Introduction	5
Hermeneutics and Intended Meaning The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture Meaning Is Genre-Dependent The Simplicity and Clarity of Scripture	
The Unity and Diversity of Scripture	
The Analogy of Scripture	11
The Progress of Revelation	11
Expository Preaching	
	12
Part 1 General Hermeneutics	
1 Context	
The Historical Context	
The Logical Context	
1. Studying the Whole: Charting a Book	
2. Studying the Parts: Diagramming the Paragraph	
3. Arcing	34
Rhetorical or Compositional Pattern	
2 Grammar	41
The Preliminary Task: Establishing the Text	
1. External Criteria	44
2. Internal Criteria	
Grammatical Analysis of the Text	47
1. The Historical Development	
2. The Verb System	
3. The Noun System	
4. Prepositions, Particles and Clauses	
Exegetical Procedures	62
3 Semantics	64
Semantic Fallacies	65
1. The Lexical Fallacy	65
2. The Root Fallacy	66
3. Misuse of Etymology	69
4. Misuse of Subsequent Meaning	71
5. The One-Meaning Fallacy	72

6. Misuse of Parallels	73
7. The Disjunctive Fallacy	74
8. The Word Fallacy	74
9. Ignoring the Context	75
Basic Semantic Theory	75
1. Meaning	75
Meaning      Sense and Reference	76
2. Sense and Reference	78
3. Structural Linguistics	78
4. Context	70
5. Deep Structure	00
6. Syntax and Semantics	01
7. Semantic Range	01
8. Connotative Meaning	84
9. Paradigmatic Research: Synonymity, Antonymity and Componential Analysis	84
10. Ambiguity and Double Meaning	88
Conclusion: A Methodology for Lexical Study	89
4 Syntax	93
Biblical Transformations	94
Propositional Display of Philemon 4-7	96
Performative and Emotive Language	98
Figures of Speech	100
1. Figures of Comparison	
2. Figures of Addition or Fullness of Expression	105
3. Incomplete Figures of Speech	106
4. Figures Involving Contrast or Understatement	107
5. Figures Centering upon Association or Relation	
6. Figures Stressing the Personal Dimension	
Conclusion	
Biblical Examples	
Zephaniah 3:14-17	
1. The Joyful Response of Israel (vv. 14-15)	
2. The Message of Hope (vv. 16-17)	
Ephesians 3:16-19	
1. Prayer for Power (vv. 16-17a)	
2. Prayer for Insight (3:17b-19a)	
3. Prayer for Fullness (3:19b)	
Conclusion	117
Excursus on Transformational Grammar	118
Excursus on Rhetorical Criticism	
5 Historical & Cultural Backgrounds	
Areas for Research	
1. Geography	
2. Politics	

3. Economics	130
4. Military and War	13.
5. Cultural Practices	
6. Religious Customs	
7. Summary	
Specific Sources for Background Material	
1. Old Testament Allusions	
2. Intertestamental Allusions	130
3. Qumran Parallels	
4. Rabbinic Parallels	
5. Hellenistic Parallels	138
6. Summary	139
Sociology as a Tool for Interpreting Scripture	139
Problems in the Sociological Approach	14
1. Misuse of the Models	
2. Revisionism	142
3. Tendency to Generalize	
4. The Paucity of the Data	142
5. Tendency to Debunk the Systems	143
6. Reductionism	143
7. Theoretical Disarray	
8. Determinism	144
9. Tendency to Disjunctive Theories	144
Evaluation and Methodology	
Part 2 Genre Analysis	149
6 Narrative	
The Methodology of Narrative Criticism	
1. Implied Author and Narrator	154
2. Point of View, Ideology and Narrative World	156
3. Narrative and Story Time	157
4. Plot	
5. Characterization	159
6. Setting	160
7. Implicit Commentary	161
8. The Implied Reader	162
9. Conclusion	163
The Weaknesses of Narrative Criticism	164
1. A Dehistoricizing Tendency	164
2. Setting Aside the Author	165
3. A Denial of Intended or Referential Meaning	165
4. Reductionistic and Disjunctive Thinking	165
5. The Imposition of Modern Literary Categories upon Ancient Genres	166
6. A Preoccupation with Obscure Theories	166

7. Ignoring the Understanding of the Early Church	167
a A Dejection of the Sources behind the Books	
O Caralysian	100
Methodological Principles for Studying Narrative Texts	100
1 Structural Analysis	100
2 Stylistic Analysis	109
3 Redactional Analysis	109
4 Execetical Analysis	1/0
5 Theological Analysis	1/1
6 Contextualization	1/1
7. Use a Narrative Form for the Sermon	1/2
7 Poetru	174
The Form of Hebrew Poetry	175
1 Metrical Patterns	1/3
2. Parallelism	176
3. Poetic Language and Imagery	180
Types of Poetry	181
1 War Songs	181
2 Love Songs	181
3. Lament	
4. Hymns or Praise Songs	
5. Thanksgiving Hymns	183
6. Songs of Celebration and Affirmation	184
7. Wisdom and Didactic Psalms	183
8. Imprecatory Psalms	185
Poetry in the New Testament	183
Theology in the Psalms	180
Hermeneutical Principles	187
8 Wisdom	191
Characteristics of Wisdom	
1. A Practical Orientation	
2. Dependence on God	
3. Indirect Authority	194
4. Creation Theology	194
The Forms of Wisdom Literature	
1. The Proverb	
2. The Saying	
3. The Riddle	
4. The Admonition	190
5. The Allegory	
6. Hymns and Prayers	197
7. The Dialogue	197
8. The Confession	19/

9. Onomastica	198
10. Beatitudes	198
Wisdom in the New Testament	198
Hermeneutical Principles	198
Excursus: The History of Wisdom Teaching	201
	205
The Nature of the Prophetic Role	205
1. The Call of the Prophet	205
2. The Complex Role of the Prophet	
3. The Characteristics of False Prophets	
The Nature of the Prophetic Message	
1. Present and Future Interact	
2. The Revelatory State Differed	
3. The Forms of Prophetic Proclamation Vary	
Hermeneutical Principles	
10 Apocalyptic	221
Formal Features and Characteristics	
1. The Formal Features	
2. Characteristics	
The Interpretation of Symbols	
Hermeneutical Principles	
Excursus: The Origins of Apocalyptic	232
11 Parable	
The Meaning and Use of Parables	
The Purpose of Parables	
The Characteristics of Parables	
1. Earthiness	
2. Conciseness	
3. Major and Minor Points	
4. Repetition	
5. Conclusion at the End	
6. Listener-relatedness	
7. Reversal of Expectation	
8. Kingdom-centered Eschatology	
9. Kingdom Ethics	
10. God and Salvation in the Parables	
Hermeneutical Principles	
Excursus: The History of Interpretation	
12 Epistle	252
Letter-Writing in the Ancient World	
New Testament Enistles	251

1. The Form	254
2. Authorship	256
Hermeneutical Principles	258
13 Biblical Theology	
Relationship to Other Disciplines	264
1. Biblical Theology and Exegesis	
2. Biblical Theology and Historical Theology	
3. Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology	
4. Biblical Theology and Homiletical Theology	
Specific Problem Areas	
1. Unity and Diversity	
2. Tradition History	
3. Theology and Canon	271
4. The Analogia Fidei and Progressive Revelation	
5. Authority	274
6. History and Theology	275
7. Language, Text and Meaning	
8. Old Testament and New Testament	277
Toward a Methodology	277
1. The Synthetic Method	278
2. The Analytical Method	
3. The History of Religions Method	279
4. Diachronic and Tradition-Critical Methods	
5. The Christological Method	280
6. The Confessional Method	281
7. The Multiplex Method	281
8. The Problem of a Unifying Center	282
Conclusion	284
14 Systematic Theology	286
The Components of Theological Construction	287
1. Scripture	287
2. Tradition	290
3. Community	293
4. Experience	294
5. Philosophy	296
Issues in Theological Construction	298
1. Inspiration/Revelation	
2. The Question of Metaphor	
3. Theological Models	303
4. Tentativeness and Authority of Theological Assertions	307
5. Theology as Contextualization	3/10

6. Verification or Validation of Theological Assertions	31
7. The Politics of Theological Decision Making	
Hermeneutical Principles	31-
15 Homiletics I: Contextualization	
Biblical Examples	
Current Issues	
Cultural and Supracultural Norms in Scripture	
Hermeneutical Model	
1. General Principles	
2. Specific Principles	
A Method for Contextualization	
Conclusion	330
16 Homiletics II: The Sermon	
The Place of the Holy Spirit	340
A Devotional Experience	34.
From Text to Sermon	34.
Principles for Determining Application	
Practical Methods for Applying a Text	
1. Focusing the Claims of the Truth	348
2. Suggesting Ways and Means	
3. Persuasion and Motivation	
Conclusion	
1. Level I: Meaning/Interpretation	
2. Level II: Interpretation/Relevance	
3. Level III: Contextualization/Application	
4. Level IV: Preparing the Sermon	
Excursus on Preparing the Sermon	
Excursus on Style	
Appendix 1 The Problem of Meaning: The Issues	366
The Problem of the Reader and the Text	367
1. Author-centered Hermeneutics	368
2. The Movement Away from Author-Text: Gadamer	369
3. Structuralism	
4. Poststructuralism	374
5. Reader-Response Criticism	377
6. Deconstruction	380
7. Conclusion	385
Mediating Positions	380
I. Paul Ricoeur	380
2. David Tracy	388
3. Canon-Critical Approaches	389
4. Wittgenstein and His Followers	30

5. The Return of the Author: Betti, Hirsch, Juhl	393
Summary	395
Appendix 2 The Problem of Meaning: Toward a Solution	
Meaning and Reference: The Contribution of Analytical Philosophy	397
The Sociology of Knowledge, Paradigm Structure and Intentionality	401
1. Sociology of Knowledge	401
Paradigm Change and Paradigm Communities	403
3. Intentionality	405
4. Probability Theory	
Propositional Truth and the Logic of Narrativity	408
A Field Approach to Hermeneutics	
Notes	
Bibliography	436
Subject Index	481
Author Index	483
Index to Scripture and Other Ancient Writings	489