

SOME PRINCIPLES FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE

1. CONTEXT

What is going on in the passage?

For example: where are we in history, or where are we in the story?

Who are the main characters?

Who is talking to whom, and about what?

2. MEANING (EXEGESIS)

Draw out the meaning of what is said “there and then” in the passage.

For Example: Who is speaking to whom? What is the speaker saying? Is it an instruction, an event, a story, sarcasm, hyperbole, a prediction, poetry?

Are there any other similar events, statements or concepts in scripture?

3. INTERPRETATION

Compare the meaning of this passage or verse with other scriptures and ask questions about the meaning.

For Example: What is the main teaching or principle?

Does the main teaching or principle of this passage contradict or agree with other parts of Scripture?

What is God saying? What does God mean by giving us these words?

Is the meaning literal? Symbolic? Can the meaning be interpreted in more than one way without contradiction? What is the central truth and how does that relate to God’s Extremely Big Plan, of which Christ is the central figure?

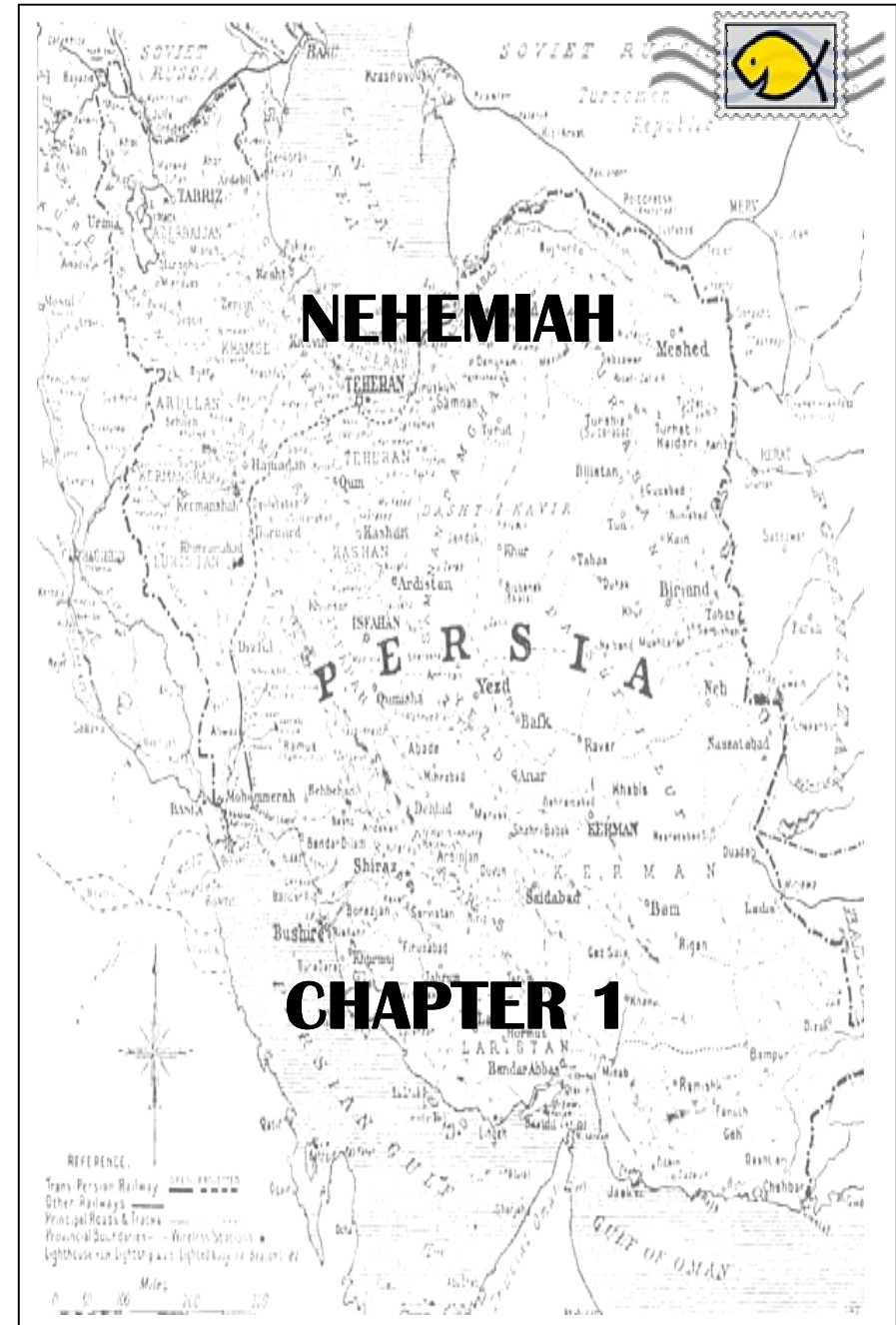
4. APPLICATION

Look for a contemporary example of how to apply the passage in the “here and now”.

For example: Does the meaning and interpretation apply to me? How do I apply it to my life?

How does it apply to the church or the world?

Are there any limitations or special instructions on how I apply it is it part of a larger truth which I can apply to my life?



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 1

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Zerubbabel and Ezra have returned to Jerusalem after exile. Temple rebuilt

(1:4) Nehemiah is informed of the conditions in Jerusalem

(1:5-11) Nehemiah is praying

WHAT'S BEING SAID OR DONE?

KEY VERSE:

“They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.”

(Neh 1:10)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US?

HOW DO WE APPLY THIS TO OURSELVES?

SUMMARY