

## Exegetical Writing

- I. Definition: critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture
- II. Another definition comes from [theopedia.com/exegesis](http://theopedia.com/exegesis)

Biblical **exegesis** is a systematic process by which a person arrives at a reasonable and coherent sense of the meaning and message of a biblical passage. Ideally, an understanding of the original texts (**Greek** and Hebrew) is required. In the process of exegesis, a passage must be viewed in its historical and grammatical context with its time/purpose of writing taken into account. This is often accommodated by asking:

- Who wrote the text, and who is the intended readership?
- What is the context of the text, i.e. how does it fit in the author's larger thought process, purpose, or argument in the chapter and book where it resides?
- Is the choice of words, wording, or word order significant in this particular passage?
- Why was the text written (e.g. to correct, encourage, or explain, etc.)?
- When was the text written?

- III. Here is more information from <http://www.biblestudy.org/beginner/definition-of-christian-terms/exegesis.html>

In a theological sense, the word Exegesis is used to denote an approach to **interpreting Bible passages** utilizing critical analysis. It is the thorough investigation of Biblical text, within their various contexts, to discover their original meaning. The word itself comes from a **Greek word** delineating 'to lead out of.' It is the opposite of Eisegesis, which is to 'read into' a particular text. In its modern usage, Exegesis is a critical interpretation of text, whether or not it comes from **the Scriptures**.

Exegesis that is correctly conducted uses **several tools** in order to arrive at what the writer is trying to convey to the reader. It additionally includes comprehending and analyzing both the literary and cultural context of Biblical verses and then using them to compare with verses elsewhere in Scripture to determine what God is saying. Exegesis, in short, is to dig out from a passage what it inherently is stating. Eisegesis, on the other hand, is the approach of interpreting passages by reading into them **a particular belief** that is not at all evident or clear.

Two different types of exegesis exist. The first is called Rational and the second is called Revealed. The revealed type states that **God's Spirit** is the inspiration behind **the writers of the Bible**. The words within the pages of Scripture are written under **God's divine inspiration** and they convey his perfect will for mankind. Rational states the authors of **the books of the Bible** were using their own creative minds (without any influence from God) to compose their writings.

Taken together, the two types of Exegesis state that some can study **God's word** believing he himself was the inspiration behind it while others study the Scriptures from the point of view that it is just a mere collection of made up stories, myths, tall tales, and so on.

IV. Here are specific ways to approach exegetical writing according to

[http://www.spirithome.com/bible\\_exegesis.html](http://www.spirithome.com/bible_exegesis.html)

- **historical** (using the historical context to find what it meant back when it was written or when it happened),
- **canonical** (treating the Bible as a whole document designed to be what a specific community shapes its life by),
- **symbolic/allegorical** (figuring out what each story, character, and event represents),
- **literary** (using the literary forms, word choices, editing work, main themes or narratives, etc., to understand what was written),
- **rational** (thinking it through using logic and deductive techniques).