1. Be Aware of The Genre You Are Reading

Genre has to do with the style or form of the biblical content. For example, Revelation does not read like Judges, and Song of Solomon does not read like Romans. A lot of interpretive mistakes are made in not being aware of the genre we are reading.

There are always clues in the text that tell you what kind of genre you're dealing with. For example, if it reads like history, then it's historical narrative. If it has a poetic form with lots of parallel ideas then it's poetry.

GENRES IN THE BIBLE	
GENRE	SAMPLE TEXTS
Historical Narrative	Genesis, Mark
Prophecy	Isaiah; Malachi
Poetry	Joel; Amos (also prophecy)
Proverbs/Wisdom Literature	Proverbs, Job
Psalms and Songs	Exodus 15:1–18; Psalms
Letters	1 Corinthians, 2 Peter
Apocalyptic	Daniel, Revelation[1]

2. Be Aware of Original Context & Authorial Intent

To rightly interpret Scripture we have to ask these basic questions:

* *Who* was this originally written to? (original context)
* *When* was this written? (original context)
* *Who* wrote it? (authorial intent)
* *Why* did he write it? (authorial intent)

The *David Jeremiah* method:

* What the text *says* (original context)
* What the text *means* (original context + authorial intent)
* What the text means for *me* (original context + authorial intent + personal application)

3. Read Scripture *In Context*

In order to rightly interpret Scripture then each portion of Scripture (a single sentence or verse, a paragraph, chapter, etc.) has to be read in the larger context in which it sits.

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[1] Robert L. Plummer, *40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible*, ed. Benjamin L. Merkle, 40 Questions Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2010), 187.

Examples of verses taken out of context:

* Psalm 33:12   _____

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* Philippians 4:13   _____

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* Jeremiah 29:11   _____

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* Revelation 3:20   _____

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