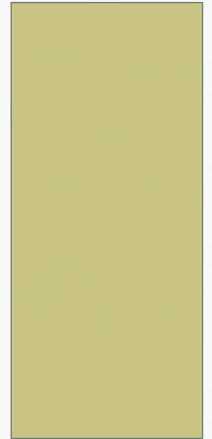


WILLIAM MILLER'S RULES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION

DECEMBER 9, 2018



PLAN OF FATHER MILLER

Those who are engaged in proclaiming the third angel's message are searching the Scriptures upon the same plan that Father Miller adopted.

(RH, November 25, 1884 par. 23)

RULE 1

1. All Scripture is necessary, and may be understood by diligent application and study (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

RULE 2

2. Every word must have it's proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible (Matthew 5:18).

RULE 3

3. Scripture must be it's own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to explain it to me, and he should guess at it's meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his *guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom* is my rule, not the Bible (Psalm 19:7-11; 119:97-105; Matthew 23:8-10; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Ezekiel 34:18, 19; Luke 11:52; Malachi 2:7, 8).

RULE 4

4. To understand doctrine, bring all the Scriptures together on the subject you wish to know; then let every word have it's proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in an error (Isaiah 28:7-29; 35:8; Proverbs 19:27; Luke 24:27, 44, 45; James 5:19; 2 Peter 1:19, 20).

RULE 5

5. God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables; and in this way the same things are oftentimes revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one. (Psalm 89:19; Hosea 12:10; Habakkuk 2:2; Acts 2:17; 1 Corinthians 10:6; Hebrews 9:9, 24; Psalm 78:2; Matthew 13:13, 34; Genesis 41:1-32; Daniel 2, 7, 8; Acts 10:9-16)

RULE 6

6. Visions are always mentioned as such (2 Corinthians 12:1).

RULE 7

7. How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally; if not, figuratively (Revelation 12:1, 2; 17:3-7).

RULE 8

8. Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy to represent future things, times, and events;

- such as *mountains*, meaning *governments*;
 - *beasts*, meaning *kingdoms*
 - *waters*, meaning *people*
- *lamp*, meaning *Word of God*.
 - *day*, meaning *year*.

(Daniel 2:35, 44; 7:8, 17; Revelation 17:1, 15; Psalm 119:105; Ezekiel 4:6).

RULE 9

9. To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through the Bible, and, where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense, you need look no further; if not, look again.

RULE 10

10. Figures sometimes have two or more different significations; as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time.

1. Indefinite.
2. Definite, a day for a year.
3. Day for a thousand years

(Ecclesiastes 7:14; Ezekiel 4:6; 2 Peter 3:8).

RULE 11

11. Parables are used as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be explained in the same way as figures, by the subject and Bible (Mark 4:13).

RULE 12

12. To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy. If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true, believing children of God may never be ashamed (Psalm 21:5; Isaiah 44:17-19; 1 Peter 2:6; Revelation 17:17; Acts 3:18).

RULE 13

13. The most important rule of all is, that you must have *faith*. *It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth*, the world and all its desires, character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts, and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we believe, so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts. **We must believe that God will never forfeit His word. And we can have confidence that He that takes notice of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our head, will guard the translation of His own word, and throw a barrier around it, and prevent those who sincerely trust in God, and put implicit confidence in His word, from erring far from the truth, though they may not understand Hebrew or Greek.**

SIMPLE PLAN OF BIBLE STUDY-RULE 14

"1. Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible; 2. All Scripture is necessary, and may be understood by diligent application and study; 3. **Nothing revealed in Scripture can or will be hid from those who ask in faith, not wavering;** 4. To understand doctrine, bring all the scriptures together on the subject you wish to know, then let every word have its proper influence; and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error; 5. Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom is my rule, and not the Bible." {RH, November 25, 1884 par. 24}

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

SUPREME AUTHORITY

In this last conflict God has committed to our hands the banner of truth and religious liberty that these reformers held aloft. Those whom He has blessed with the knowledge of His Word are held responsible for this great gift. *We are to receive God's Word as supreme authority.* We must accept its truths for ourselves, as our own individual act. And we shall be able to appreciate these truths only as we shall search them out for ourselves, by personal study of the Word of God. . . . {CTr 323.4}

PIONEERS REVIEWED THEIR POSITION

Though many abandoned their former reckoning of the prophetic periods and denied the correctness of the movement based thereon, others were unwilling to renounce points of faith and experience that were sustained by the Scriptures and by the witness of the Spirit of God. They believed that they had adopted sound principles of interpretation in their study of the prophecies, and that it was their duty to hold fast the truths already gained, and to continue the same course of Biblical research. *With earnest prayer they reviewed their position and studied the Scriptures to discover their mistake.* As they could see no error in their reckoning of the prophetic periods, they were led to examine more closely the subject of the sanctuary (*The Great Controversy*, p. 411).

BIBLE DESIGNED FOR THE COMMON MAN

The Bible with its precious gems of truth was not written for the scholar alone. On the contrary, it was designed for the people; and *the interpretation given by the common people, when aided by the Holy Spirit, accords best with the truth as it is in Jesus.* (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 330, 331).

FAITH OR EMOTION?

Genuine faith is founded on the Scriptures; but Satan uses so many devices to wrest the Scriptures and bring in error, that great care is needed if one would know what they really do teach. *It is one of the great delusions of this time to dwell much upon feeling*, and to claim honesty while ignoring the plain utterances of the word of God because that word does not coincide with feeling. Many have no foundation for their faith but emotion. Their religion consists in excitement; when that ceases, their faith is gone. Feeling may be chaff, but the word of God is the wheat. And "what," says the prophet, "is the chaff to the wheat?" {RH, November 25, 1884 par. 26}

CRITICISM AND SPECULATION

When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. *Those who turn from the plain teaching of scripture and the convicting power of God's Holy Spirit are inviting the control of demons.* Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for Spiritualism and theosophy--those modernized forms of ancient heathenism--to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. *ST, May 9, 1906 par. 6*

CRITICISM AND SPECULATION, CON'T

In our day, as of old, the vital truths of God's Word are set aside for human theories and speculations. *Many professed ministers of the Gospel do not accept the whole Bible as the inspired Word.* One learned man rejects one portion; another questions another part. They set up their judgment as superior to the Word, and the scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed. Thus the seeds of infidelity are sown broadcast; for the people become confused, and do not know what to believe. *ST, May 9, 1906*

TO UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF SALVATION....

He who rests satisfied with his own present imperfect knowledge of the Scriptures, thinking this sufficient for his salvation, is resting in a fatal deception. *There are many who are not thoroughly furnished with Scriptural arguments, that they may be able to discern error, and condemn all the tradition and superstition that has been palmed off as truth . . .* If we would understand the way of salvation, if we would see the beams of the Sun of righteousness, we must study the Scriptures for a purpose, for the promises and prophecies of the Bible shed clear beams of glory upon the divine plan of redemption, which grand truths are not clearly comprehended (*The 1888 Materials*, pp. 403, 404).

GOD'S PENMEN, NOT HIS PEN

The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God's mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. God, as a writer, is not represented. Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. The writers of the Bible were God's penmen, not His pen (*Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 21*).

FORTIFY THE MIND

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. *None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.* To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? {GC 593.2}

SOME BEFORE KINGS TO ANSWER FOR OUR FAITH

It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to stand alone, but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. *Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth.* We need, then, to study the Word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate.--RH Dec. 18, 1888. {LDE 209.1}

Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth to answer for their faith. *Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused* and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let no one imagine that he has no need to study because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you.--FE 217 (1893). {LDE 209.2}

THE PRICE TO BE PAID

The *loss of eternal life* is the price that must be paid for continuing to honor superstition and falsehood **above the word of God**, making His teaching of no effect. {MM 103.2}

TWO ROADS

The Road Not Taken By Robert Frost

TWO roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Make a difference in your life!

CONCLUSIONS

Bible is our supreme authority. It is inerrant , infallible and designed to unite us to our Closest Companion.

The plethora of Bible versions available today tends to diminish our sense of it's infallibility, it's inerrancy and it's supreme authority.

So which version do we use? How can we know?

BIBLE VERSIONS

Revelation 22:18,19

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.

BIBLE VERSIONS

Matthew 6:23

.... If therefore the light that is
in thee be darkness, how great
[is] that darkness!

BIBLE VERSIONS

Search terms

Textus Receptus

Vs

Codex Sinaiticus (Mount Sinai, Egypt)

Codex Alexandrinus (Alexandria, Egypt)

Codex Vaticanus (Alexandria, Egypt)

Nestle-Aland versions

TEXTUS RECEPTUS BIBLE

there seems to be only one

KING JAMES VERSION

WHAT ABOUT THE NKJV?

The NKJV claims to be derived from TR but some doubt this is true due to numerous deletions, additions and augmented comments which come from the Alexandrian text and other critical texts.

The New King James Version – A Critique – pdf

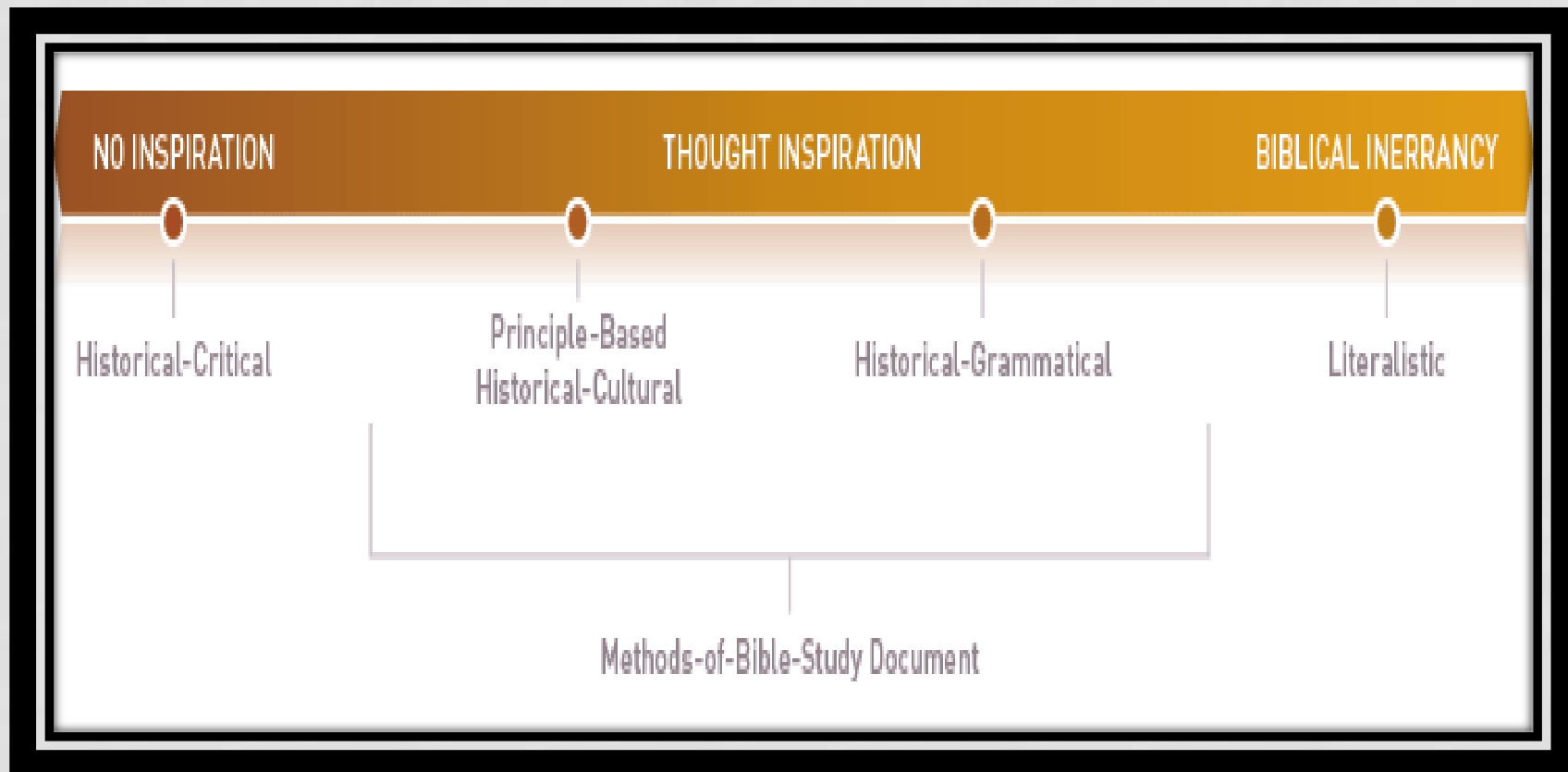
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HERMENEUTICS?

Historical-Grammatical

vs

Principle Based Historical Cultural



**Theology of Ordination Biblical Research Committee
of the North American Division
UPDATE—JULY 2015
<http://nadordination.com/>**

RUN TO AND FRO

Amos 8:11-12

¹¹Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Daniel 12:4

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

