**Podcast Next Episode**

In today's episode, we will discuss Bible interpretations or people's methods to interpret the Bible. We will not discuss Bible study methods but rather how people interpret the text. There are three main methods people use

There are three main approaches that people use, sometimes without realizing it or without intending to do so, and occasionally, unfortunately, we may use the wrong approach. Exegesis, eisegesis, and narcigesis. Eisegesis and exegesis are conflicting methods; Narcigesis is a relatively new term to describe a potentially hazardous way.

**Exegesis** is the exposition or explanation of a text based on careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis means “to lead out of.” That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text.

**Eisegesis** interprets a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word eisegesis means “to lead into,” which means the interpreter injects his ideas into the text, making it mean whatever he wants.

Eisegesis is the mishandling of the text that often results in a misinterpretation. In eisegesis, the goal is to make a point regardless of its seeming meaningless. Exegesis is concerned with discovering the text's true meaning respecting its grammar, syntax, and setting. The text can only be understood through Exegesis.

**Narcigesis** is a relatively new word that has not yet entered dictionaries—using the words narcissism and eisegesis in combination. The expression is often used to describe the process of interpreting Scripture from a highly personal, sometimes even selfish perspective. So, **narcigesis** can be defined as "the explanation of the Bible in a manner that shows excessive interest in oneself and emphasizes one's own beliefs."

Some people with egotistical tendencies end up being narcigetes. They view the Bible as mainly addressing their own life experiences. The Bible is all about them: every promise is for them, and every story is about them or their situation. Using narcigesis to interpret the story of David and Goliath, I become David. My self-esteem demands it. (In the story of David and Bathsheba, however, I stop being David and maybe Nathan or Uriah instead.) In the battle of Jericho, I'm Joshua (never Achan). On the Sea of Galilee, I'm Peter walking on water. And so on.

All these methods are part of a fundamental science known as hermeneutics.

**Hermeneutics** in its technical meaning is often defined as the science and art of biblical interpretation. 2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers to be involved in hermeneutics: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who . . . correctly handles the word of truth.” Biblical hermeneutics aims to help us know how to interpret, understand, and apply the Bible correctly.

Pastors use hermeneutics and Bible teachers to write sermons, teach lessons, and conduct devotionals. I believe that everyone who reads the Bible should take a hermeneutics class. Pastors and teachers develop their hermeneutic process, but they all cover the same six significant points. Let me tell you how I approach it.

**Preliminary summary-** Pray, read the text, and summarize. This is your personal observations, write everything that pops out of the text from words, situations, and things that seem strange.

**Historical-cultural analysis-** consider the historical and cultural environment in which an author wrote to understand his allusions, references, and purpose.

**Contextual analysis-** Consider the relationship of the given passage to the entire passage surrounding it, since a better understanding of an author’s intended meaning results from an acquaintance with the larger context.

**Lexical-syntactical analysis-** Develop the understanding of the definition of words (lexicology) and their relationship to one another (syntax) to understand more accurately the meaning the author intended to convey

**Theological analysis-** Consider the level of theological understanding at the time a revelation was given to ascertain the meaning of the text for its original recipients. It also considers related Scriptures, weather given before or after the passage being study.

**Literary (genre) analysis-** Identify the literary form or method used in the passage (genre). Such as historical narrative, epistle (letter), poetry, and so on; devices include idioms, symbolism, hyperbole, etc. Each genre and literary device present diverse attributes and interpretive demands.

**Comparison analysis-** Compare translations, other commentators (commentary).

**Application-** The important step of translating the meaning a Biblical text had for its original hearers into the significance it has for believers in different time and culture.