

AIM Institute
Hermeneutics | Interpreting Scriptures
with Miguel Pabilonia, Jr.
Study Guide

COURSE: *Hermeneutics*

Course Term: February to April 2023

USA based: Twelve weeks beginning Monday, February 6 at 7:00PM New York time

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops the principles and methods of Bible interpretation. Four methods and five principles are examined. Examples are provided for each. The unique challenges of figurative language including parables, prophecy, types and symbols and poetry are addressed. The course concludes with an overview of Bible study methods. In these days of relativity where the Bible is often miss interpreted, this course should be considered a must for all believers.

COURSE VIDEOS: [CLICK HERE](#)

OBJECTIVES

- To communicate a love and respect for the Word of God
- To provide the student with the tools that are necessary to properly interpret the Scriptures
- To explain the key terms used in the science of hermeneutics
- To encourage the use of hermeneutics in Zoom debrief sessions

INSTRUCTOR: Miguel Pabilonia, Jr.

Miguel began teaching at age 18. He came to love teaching and eventually became a Bible College teacher serving in his home country, Philippines, and abroad. In the span of 30 years, Miguel has served as pastor, Bible college teacher, denominational leader and an itinerant minister in North America, Europe and Asia. He is a John Maxwell Team certified coach, trainer and speaker. Miguel Pabilonia has Master's Degree in Theology (ThM) from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, USA, as well as a special pastoral and theological training at London Seminary in London, UK.

COURSE FORMAT

This directed study format enables you to receive college level instruction while studying at home. (Note, AIM Institute does not offer accredited college credits.) Course elements include:

- Weekly video assignments
- Required textbook reading assignments
- Contact time with the instructor and classmates by means of a weekly Zoom debrief classroom.
- Study questions for your personal benefit as well as preparation for the weekly debrief.
- Notes made available by the instructor. There will be blanks for students to fill in while watching videos.
- This course will be graded as pass or fail. Bear in mind your weekly preparation will have a direct bearing on how much you gain from the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- The first of twelve Weekly Zoom Debriefs will begin on Monday, February 6, 7:00PM New York Time
- You will receive a Zoom invite by email for each debrief
- Preparation can be done at any time before the debrief
- To maximize the use of your time, we will not cover information from the videos in the debrief unless there are questions.

REQUIREMENTS

- This is an intensive course; students should plan to participate in all class sessions.
- Complete all course reading, watch videos, and writing assignments.
- Complete course exam week 12.

TEXT

- Holy Bible (Translation of your choice)
 - *“Interpreting Scriptures”* by Connor, Kevin J. And Ken Maimin, City Christian Publishing, Portland OR, 1983 (ISBN 9-914936-20-4) (available at Amazon.com)
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February 6 | Session 1 - Orientation

- Watch Video 1
 - Orientation and Course Introduction
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February 13 | Session 2 - Why Hermeneutics? Foundations and Relationship of Hermeneutics to Other Biblical Sciences

- Watch video 2
 - Read chapter 1 “Interpreting the Scriptures” by Kevin Conner and Ken Malmin
 - Study questions
1. Question: What has been your serious difficulty in Bible interpretation? How do you think this course could help solve it?
 2. Question: Which foundation for interpretation do you think must be seriously considered in Bible interpretation? Why?
 3. Question: Do you know the false doctrines circulating in your area? Can you pinpoint how they twist the Scriptures to make it appear to be favoring their doctrines?
 4. Question: What does the phrase “rightly dividing the Word of truth” mean in 2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)?
 5. Question: What is the proper interpretation of Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Note the difference in the usage of commas in King James Version and New International Version. How does one comma change the meaning? Who are the ministers in the church according to this verse?
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February 20 | Session 3 - Kinds of Interpreters and their Qualifications

- Watch video 3
- Read chapter 2
- Study questions

1. Question: What is the aim of a biblical interpreter in applying principles of hermeneutics?
 2. Question: What legalistic interpretations have you encountered?
 3. Question: What can you say about this saying: "A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text."
 4. Question: How or when does proof texting become a bad way of proving a theological position?
 5. Question: What do the two natures of Scriptures - human and divine - require of interpreters?
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February 27 | Session 4 - Methods of Interpretation

- Watch video 4
- Read chapter 3
- Study questions

1. Question: How are allegorical and mystical interpretations dangerous?
 2. Question: Should the Bible be regarded above man's reason? Why?
 3. Question: How does the literal method consider the foundations for interpretation discussed in our session 2?
 4. Question: Who is Jesus in Titus 2:13? How do cults interpret/translate this text?
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March 6 | Session 5 - Principles of Interpretation: Context and First Mention Principles

- Watch video 5
- Read chapter 6 & 7
- Study questions

1. Question: How important is context in interpretation? How broad is the issue of context in Biblical interpretation?

2. Question: How important is the first mention of a word or topic in Scripture?

March 13 | Session 6 - Comparative, Progressive, and Complete Mention Principles

- Watch video 6
- Read chapters 8 - 10
- Study questions

1. Question: What does the words “Scripture interprets Scripture” tell us about God and His Word?

2. Question: Why should we not build a doctrine in just one verse or passage from the Scriptures?

March 20 | Session 7 - Interpreting Figurative Languages: Parables

- Watch video 7
- Read chapter 22
- Study questions

1. Task: Make a list of the parables from both the OT and NT

2. Question: Which rules do you find most important in interpreting parables?

3. Question: How is context a necessary consideration in interpreting parables?

March 27 | Session 8 - Prophecy

- Watch video 8
- Read chapters 24
- Study questions

1. Question: What are the two types of prophecies in Scriptures? Why is it important to see prophecies in those two categories?

2. Question: Can today’s preaching be considered prophecy? Why?

April 3 | Session 9 - Types, Symbols, and Poetry

- Watch video 9
- Read chapters 19 & 21
- Task and Study question

1. Task: Make a list of the types of Christ in the OT. Identify in what way/s do they typify Christ.

2. Task: Practice identifying the different kinds of parallelism in the Psalms.

April 10 | Session 10 - Book and Biographical Study

- Watch video 10
- Task and Study question

1. Task: Begin reviewing for your final exam. It will involve both reading and video materials.

2. Question: If you are to do a book or biographical study, which book/s or character/s would you choose first? Why?

April 17 | Session 11 - Topical and Devotional Method

- Watch video 11
- Task and Study question

1. Question: What biblical topics interest you so much that you would be willing to spend time to do a study on them?

2. Task: Keep reviewing for your final exam.

April 24 | Session 12

- Final Exam
- Final discussion and challenge

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