

## UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME What Does It Mean?

### Moving from exploration to interpretation...

- From what the text says to what the text means.
- From questions of content to questions of context.

### CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT . . .

- The definition of context...
  - ▶ Context = that which **g**\_\_\_\_\_ **w**\_\_\_\_\_ the text.
- The dilemma created by context...
  - ▶ The Bible communicates eternal content.
  - ▶ The Bible communicates through **s**\_\_\_\_\_ contexts.
  - ▶ How do we go from then and there to here and now?
- The dedication to context...
  - ▶ We work to step into the author's shoes and determine his **O**\_\_\_\_\_ intent.
  - ▶ A biblical text can never mean what it never **m**\_\_\_\_\_.
  - ▶ Context **s**\_\_\_\_\_ meaning.
  - ▶ The rule of context: CONTEXT **R**\_\_\_\_\_!
- The diversity of contexts...
  - ▶ Our context.
  - ▶ Their context.

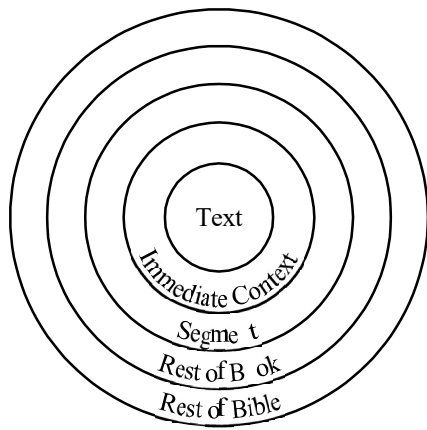
### CONSIDER OUR CONTEXT . . .

- Our preunderstandings:
  - ▶ All of our preconceived **n**\_\_\_\_\_ that we unconsciously or consciously bring to the text.
  - ▶ Our **p**\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Pride knows before listening.
  - ▶ Our **a**\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Two options:
      - b Stand over the meaning of the text.
      - b Kneel **u**\_\_\_\_\_ the meaning of the text.
  - ▶ Our familiarity.
    - Don't skip over a text just because it's familiar.
- Our **c**\_\_\_\_\_
- Language.
- Customs.
- Stories.
- **F**\_\_\_\_\_.
- Values.
- Economics.
- Politics.
- Ethnicity
- **G**\_\_\_\_\_.
- Religion.
- Arts.

- I\_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Our goal: **M**\_\_\_\_\_ subjectivity!
  - But not completely...
- Our presuppositions:
  - ▶ The Bible is inspired.
  - ▶ The Bible is reliable.
  - ▶ The Bible is **u**\_\_\_\_\_.
  - ▶ The Bible is diverse.
  - ▶ The Bible is **s**\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Thus the Bible has tension and mystery to it.
  - ▶ The Bible is **p**\_\_\_\_\_.
- So how can we best understand their context?

### CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT...

- Never forget that Scripture was God's Word to other people  
**b**\_\_\_\_\_ it became God's Word to us.
  - ▶ God cared deeply about **t**\_\_\_\_\_.
  - ▶ God cares deeply about us.
- Literary Context:
  - ▶ Genres.
    - Different forms or kinds of biblical texts.
    - We need to know the **r**\_\_\_\_\_ involved with different genres.
    - Old Testament...
      - Narrative
      - Law
      - Poetry
      - Prophets
      - Wisdom
    - New Testament
      - Letters
      - Gospels
        - Parables
      - Acts
      - Revelation
- ▶ **G**\_\_\_\_\_
  - Individual words, phrases, clauses all find meaning in context.
- ▶ Surroundings.
  - The Bible contains an integrated message in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



*“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20, NIV)*

*“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”  
(Revelation 3:21, NIV)*

■ HISTORICAL-CULTURAL CONTEXT . . .

- ▶ The time and culture of the author and his readers, including the social, geographical, topographical, and political factors that are relevant to the author’s setting.

- ▶ Get to know the **a** \_\_\_\_\_...

*“Pis is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down.  
We know that his testimony is true.” ( John 21:24, NIV)*

- ▶ Get to know the **a** \_\_\_\_\_...

*“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. “ ( John 20:31, NIV)*

- ▶ Get to know the geographic conditions...

*“ When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria.” ( John 4:3-4, NIV)*

- ▶ Get to know the **s** \_\_\_\_\_ conditions...

*“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’”  
( John 4:7, NIV)*

- ▶ Get to know the religious conditions...

*“Pe Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)”  
( John 4:9, NIV)*