

# Hearing God’s Voice in the Pages of Scripture

## *Session #2: The Attention the Bible Requires*

*How do we get to grips with the intentions of the biblical authors as these are expressed in the inspired pages of Scripture?*

### I. The Inspiration of the Bible

‘The Bible, as originally given, is the **inspired** and infallible **Word of God**. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.’ (UCCF Doctrinal Basis)

### II. The Intention of the Author

1. The intention of the author as laid down in the text
2. The intention of the author and the significance for the reader
3. The intention of the author and the inspiration of Scripture
4. The intention of the author and the canon of Scripture
5. The intention of the author and the task of interpretation

### III. The Meaning of the Text

1. Reading for the literary flow: literary context
2. Reading for the historical background: historical context
3. Reading for the big picture: biblical context

### Further Reading

#### **For starting out on interpreting the Bible:**

Richard Chin, *How to Read the Bible Better* (Matthias Media, 2021).

Matthew S. Harmon, *Asking the Right Questions: A Practical Guide to Understanding and Applying the Bible* (Crossway, 2017).

Gary Millar, *Read This First: A Simple Guide to Getting the Most from the Bible* (The Good Book Company, 2022).

Josh Moody, *How the Bible Can Change Your Life: Answers to the Ten Most Common Questions About the Bible* (Christian Focus, 2018).

**For next steps on interpreting the Bible:**

Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach, *Dig Deeper! Tools to Unearth the Bible’s Treasure* (IVP, 2005).

Andrew Sach and Richard Alldritt, *Dig Even Deeper: Unearthing Old Testament Treasure* (IVP, 2010).

Andrew Sach and Tim Hiorns, *Dig Deeper into the Gospels: Coming Face to Face With Jesus in Mark* (IVP, 2015).

**For going further on interpreting the Bible:**

Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*, 3rd edn (Baker Academic, 2020).

Andreas Köstenberger with Richard D. Patterson, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*, 2nd edn (Kregel, 2021).

Nicholas G. Piotrowski, *In All the Scriptures: The Three Contexts of Biblical Hermeneutics* (IVP, 2021).

Robert Plummer, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*, 2nd edn (Kregel, 2021).

**For heavy lifting on interpreting the Bible:**

Craig G. Bartholomew, *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture* (Baker Academic, 2015).

Jeannine K. Brown, *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Interpretation*, 2nd edn (Baker Academic, 2021).

Grant R. Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, 2nd edn (IVP, 2006).

Kevin J. Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text? The Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge* (Apollos, 1998).

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