

# HERMENEUTICS



Ray Mondragon

# ESSENTIAL

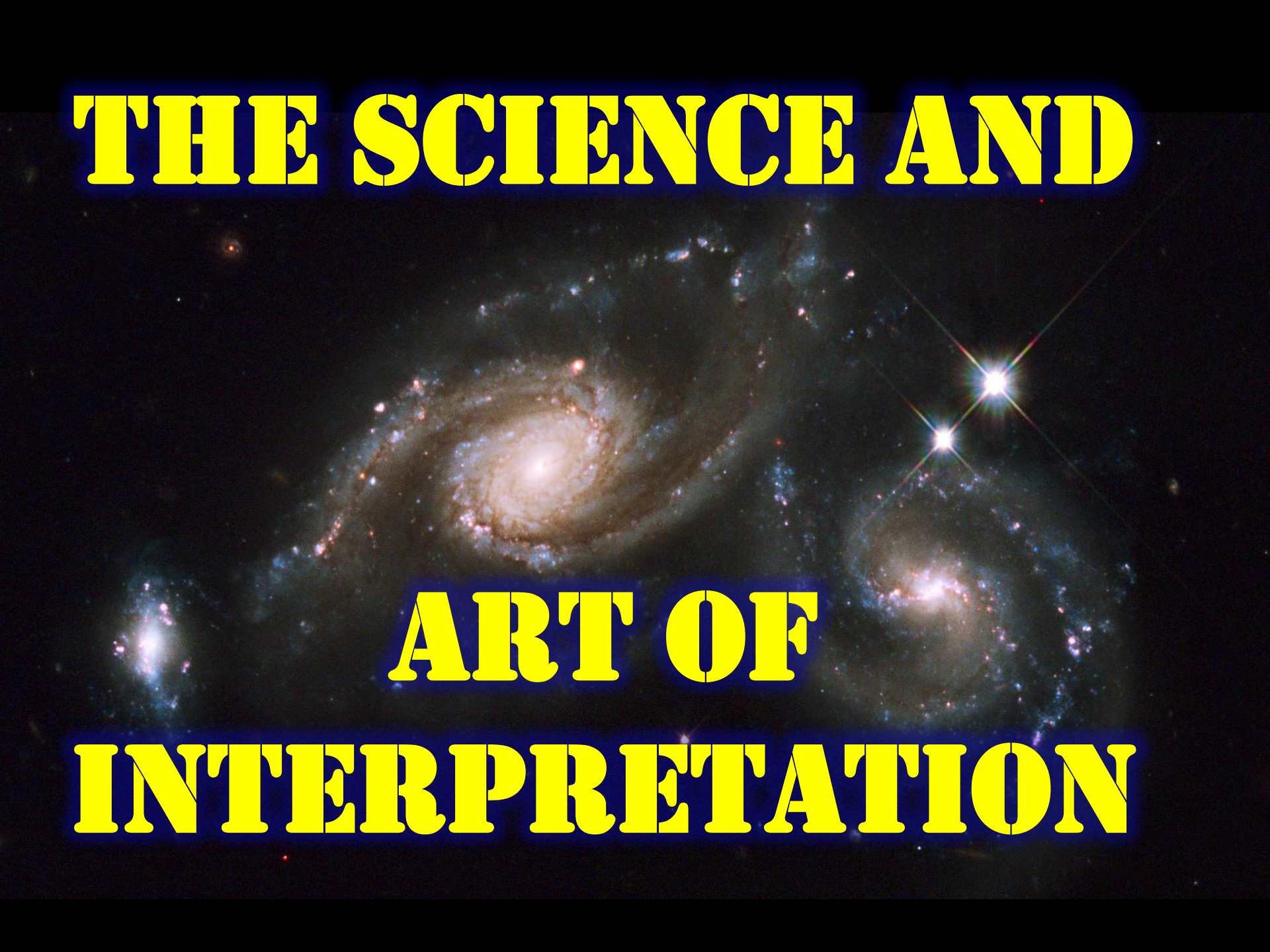


- **Pretribulation Rapture**
- **Eschatology**
- **Dispensational Theology**



**THE SCIENCE AND**

**ART OF  
INTERPRETATION**





- 1. Universal Nature**
- 2. In Theology**
- 3. Essential Principles**



A black and white photograph of Agatha Christie, an elderly woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a dark jacket and a pearl earring. She is sitting and looking slightly to the right of the camera. In her hands, she is holding an open book, which she appears to be reading. The background is dark and out of focus.

# LITERATURE

- **Agatha Christie (d.1976)**
- **Mystery novels - 2 billion**
- **Management of daughter**
- **Management of grandson**

**“If Agatha Christie is to be as popular in the 21st century as she was in the 20th, we have to be open-minded about interpreting stories in modern ways.”**

**Matthew Prichard**

A black and white photograph of an elderly woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a dark jacket and a pearl earring. She is sitting and reading a newspaper. The background is dark and out of focus.

# LITERATURE

- **Post-modern Interpretation**
- **Author's Intent**



# GOVERNMENT & LAW

- Living Document
- Framers's Intent





**“Let me put it this way; there are really only two ways to interpret the Constitution — try to discern as best we can what the framers intended or make it up. No matter how ingenious, imaginative or artfully put, unless interpretive methodologies are tied to the original intent of the framers, they have no more basis in the Constitution than the latest football scores. ...”**

**Clarence Thomas’s Wriston Lectures  
to Manhattan Institute**



# HISTORY



➤ Data = Traces of Events

➤ Interpretation of Events

Robinson's Arch



✧ **DATA =**

Traces left by Event



✧ **HISTORICAL FACT =**

Data + **Interpretation**



# **SCIENCE**



**Andromeda**

✧ **OBSERVATIONAL  
SCIENCE →**

Observations in **Present**

✧ **HISTORICAL  
SCIENCE →**

**Traces** of Past



# SCIENCE

➤ **Methodological  
Naturalism**

➤ **Truth Seeking**

**Andromeda**



A TRUE GRACE BOOKS PUBLICATION

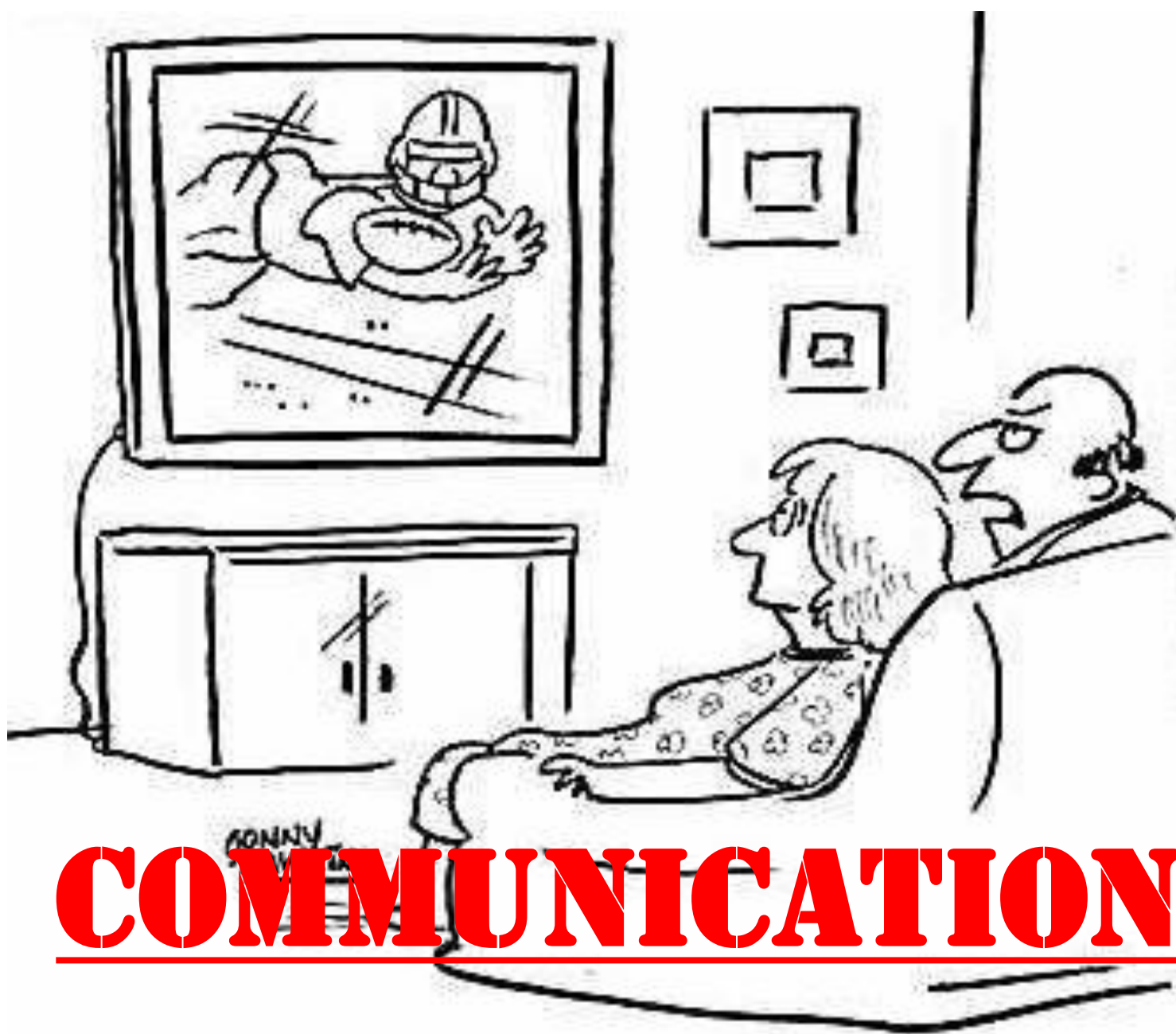
# SCIENCE

IS GOD SHOUTING?

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE

RAY MONDRAGON





# COMMUNICATION

“He’s the ‘receiver’, not the ‘receptionist’.”



# MARRIAGE

YOU ALWAYS  
INSIST ON HAVING  
THE LAST  
WORD!

SORRY!







**Will this  
talk  
Save your  
Marriage?**



- 1. Universal Nature**
- 2. In Theology**



# G-H-C ESSENTIAL

## ➤ Beginnings

1. Universe created by our Creator God
2. Universe ~6,000 years young
3. Worldwide Flood

## ➤ Endings

1. Pretribulation rapture of Church
2. Premillennial coming of Christ
3. Distinction between Israel and Church

**“The basic difference between the premillennial and amillennial schools and between the pretribulation and posttribulation rapturists are hermeneutical, arising from the adoption of divergent and irreconcilable methods of interpretation.”**

**JD Pentecost**



# SPIRITUAL



➤ **Fall of Man - Gen 3:1**

**“Indeed, has God said ...”**

➤ **Peacemakers - Mt 5:9**

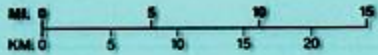
**“Blessed are the  
peacemakers ...”**

**“... to find out the meaning of a statement for the **author** and for the **1st hearers or readers**, and thereupon to transmit that meaning to modern readers.”**

**Mickelsen**



- city
- city (uncertain location)



© 1985 The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

# The Author's Willed Meaning





- 1. Universal Nature**
- 2. In Theology**
- 3. Essential Principles**



**GRAMMATICAL-  
HISTORICAL-  
CONTEXTUAL  
METHOD**

**Or**

**“Literal Method”**

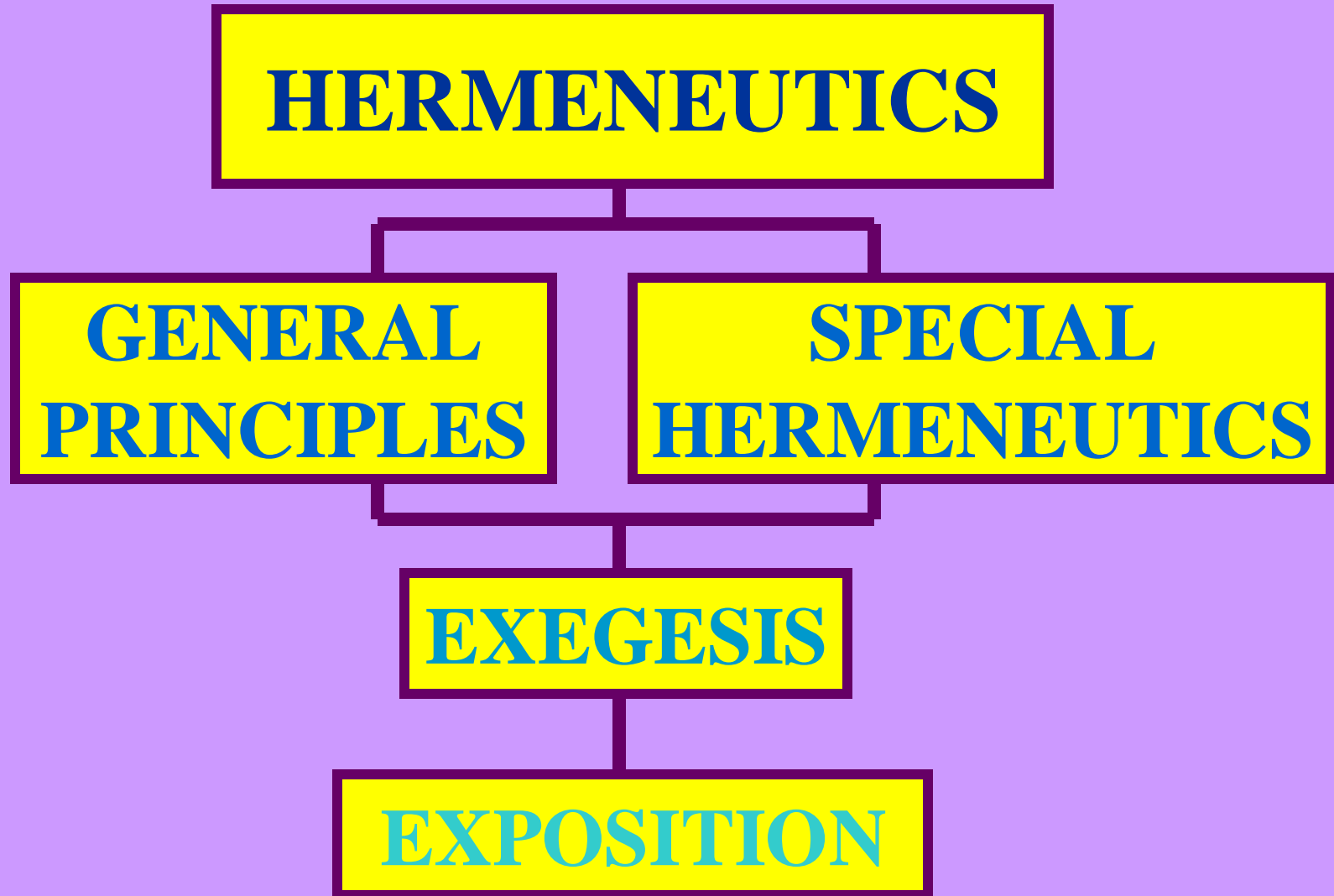
# DETERMINE MEANING:

- **Laws of Grammar**
- **Facts of History**
- **Framework of Context**





# BIBLE HERMENEUTICS



# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

## **1. Linguistic**





# LINGUISTIC

An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, Israel. The city is densely packed with buildings, including modern skyscrapers and traditional stone structures. The Dome of the Rock, a prominent Islamic shrine with a large golden dome, is visible in the middle ground. In the foreground, there is a large cemetery with many stone tombs. The city is surrounded by a high stone wall, and the terrain is hilly with some greenery and terraced fields.

Determine meaning by  
conventions of language



# **BASIS**

- **Omniscient God & Intellect**
- **Origin of Language**
- **Image of God & language**
- **Verbal Inspiration**
- **God communicates with language**
- **Goal of Exegesis**



# LINGUISTIC



- ✓ **Language**
- ✓ **Text**
- ✓ **Lexicography**
- ✓ **Syntax**
- ✓ **Phonology**
- ✓ **Morphology**
- ✓ **Literary Devices**

# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

**1. Linguistic**

**2. Metaphorical**



# **METAPHORICAL**



**Interpret according to  
appropriate metaphorical  
conventions**

# **BASIS**

- **Complex Image of God**
- **Aesthetics, Emotion, Imagination**
- **Non-literal Language**



**“If asked what has been the most powerful force in the making of history ... I should have answered ... figurative expression. It is by imagination that men have lived; imagination rules all our lives. The human mind is not, as philosophers would have you think, a debating hall, but a picture gallery ... Remove the metaphors (i.e. figurative expressions) from the Bible and its living spirit vanishes ... The prophets, the poets, the leaders of men are all of them masters of imagery, and by imagery they capture the human soul.”**

**W. M. Dixon**



➤ **1104 Pages**

➤ **200 Categories**

➤ **8,000 Illustrations**

➤ **28 pages of Table of Contents**



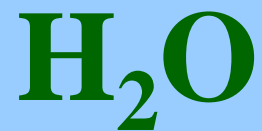
# SYMBOLS

$$E = MC^2$$

$$V = d/t$$

$$A = pr^2$$

$$A = v/t$$



$$\tan q = y/x$$



# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Linguistic**
- 2. Metaphorical**
- 3. Historical**



A detailed miniature model of an ancient city, likely a Roman or Greek city, featuring stone walls, columns, and buildings. The model is set against a background of a stone wall. The word "HISTORICAL" is written in large, bold, red letters at the top of the image.

# HISTORICAL

**Historical setting  
contributes to meaning**



# **BASIS**

- **Purpose & Plan of God**
- **From Eternity to Eternity**



# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Linguistic**
- 2. Metaphorical**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**



# CULTURAL



Cultural setting  
contributes to meaning



# **BASIS**

- **Origin of Relationships**
- **Divine Institutions**
- **Expressed in Cultures**

# CULTURE

**1. Geography**

**2. Politics**

**3. Sociology**

**4. Economy**

**5. Agriculture**

**6. Religion**

**7. Legal**

**8. Architecture**

**9. Military**



# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Linguistic**
- 2. Metaphorical**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**
- 5. Contextual**

# CONTEXTUAL

An aerial photograph showing a coastal city with a multi-lane highway running parallel to the ocean. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the ocean is visible on the right side of the image. The sky is blue with some clouds. The wing of an airplane is visible in the top left corner.

**Context is the final  
determiner of meaning**



# **BASIS**

- **Structure of the Mind**
- **Origin of Logic**
- **God communicated with Logic**
- **Authors Structured Books**

# Trunk

1. Car
2. Elephant
3. Tree
4. Communication
5. Attic
6. Swimming



# CONTEXT - Types

- 1. Textual - primary**
- 2. Literary**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**
- 5. Theological**

# **IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES**

**1. Literary**

**2. Single Meaning**

**3. Clarity**

**4. Unity**

**5. Analogy**

**6. Progress**

**7. Logical**

**8. Supernatural**

**9. Finite**

**10. Christological**



**GRAMMATICAL-  
METAPHORICAL-  
HISTORICAL-  
CULTURAL-  
CONTEXTUAL  
METHOD???**

**GRAMMATICAL-  
HISTORICAL-  
CONTEXTUAL  
METHOD**

**Or**

**“Literal Method”**



# HERMENEUTICS



**Yes, hermeneutics  
matters!!!**

**Ray Mondragon**



A TRUE GRACE BOOKS PUBLICATION

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