

**Chapter Fourteen:
Rules Of Interpretation -
Total Mind of God
(Part Three)**

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V. Rule of the Total Mind of God - To understand a biblical principal we must seek to find out what the Bible says on it from the entire Word of God, not simply a set group of scripture or single passage.

A. The use of the computer has given us a false sense of the total mind of God.

1. There are many terms or important concepts from the Word of God which may not be found by using a key word search.
 - a. The Word of God is not written topically.
 - b. The Word of God is not written chronologically
 - c. The Word of God is not organized as a systematic theology
2. Although men and councils have taken credit for the organization and canonization of the Word of God, it has happened in accordance with His divine will and direction.
 - a. Before the Bible was finished the concept of a body of inspired writings known as “scriptures” was revealed to the church and apostles by the Holy Spirit. *II Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
 - 1.) In the Word of God, the term “Scripture” sometimes obviously refers to the Old Testament teachings of God. *James 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.*
 - 2.) However, it is also used to represent the body of writings, to become known as the Bible. The total revelation of the Word of God. *Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*
 - 3.) The Apostles were aware that they were presenting the Church with new inspired revelations which would be added to the “scripture”. *I Thessalonians 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*
 - b. The Bible was declared finished by God before any council or group declared it to be finished. *Revelation 22:18 & 19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*
 - c. Councils or men may seek to discredit spurious documents and protect the church from false prophets
I Timothy 6:3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,
II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

d. But the Word of God stands, by itself, without need of aid, eternally and in and of it's own merit.

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

B. The Word of God is conceptual and not just technical.

1. In a study on giving, using a search engine in your computer, you may be able to come up with the first three lists of passages using searches of the word "give"...
 - a. "Give" –
 - 1.) 889 times;
 - 2.) Example: *Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."*
 - b. "Giver" –
 - 1.) 1 time;
 - 2.) Example: *II Corinthians 9:6 & 7 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*
 - c. "Gift" –
 - 1.) 52 times;
 - 2.) Example: *Phillippeans 4:17 & 18 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*
2. There are however, key passages of scripture, while sharing none of the key words, are never-the-less important passages dealing with the concepts. By limiting yourself to a computer overview, you would miss them completely.
 - a. *Matthew 6:20 & 21 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
 - b. *Proverbs 3:9 & 10 Honor the Lord from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.*
3. This is why there is such a stress in the Word of God in terms of reading the entire Word of God on a regular basis.
 - a. *Deuteronomy 17:18 & 19 "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all*

the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,

- b. *Deuteronomy 31:9 - 11 So Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. Then Moses commanded them, saying, "At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place which He will choose, you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing.*
 - c. *Joshua 8:34 7 35 Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them.*
 - d. *PSA 119:6 Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Thy commandments.*
 - e. *2TI 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
 - f. In understanding the stress in the Old Testament on the reading of the entire Word of God, the rhetorical question of Christ, "Have you not read..." has even greater meaning to us.
 - 1.) *Matthew 12:3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did, when he became hungry, he and his companions;*
 - 2.) *Matthew 12:5 "Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath, and are innocent?*
 - 3.) *Matthew 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female,*
 - 4.) *Matthew 22:31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying,*
 - g. This commitment to the reading of God's Word is clearly recognized by the Apostles and appealed to in their ministry to the Jews as a "given".
 - 1.) *Acts 13:27 "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him.*
 - 2.) *Acts 15:21 "For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."*
 - h. It was the expectation of the Apostles as well that the Word of God would continue to be read and reread in the pursuit of the study of God's Word.
 - 1.) *Ephesians 3:4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,*
 - 2.) *Colossians 4:16 And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.*
 - 3.) *I Thessalonians 5:27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren..*
4. God can do anything, but He doesn't, He only does His will He could give you all knowledge, but as a rule He doesn't.
 - a. There may be instances of divine enablement...
 - b. *Mark 13:11 "And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.*
 5. But God holds all men responsible for the study and search of God's Word.

- a. As a rule, He works within His commands, honoring obedience...
- b. *II Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*
6. As a result He honors the faithful reading of His Word, year in, year out throughout a lifetime as commanded in...
 - a. *Deuteronomy 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:*
 - b. *PSA 119:6 Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Thy commandments.*
 - c. *2TI 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
 - d. We are held responsible before God for all that He says, not just those aspects of His Word which we find easy to understand and digest.
 - e. How many of us have come to difficult passages or books in our reading program and then because of the difficulty stopped or skipped over them. Could you imagine, if Christ were speaking to you, interrupting Him and saying, "This is boring, or this is a little dry, skip over to the good stuff or I will leave."?
7. There must be an unequivocal commitment by the disciple to the entire Word of God. It is this and only this that can truly both equip you and protect you in your service of the Lord.

C. Application:

1. The Word of God is taught as a book inspired by God, who knew the beginning from the end and as a result, verses in the Bible are viewed in the context of a primary author who knew all that would be written and not as independently penned teachings.
2. The Word of God is not written topically, historically nor as a systematic theology. As such it must be studied as a whole as well as in segments.
 - a. The Word of God cannot be mastered on a given subject through a word search. Principles which are crucial may exist which do not contain the word.
 - b. The Word of God cannot be mastered on a given subject through a book study, as the Word of God is not written topically nor as a systematic theology.
 - c. No explanation is given by God as to the organization of the Bible in terms of chronological order of revelation.
3. Although the Holy Spirit may bring anything to our mind, it behooves us to be proactive in our exposure to the total revelation of God on a regular basis.
4. A primary application to these principles of interpretation is to read the Bible through on a regular and systematic basis.

Many people who determine to read the Bible through in a year get bogged down and quit about half way through Leviticus. After the fascinating narrative in Genesis and the dramatic deliverance in Exodus, Leviticus seems to unfold with all the excitement of a technical manual for ancient clergymen. But, don't let the priestly details fool you. This is a textbook for pilgrims, a life guide for people who have been delivered from their past and are on their way toward a glorious, God planned future.

Near the center of the book we find God's charge to His people. He told them they must not imitate the people of Egypt where they had been, nor the practices of those in Canaan where they were going. In Leviticus 18:4, He said to them, "You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus is also filled with word pictures of God's salvation, painted almost 1,500 years before Jesus was born. Every offering and sacrifice points to the cross of Christ, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

On your journey from Genesis to Revelation, don't let Leviticus stop you. Instead, let it be a wonderful bridge that takes you from sacrifices to the Savior. - David C. McCasland - Our Daily Bread Jan.31,01.

WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE THROUGH

*I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading picemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis,
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms (the twenty-third),
Twelfth of Romans, First of Proverbs-
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!
But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.
You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble, here and there
Just before you kneel, aweary,
And yawn through a hurried prayer;
You who treat the Crown of Writings
As you treat no other book-
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude impatient look-
Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through!
-Amos R. Wells*