



A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules

Robert H. Stein

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A readable guide to interpreting the various kinds of literature presented in the Bible, including poetry, narrative, prophecy, proverb, and epistle.

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From Reader Review A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules for online ebook

Bethy says

The prof for my recent Intro to Biblical Interpretation class assigned most of this book for reading - I'll have to go back and read the chapter or two that he didn't assign, but for purposes here, I've put it in the "read" category. It was ok. Right now, not having read anything else on the subject, I'm not sure I would stop here, or even recommend that someone start here if they wanted material on interpretation. Two books that have been recommended to me for further study are Robert Plummer's book in the 40 Questions series, and How to Read the Bible for All it's Worth by Fee.

Sydney Herron says

Easy to read, thorough, and understandable resource on hermeneutics. Stein carefully defines many key terms in order to ensure the reader has a clear understanding.

Mark says

A very good explanation of many of the genres found in the Bible and the rules for interpreting passages of Scripture in accordance with their respective genres. The first chapter has an excellent overview of philosophies of literary interpretation in general.

Jeff Elliott says

I read chapter 1-3, 8-9, 11 and 13 for a class on OT interpretation. This was an easily understandable, easy to read, thorough (perhaps a little too lengthy in the early chapters).

Brandon Current says

Read and Keep as Resource. Stein sets the need for instruction about interpreting the Bible well at the beginning of the book. He then helpfully creates a standard set of vocal so that we are all talking about the same thing. The rest of the book looks at individual genres and teaches what must be considered in each kind to understand the author's meaning. Application comes from the implications of the author's meaning once found.

Mark says

The strength of Stein's book on hermeneutics is his careful definition of words for the study of the Bible. Students of the Bible often use words like "implication" "interpretation" and "understanding" with less precision than they should. This guide is very helpful in that regard. He also includes chapters on each of the major biblical genres. There are many outstanding books on hermeneutics that are now published, but Stein's Basic Guide will be in that list for many years to come. My one concern with this book is his denial of the illumination of the Spirit in interpretation.

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Nathan Newcomer says

Stein lays out an easy to read and understandable book on the oft-confused and misunderstood topic of hermeneutics.

High Pointe Baptist Church says

A solid mid-level introduction to the difficult but do-able work of understanding what the Bible means and how it applies today

Olanma Ogbuehi says

I really enjoyed this book. There were careful definitions given, in the early chapters, explaining the terminology used in Biblical interpretation, which was refreshingly jargon free. I loved the use of review questions at the end of each chapter, but also the habit of the author to preview upcoming content. The book builds well, chapter by chapter, moving through different concepts, whilst continually reminding readers of what they have previously learned.

I think that this is good introductory text, which has stirred my interest to read more on the subject. I feel as though I have already learned some simple introductory lessons, which have been useful in aiding my understanding. What I have been reading is already making me read the Bible differently. I think that this book will serve as a useful textbook, for reference, when studying books and passages of scripture.
