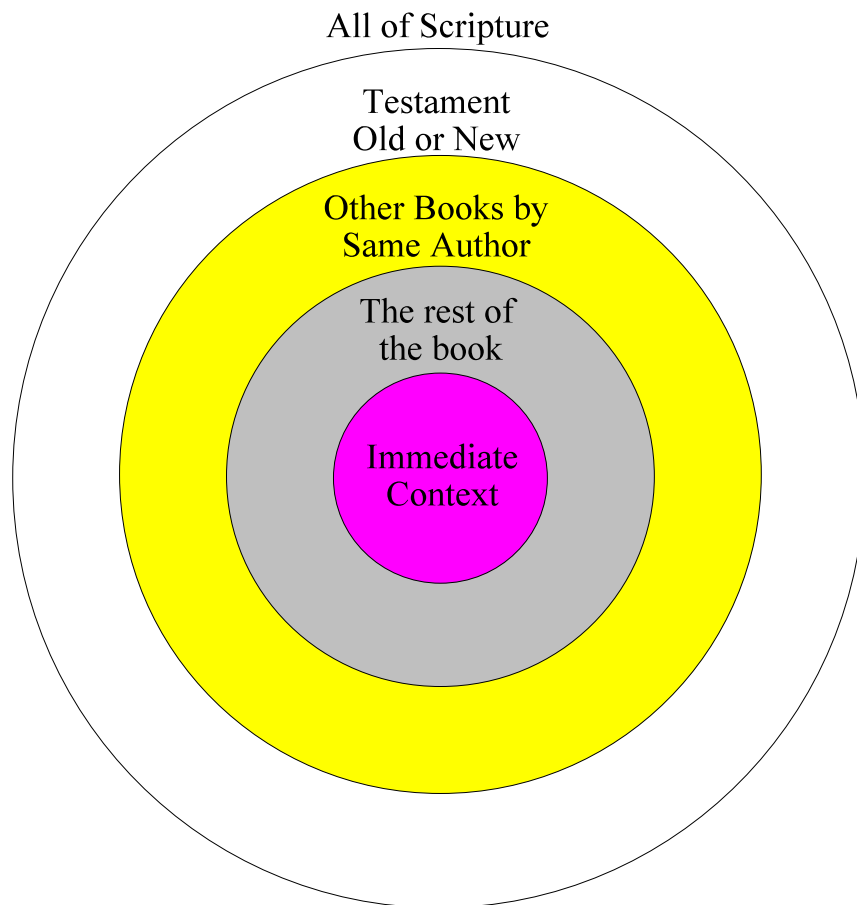


Contextual Studies.

The relationship of the unit of thought to the whole.

- 1) The context of the whole of Scripture gives the general perspective and governs the fundamental assumptions (i.e. sets the limits of meaning) for the interpreter. Scripture interprets Scripture. The "hermeneutical circle" demands that we can not understand the whole unless we understand the parts and we can not understand the parts without understanding the whole. Interpretation involves a rotation from part to whole and whole to part.
- 2) The context of the Testament - Old or New. Where does the passage fit in the progress of revelation.
- 3) The context of other books written by the same author
- 4) The context of the particular book. Who was the writer, who was it written to, why was the book written (i.e. the purpose of the book).
- 5) The context of the immediate passage. Where does the particular passage fit in the flow of thought occurring before and after. **Please note** chapter and verse indicators are not part of the original. They have been added in modern times as a reference tool. They often must be ignored in trying to understand the flow of thought.



Context Exercises

1) Some modern day preachers use 1 Samuel 26:9 as a proof text that they should not be criticized. What is the context of this passage? Who is the "Lord's anointed" ?

2) 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 defines "love." What is the context of the book? The context of this section of the book (Ch. 12-14)? and the context of this chapter? What does this add to your understanding of what Paul is saying here?

3) Galatians 3:27 & 28 has been used by feminists to object to different roles for men and women. What is the context of this passage? Other writings of Paul; the flow of thought of this book; the immediate context of this verse?

4) Revelation 3:20 has often been used as an evangelism verse. What is its context?

5) John 14:13 is used by many to claim anything they want from Jesus. What is the context?
