

# Bible Study: Digging Deeper

- Studying to teach forces us into active, not passive, reading.
  - Must know facts, expect questions, explain conclusions. James 3:1-2
  - Modern society: tweets; texts; email; sound bites . . . not deep, thoughtful study

- Many do not study the Bible for themselves.
  - Find it unprofitable
  - Let others tell them what to think or believe
  - Have no time for serious study
  - Satisfied with level of maturity

- Every teacher is primarily a learner
  - No one ever 'arrives' – 2 Pt.3:18; 1:12-15

## Elementary training:

- Study words, sentence, near/remote context

## Enhanced training:

- Three-part overview

# I. Observation

- What do I see?
  - Sherlock Holmes: 'You see but do not observe'



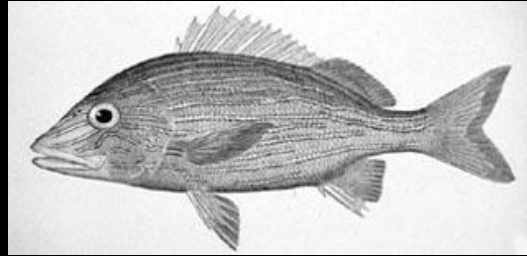
- Read attentively. Mt.4:4
- Read meditatively. Ps.1:1-2
- Read repeatedly. Ps.19:10. 1 Co.13
- Read with pen and paper. Dt.6:9
- Read orally. Ac.8:30
- Read inquiringly. Ac.8:34. SQ3R
- Read reverently. Neh.8:2-5
- Read with awareness of things . . .

- Be aware of things that are . . .
  1. Emphasized. Space. Purpose.
  2. Repeated. Mt.12:39-41. Hb.11.
  3. Connected. Mt.13; 25
  4. Similar. “As” and “Like” – Mt.13
  5. Different. Mt.5

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- Read reverently. Neh.8:2-5
- Read with awareness of things . . .
- Read with scrutiny.

## Read with scrutiny

- Dr. Agassiz
- Look for . . .



...repetition, comparison/contrast, numbers, themes, cause/effect, audience, people, places, conclusions, times, verb tenses, parallels, commands, etc.

- Mt.22:32
- Gal.3:16

I. Observation

II. Explanation

# What does it mean? (Ac.8:30)

God expressed Himself in different ways

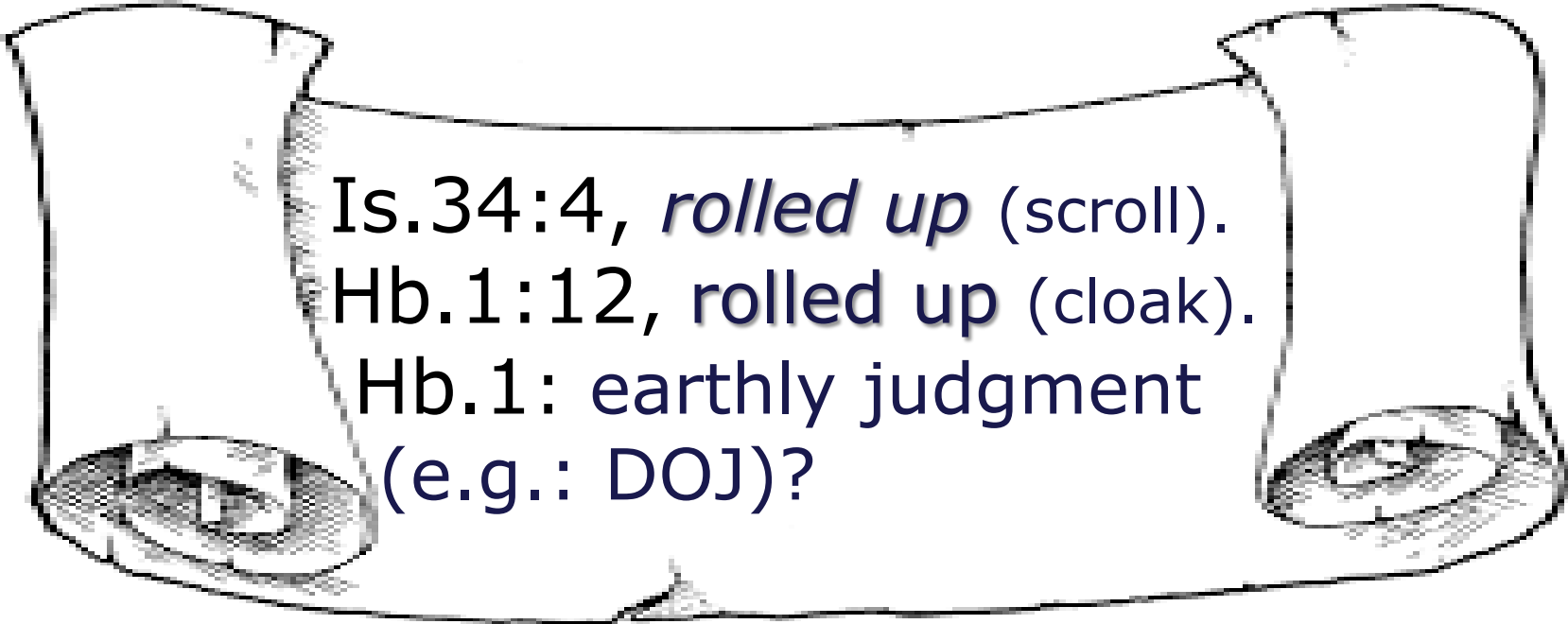
1. Biography: Abraham, Isaac . . .
2. Law: Exodus - Deuteronomy
3. Narrative: Genesis – Ezra; Mt.-John...
4. Poetry: Psalms – Song of Solomon
5. Apocalyptic: Ezekiel, Daniel, Rev.
6. Prophecy: Isaiah – Malachi

Method: Isa.34:4 (5-6)

# Isa.34:4

1. Earth without heavens, 4-5
2. Eternal fire, 9-10
3. Animal habitat, 11-15

All  
literally  
true?  
  
No!



Is.34:4, *rolled up* (scroll).  
Hb.1:12, rolled up (cloak).  
Hb.1: earthly judgment  
(e.g.: DOJ)?

# 1. 'Destruction words' describe national and cosmic disaster

- Lk.12:46-47
  - Mal.4 – Elijah?
  - Ezk.34 – David?
  - Ac.14:27, *door of faith?*

## 2. Cannot determine NT usage by mere OT quotations

- Verbal allusions do not require same application as original OT context
- NT context determines application
  - Ps.102:26-28, JHVH; Hb.1, Christ
  - Beginning (= Jn.1:3)
    - Earth – not Jerusalem but earth
    - Heavens – no nations

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- NT context determines application
  - 11: *perish* (= Mt.10:28)
  - 12: **borrow language of Isa.34:4**
- Hebrews point: none of these things said of angels

I. Observation

II. Explanation

**III. Application**

What difference does it make?  
Am I willing to do what it teaches?

Does it give me . . .

- a. Verse to use? Mt.4:4
- b. Reason to change conduct? Ro.12:1
- c. Good example to follow? 1 Co.4:1-2
- d. Unapproved example to avoid? 1 Co. 10:1-13
- e. Fact to believe? 1 Co.15:1-3
- f. Command to obey? 1 Co.16:1-2
- g. Promise to receive? 2 Co.7:1

# Bible study illustrated

1 Kings 3: character study: four kings  
(Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, Mesha...)

Lk.16: expository study: bad man's  
good example

Word studies: What are Christians  
made of? [What are elders made of?]

Topical study: Thanksgiving