

Book of the Bible

Caption

Picture of Christ: What Does This Book Tell Me About Jesus? What Is It Designed To Teach Us About Jesus?

- **Authorship:** Who wrote the book? How do you know they wrote the book?
 - Key Issues:
 - Self-Identifier: Does the author identify themselves?
 - Internal Evidence
 - Is there *internal* evidence in the book which identifies the author? Process of elimination is a helpful identifier? Is there topographical evidence to aid? What important historical events, people, places are identified by the author?
 - External Support
 - Does any other biblical evidence identify the author? i.e. Jesus speaking of Isaiah
- **Date:** When was the book written?
 - This is extremely important. Ask *critical* questions.
 - OT: Was the Temple destroyed? Were the Israelites free or in slavery? Was Israel a unified nation or divided? Was the work composed during or after the events it speaks of?
 - NT: Were the events pre/post death of Christ? Was the Temple destroyed?
- **Audience:** Who was the author writing to? A group of people (Jews, Gentiles, the World)? A single person (i.e. Paul to Timothy, Titus; Luke to Cleophilus? A *race* of people i.e. Greeks, Jews, Romans, etc?? To the saints at Rome, Ephesus, Philippi?
 - This is critical to examining how to *apply* the contents. What Paul tells a Pastor in Timothy to do (i.e. rebuke, chasten, ordain, etc) is not applicable to all. What Paul tells a carnal church such as Corinth, *may not* be applicable to a more seasoned and mature congregation.
- **Geography:** Where did the writer compose his work from? Was the writer in the wilderness? The Promised Land? In prison? In exile?
- **Background/Occasion:** What was going on? What precipitated or brought on the need or desire to author this book?
 - Paul wrote to encourage some saints, to instruct some, to rebuke some, some because of sin in the church, some because of the rise of false teaching, some because people were attacking his reputation. Philemon was written to request the pardon of a runaway slave.
 - Knowing the occasion for writing is essential to reading, interpreting, teaching and preaching – in context!

- **Purpose:** Why did they write who they wrote? What did they hope to accomplish? Were they successful? How did they measure successful accomplishment of their purpose?
- **Theme(s):** What's the overarching theme? Salvation? Spiritual Gifts? Prophecy? This also helps you interpret correctly and teach in context.

Importance:

Key Verse(s):

Summary/The So What:

OUTLINE
Summary

I.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

II.

- A.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - a)
 - b)
 - 3.
 - a)
 - b)