-

It turns out that the up until this point in our study, our major principles of interpretation only concern one kind of context – literary context. We are taught to look at the big picture of the book and to consider how the author uses the historical events for literary cohesion and exhortation. We ask questions such as...



However, it must be emphasized, while this kind of context is important (and probably paramount), it is not the only kind of context. We must also concern ourselves with historical context.





For this kind of context, we ask a different set of questions:



The more we can figure out concerning the historical context, the more prepared we will be to understand the passage as accurately and clearly as possible.

How does understanding historical context help us understand his statement?

“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Who is the author?	When did the author write/say this?	Who was the author originally speaking to?	Why did the author write/say this?
			

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

- Revelation 3:15-16

Who is the author? Who is the speaker?	When did the author write/say this?	What was the situation of the audience?	Why did the author write/say this?
