

## How to do Observations

The first step in really studying a text of Scripture is to do observations of the text. This is what you will do before you really consult any outside resources. In doing observations, you want to just look at the text itself. Read through and make notes on what you read. If you see any connections, write those down. Observations are basically answering the question: What do I see?

### Here are some basic questions to ask of the text:

1. Who are the characters in the passage? Who is it talking about? Who is the author? To whom is this written?
2. What is the passage saying? What is happening? What are the people doing? What is the general topic?
3. Where are they going? Where did this occur? Notice the setting.
4. When did this happen? When will it happen? When can it happen? When did this happen in history? When did it happen in relation to other events?
5. How did it happen? How was something done?
6. Why did the characters say what they said? Why did they do what they did?
7. Are there any commands in the passage?
8. Are there any contrasts?
9. Are there repeated words/phrases?
10. Is there any cause and effect?
11. Are there any promises made?
12. Are there connections to other parts of the Bible?
13. What are the verbs in the passage?
14. What is being taught?
15. What type of literary style is used?
16. What can you learn about Christ in this passage?
17. What does this word mean?
18. Are there notable relationships:
  - a. Grammatical Relationships
  - b. Logical/chronological relationships
  - c. Contextual relationships (How does it relate to the rest of the book or the rest of the Bible as a whole?)
  - d. Genre relationships: Is it teaching, narrative, poetry, parable, miracle, prophecy, or apocalyptic? How does it relate to other passages of the same genre?