

Seven Important Questions for Interpreting the Bible

Based on the six contexts the Church uses for interpreting the Bible, here are **seven summary questions** you can ask when studying any book or story in the Bible:

1. What was the historical situation at the time this book was written? How did the human author(s) address this situation?
2. What is this book or passage's literary genre? What are the rules for understanding it?
3. Is there a cultural practice or attitude reflected in this book or passage that we need to understand in order to appreciate the human author's intention?
4. How does this book or story fit into the overall story of salvation history?
5. How does Sacred Tradition help us to understand this book or story? How does this book or story help us to better understand God's revealed truths in Sacred Tradition?
6. Is the truth I understand from this book or story consistent with the rest of Scripture and Tradition?
7. When I look at everything I learned from these six questions, what spiritual truth is God revealing?