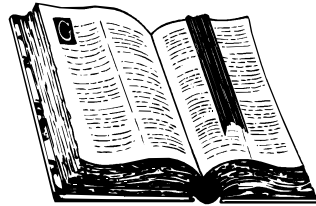


How to "Break Down" a Scripture - Part 3

F. Of whom does the text speak?

1. The Ethiopian Eunuch asked that same question in Acts 8:34 – "So the eunuch answered Philip and said, I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"
2. We need to know the persons discussed in the text in order to appreciate what is said to them or about them.
3. For example: To know something of the background of the Philistines, the Samaritans, Pharisees, Sadducees, Athens, Corinth, Rome, Etc. will help us better understand the text.
4. What is the nature of the writing in the text?
 - a. The Bible contains a wide variety of types of writing.
 1. Law
 2. Prophecy
 3. Proverbs
 4. Letters
 5. Visions,
 6. Etc.
 - b. Familiarity with the various types of writing will be a plus in Bible study.



G. When was the text written?

1. A knowledge of when the text was written will help us to determine under what law the statement was made.
2. This will help us see if the text has direct application to our lives.

H. From what place was the text written?

1. The surroundings and atmosphere of a text often contribute to its meaning.
2. For example: Many expressions in some of Paul's epistles are more meaningful when we realize that Paul was in prison while awaiting execution. 2 Timothy.
3. It is necessary to properly understand some of the prophecies of the Old Testament to know they were made in Babylon, and refer to Israel's return from there to Palestine. Much false teaching has resulted in not understanding that.