

## The Process Biblical Hermeneutics Handout

**THE HERMENEUTICAL METHOD**

## METHOD—PART 1: EXEGESIS

*Seven Steps of Exegesis*

- Step 1: Identify the Literary Genre
- Step 2: Get the Big Picture
- Step 3: Summarize the Immediate Context
- Step 4: Develop a “Thesis Statement”
- Step 5: Outline the Progress of Thought
- Step 7: Consult Secondary Sources
- Step 7: Draw Theological Conclusions

## METHOD—PART 2: CONTEXTUALIZATION

*Four questions for working toward contextualization*

1. Where are we in the Story?
2. What was the author’s purpose within the historical and cultural context of the passage?

*Be specific. To whom was the command given? Why was it given? In what contexts was it intended to be applied? Part of this is determining where this command lies in the context of redemptive history. For example, a command given to Israel under the old covenant must be treated differently than a command given under the new covenant. This is the **exegetical** part of contextualization.*

3. From the purpose of the passage in its original setting, what do we learn about the nature of God and about his purpose and will for human beings, all people as well as his people?

*State this in the form of truths about God and his will and purpose for human beings. For example, from the parable of the prodigal son, we learn that God cares for the lost and longs to bring them back into relationship with himself. He desires his people to adopt a similar attitude. This is the **theological** part of contextualization.*

4. In light of the principles and truths gleaned from this passage concerning God’s nature and will for people, what should be our attitudes and actions in our present context?