



UNIT OUTLINE

BB003-512, 612 & 812, Principles of Hermeneutics

Description	Reading the Bible is both a simple and a complex task. 'Simple' in that anyone, who can access a Bible in a language they understand, can pick it up and read. However, the complexity of reading can become apparent as the reader realizes that they do not always appreciate or understand what they are reading, they are unable to properly interpret what they are reading. As such, anyone who reads the Bible is also involved in the act of interpreting the Bible. While the reading may be simple, the interpretation is often complex. In this unit attention will be given to the interpretation of the Bible, giving introductory attention to the task by considering the principle of hermeneutics ('the discipline or science that underlies the act and processes of interpretation').	
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'The World Behind the Text': <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 'Why study backgrounds?' b. The importance of language. c. Historical, cultural and ideological backgrounds. d. Illustrative methods. 2. 'The World Within the Text': <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Bible as literature. b. Genres in the Hebrew Bible. c. Genres in the New Testament. d. Illustrative methods. 3. 'The World in Front of the Text': <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 'What happens when we read?' b. Reader presuppositions. c. Contemporary application. d. Illustrative methods. 	
Study modes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On campus • Distance 	
Assessment*	AQF 5, 6 and 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading quizzes 2. 'Behind the Text' task 3. 'Within the Text' task 4. 'In Front of the Text' task
Textbooks	Tate, W. Randolph. 2008. <i>Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach</i> . 3 rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker [available as an e-book].	
* Assessment items may be subject to change without prior notice		