

Marsing's (Hermeneutical) Methods

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2Ti 2:15 KJV

Study to shew thyself ^A approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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^A It doesn't say study to find *someone else* to show approval unto God, but show **thyself**. Delegating your duties and responsibilities to others isn't going to cut it. If this is your nature then how can you receive the corresponding blessings.

Everyone needs good and righteous teachers, so the trick is to find those who aren't "pulling the wool over your eyes", (which of course includes the author of this article). My answer to this is twofold, listening to your holy spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*, after all, not listening to this is the unforgivable sin (article #[293](#)) and finally to be disciplined, tenacious and persistent.

Introduction

This article describes my rules that I have collected and that make sense to me. I wanted to have a central source of these hermeneutical methods with numbers so that I can quickly reference them from other articles that I write. I would say that creating a list of this methods (or maxims / principles) is not unreasonable and not contrary to what the stated verse above says i.e. "...showing yourself approved..." includes how you approach studying the word of God.

This document is more focused on how you go about studying scripture and less on why. **TODO:** review this, because I'm starting to question that "Marsing's (Hermeneutical) Methods" is a significantly different approach than the ways of old, and part of this approach is to at least identify the why and pointing to more details in other documents.

Acknowledgment of traditional forms of Hermeneutics

I certainly respect and recognize that many sages in the past have their own hermeneutics, but this is what makes sense to me given the age I live in and the experiences I have had that the sages in the past have not had. The sages of old do not live in this age of information explosion (Dan 12:4?). They did not live in a country like America that was founded on most awesome biblical principles. Did they understand what it meant to be a sovereign? The ancient sages who put together the ideas behind PaRDeS, e.g. [Hillel the Elder](#) and [Rabbi Ishmael](#) lived in a different era. I am on the other hand a conservative and respect the ways of the past.

Having said that I found much of these hermeneutical techniques to be confusing or verbose or missing the point. It's seems to me it's not seeing the forest for the trees if you will. Here's some examples...

Hillel's Seven Rules ^B

3. Binyan ab mi-katub echad: Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question.

What does this mean?

4. Binyan ab mi-shene ketubim: The same as the preceding, except that the provision is generalized from two biblical passages.

If I'm struggling with three and understanding four, which references and relies on three, isn't going to help understand the fourth one either.

Am I saying that PaRDeS is of no value, no not at all I think it's very fascinating I very much like the four levels and categorization that are made by them and further I intend to continue studying their meanings. I just get lost in the laws that are given as the foundation for the four levels.

I want to say one more thing. How is it possible that these two great religions of Rabbinical Judaism and Christianity can have such extreme interpretation with regard to the scriptures. This tells me that the two

^B Source: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/12936-rules-of-hillel-the-seven>

theologies are ripe for a different understanding that both can achieve, if their willing to stretch their mind and focus on what the word of God says.

Purpose

So what am I looking for one might ask. Answer: Action. I'm not interested in winning theological arguments, as this is not part of my goal. I like the phrase Hebrew phrase “*Tikkun olam b'malkhut Shaddai*”^C which means “repair the world for God's kingdom” and I would add “using God's power”.

One might ask, “What is this power you speak of?” The power which comes from my contract/covenant with the Creator of the Universe, which is part of the American birthright. It's also reflected in the parable of the talents ^D. The purpose for which is to exercise pure religion

Isa 1:17-18 KJV Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. (18) Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Marsing's (Hermeneutical) Methods Enumerated

1. Man's relationship with Elohim is contractual
 - a. This can be expressed in terms of a covenant or a trust.
 - b. Scripture is authoritative (*sola scriptura*)
 - c. This contract defines the law
 - d. The only parties contracted with YHVH in the scriptures are the House of Judah and the House of Israel
 - e. All authority ultimately can only come from this contract
2. Physical and spiritual are the two foundational levels.
 - a. We live in the physical realm to understand the spiritual realm (e.g. marriage covenant)
 - b. Physical and spiritual cannot be disconnected. (e.g. the churches claim to only being spiritual Israel)
3. Never lose site of the P'shat. The deeper levels of scripture PaRDeS cannot over-ride the simple literal meanings
4. There is no idle word in the Torah
5. Context is King
6. Exegesis defines religion

^C See Word-Study-of-Tikkun-as-in-Tikkun-olam-bmalkhut-Shaddai, article #[277](#).

^D See Parable-of-the-Talents-Mat-25-14-30-and-Parable-of-the-Minas-Luk-19-11-27, article #[812](#).

7. Eisegesis must stand on good Exegesis
8. What happens to the fathers happens to the sons (YHVH works in patterns)
9. Torah is a self correcting document (no private interpretation)
10. When defining a word look for its first use.
11. Torah is foundational and you must start their first
12. The language of Torah is Hebrew
13. Hebrew is God's computer programming like language ... H# ;).

A purist might say that I'm stretching the definition of the hermeneutics, but TODO

The science of interpreting texts: the science and methodology of interpreting texts, especially the books of the Bible

The theology of religious concepts: the branch of theology that is concerned with explaining or interpreting religious concepts, theories, and principles

The terms "hermeneutics" and "exegesis" are sometimes used interchangeably.

The methodology of interpreting the bible

What are the signs of a good and righteous teacher?

One who focuses on the weightier matters (Mat 5:17-19)

Thinking about thinking

Before you embark on the book that describes your relationship with the Creator of the Universe, doesn't it make sense to think about the process?

Patterns and Anti-Patterns

As a database and web developer I love the ideas of patterns because it's an effective and efficient way to communicate your intent. Therefore, applying this to scripture will give you clarity as to the intent of what YHVH expects of you.

Two House One Covenant

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Biblical style of writing

How is the bible written? Are there styles and formats that can be identified and applied to other parts of scripture to give the student of scriptures and hint as to its meaning

Pro 25:2 KJV *It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings *is* to search out a matter.

Mat 7:28-29 KJV And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: (29) For he taught them as *one* **having authority**, and not as the scribes.

This is the end of the Sermon on the Mount. The question to be asked is why does it say that Y'shua spoke with authority? I'm asking this in the context of hermeneutics (which is what this article is about) so I'm suggesting strongly that to speak with authority requires good hermeneutics.

Basic Introductory Definitions

This is not an exhaustive list of definitions (ToDo Add a link to the definitions list) but are those basic terms that need to be understood right away to make sense of this article.

Exegesis

Reading out of the scriptures. Contrast with eisegesis. Using things like Sola Scriptura, you define what your religion is based on scripture. E.g. the definition of food is not what our culture deems it to be, but rather how scripture defines it.

Eisegesis

Reading ones interpretation into the scriptures which is subjective. Contrast with exegesis

Commentary

Eisegesis (from the Greek; 'to lead in') is the process of interpretation of an existing text in such a way as to introduce one's own ideas. This is best understood when contrasted with exegesis. While exegesis draws out the meaning from the text, eisegesis occurs when a reader reads his/her interpretation into the text. As a result, exegesis tends to be objective when employed effectively while eisegesis is regarded as highly subjective.

Sola Scriptura

Socratic Method

Hebrew Halacha

Hebrew Thinking

Discernment

PaRDeS

Latin for "by scripture alone". It is the assertion that the Bible is YHVH's written word is self-authenticating, clear to the rational reader, its own interpreter, and sufficient of itself to be the final authority.

Commentary

Sola scriptura was a foundational doctrinal principle of the Protestant Reformation, but didn't really mean it, as there is a lot of non scriptural practices and tradition that spilled over from Catholicism e.g. not keeping

Shabbath, not keeping the High Holy days, not keeping Kosher and not honoring the Avrahamic covenant via circumcision.

i. Hermeneutics

1. E.g. Exegesis and Eisegesis; Elohim works in Patterns, Sola Scriptura, Two House, PaRDeS
2. The goal is to be able to state something with (e.g. a point in law) with authority

Good hermeneutics put's emphasis on where the Hebrew word is first used

References

- Exegesis-Timeline.doc
- PaRDeS-Table-Cheat-Sheet.doc
- PaRDeS-Table-Cheat-Sheet-Bookmark.doc
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Notes

Why does Y'shua speak in parables?

Hebrew Halacha

“Because they (your fathers) have walked contrary unto me ; 41 And that I also have walked contrary unto them,”

Commentary: because your fathers have not done the Hebrew Halacha (walk) but rather have walked like an Egyptian, YHVH says that he will not walk (Heb. Halacha) with them. The Hebrew Halacha is a metaphor for Hebrew thinking and Hebrew thinking is similar to the Socratic method. This sort of thinking is what two rational mutually respectful people do when they wish to communicate with each other in a meaningful way. Therefore YHVH is saying that we need to confess that both we and our fathers did this and then and only then can this spiritual dialog start back up. That dialog could be like Jacob had at the stairway to heaven event and at the event when he wrestled with Elohim.

My point is that a conspiracy theory mindset doesn't fit into this mold.

source: Critical-Thinking.doc

Notes From Who Am I (ver 2.1) - READ ONLY.doc

Marsing's Maxims

Hermeneutics defined is a process of scriptural interpretation.

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics defined is a process of scriptural interpretation.

By profession, I am a computer programmer / database developer and I love this type of work, because it allows me to use skills which come naturally to me. When I am involved in this creative process, I get a glimpse of how the Creator works, which is why reading His words is so fascinating. When reading the scripture, I love to find patterns and see if I can find and use them as I study. I also enjoy reading about how others in the past like the Jewish sages viewed things and the patterns that have developed.

Hebrew Thinking The Greek way of thinking occurs when the student goes to the teacher with a question and he simply gives him the answer. In Hebrew thinking, when the student goes to the teacher or any two people for that matter, the teacher even if he knows the answer (or thinks he knows the answer) engages the student with another question (or series of question) designed to get the student to process the concept through his mind and have him come up with the answer. The answer might not be what the teacher initially thought it was, but can gain knowledge by seeing this different perspective of the student. To me this is exactly what Deu 19:15 is teaching and is why it is called Hebrew thinking. See http://www.hoshanarabbah.org/pdfs/heb_grk.pdf

Greeks seek wisdom and Hebrews seek signs (1Col 1:22). It isn't that Hebrews don't seek wisdom, they already know from scripture what wisdom is...The fear of YHVH. (**ToDo Wisdom Ref**). So what then are the signs? On the one hand Y'shua chastised his generation, see Mat 12:38-41, Mat 16:1-4, but is that all there is? What is the point of studying scripture? To me its about knowing how to live my life and seeking what YHVH expects of me. If we are need the end of times, you need to know what to expect and how to react. At another level, it's all about HaMashiach. The point I am trying to make is that it's not wrong to seek signs, it was proper for that generation to seek signs that Y'shua was in fact was who he said he was. The Torah commands it (Deu 18:15-20), YHVH requires it.

ToDo: Finish Signs of law

ToDo: Refactor I thought about making the connection with the software development by describing Hermeneutics as patterns and anti-patterns (e.g. Eisegesis). Also make a connection to Maxims of law.

Hermeneutical Principals A process of scriptural interpretation. Rabbi Ishmael of the Amoraic era of Judaism interpreted laws from the Torah through 13 hermeneutic principles

Overview

- Torah is a self correcting document (no private interpretation)
- It is a complete instruction manual to man (really just Israel) from the Creator
- Context means Textual, Historical and Cultural
- There is not idle word in the Torah (e.g. Aleph Tav, Gen 24)
- What happens to the fathers happens to the sons (YHVH works in patterns)
- The deeper levels of PaRDeS cannot over-ride the simple literal meanings (JKM)
- Because the Hebrew language was given by YHVH and it is what in fact created the universe, it's beauty leads to insight.
- The scripture is authoritative
- The physical world exists to help us understand the more important spiritual world (e.g. Marriage)

\ Mishnah + Gemara = Talmud = To Study ~ Midrash = from the teaching

Talmud itself was simplified to Halachah = to walk or conduct.

Jewish authority divided into two branches

Haggadah: from the word nagad to tell was the personal saying of the teacher more or less valuable according to this learning and popularity, or the authorities which he could quote in his support.

Halachah: from Halach to go to speak. The rule of the spiritual road and when fixed had even greater authority than the scriptures since it explained and applied them. Mat 7:24-29, Joh 7:46

Unlike Halacha, the Haggadah had no absolute authority either as doctrine or exegesis

Exegesis is the dog that wags the religious tail

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This will be a primary source for <http://www.myhebrewbible.com/Home/CriticalThinking>

If you can't define the goal or purpose of studying the word of God in such a formal and disciplined way that this article is trying to achieve then you will always question the purpose of your detailed life long study?

[Hermeneutics](#)

A process of scriptural interpretation. Rabbi Ishmael of the Amoraic era of Judaism interpreted laws from the Torah through 13 hermeneutic principles

Commentary

Chiastic Structures Thematic Analysis Sola Scriptura

References

- Marsings-Rules-and-Key-Definitions, article #[501](#).