

Principles of Bible Study

Observation

Review



Observation Steps

- **Start with Prayer** – Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment, illumination, wisdom, and understanding
- **Read the text** - multiple times
- **Observe the text** - Ask questions, identify key terms, identify thought breaks, write down your initial observations
- **Identity literary relationships** – write down observations
- **Use your imagination** - Become part of the story, put yourself in the narrative, look at each perspective

Observation Exercise

Matthew 3

Observe the Text

- What do I see?
- What is the point?
- What are the key terms, phrases, and thought breaks?
- Who is the author, original recipient?
- What is the genre?
- What is the near and broad context?
- What is the historical and cultural context?



Identify Literary Relationships

- Identify logical connecting words
- Identify literary observations
- Identify figures of speech
- Write down your observations



Literary Observations

Literary Relationships Chart (rev 09/03 kt)

Logical Connectives

Connective	Literary Relationship	Connective	Literary Relationship
After	Chronological Relationship, Cause-Effect	Likewise	Comparison
Also	Comparison	Much more	Comparison, Contrast
Although	Contrast	Nevertheless	Contrast
As	Chronological Relationship, Comparison	Not	Contrast
As . . . so	Comparison	Now	Usually Progression, sometimes Temporal
Because	Explanation	Only	Emphasis, Contrast
Before	Chronological Relationship, Effect-Cause	Or	Contrast, Series of Statements or Facts
But	Contrast	Otherwise	Contrast
Finally	Summarization	Since	Explanation, Cause-Effect
First of all	Progression, Series of Statements or Facts	So	Comparison, Cause-Effect
For	Explanation	So also	Comparison, Cause-Effect
From there	Geographical Progression	So that	Explanation, Statement of Purpose (look for <i>result</i>)
However	Contrast	Then	Chronological Relationship, Cause-Effect
If	Conditional Cause-Effect	Therefore	Explanation, Grounds-Conclusion
In order that	Explanation, Statement of Purpose	Thus	Explanation, Cause-Effect
Indeed	Emphasis	Until	Chronological Relationship
Instead	Contrast	When	Chronological Relationship, Cause-Effect
Just as ... so	Comparison	Where	Geographical Relationship
Last of all	Summarization, Series of Statements	While	Chronological Relationship
Like	Comparison, Simile	Yet	Contrast

Literary Relationships

Literary Relationships

Cause-Effect - >From action to the result produced	Grounds-Conclusion - the basis or substantiation of an argument with the logical conclusion (e.g., if . . . then)
Climax - a series of advancing events or ideas, with focus on the highest or greatest point being realized	Identification - the meaning or significance of something is established by being equated with something else
Comparison - similarity between two or more particulars, association of like things	Instrumentality - a reference to the means by which an end or result is achieved. The means is identified apart from the cause
Complementation - two paired items wherein one is the counterpart of the other; the latter fulfills what is called for in the first (question/answer, promise/fulfillment, problem/solution, disease/remedy, beginning . . . [interruption] . . . sequel)	Interchange - the alternation of elements (persons, places, things, events, ideas) that occur in a series; or the exchange of one element with another
Completion - a progression of events or ideas to conclusion or resolution	Particularization - one or more specific references or statements which are part of a more inclusive reference; a movement from the general to the particular; many to one
Continuity - a recurrence of similar but not identical terms, phrases, clauses, statements, or events	Pivot - a movement of events or ideas to a crucial point on which subject matter turns in another direction
Contrast - a difference between two or more particulars which in a broad sense are comparable	Preparation (Introduction) - the background or setting for events or ideas that enable the reader to understand what follows
Effect-Cause - from result produced to source action	Progression - an extension or development of a particular item in a certain direction
Explanation - the presentation of an event or idea followed by a reason, interpretation, illustration, or clarification	Repetition - a recurrence of the same terms, phrases, clauses, or statements; repetition of word family
Generalization - an inclusive reference or statement that embodies on or more particulars; a movement from the particular to the general; one to many	Summarization (Conclusion) - a wrap-up or survey of material that has been (or is to be) presented