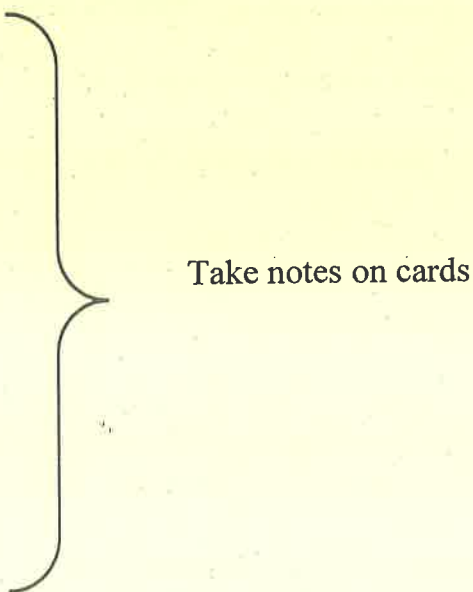


A Beginner's Overview: How to Write an Exegesis Paper

I. Principles

1. Write about what you see in the text, not about what others see
2. Show two things:
 - A. How to understand the pericope generally
 - B. That the pericope supports your specific interpretation or application
3. Don't cram too much into a paragraph (you will not use much of what you collect)

II. Before you write

1. Select a pericope
 - A. Something that fits the assignment
 - B. Something you don't already understand
 2. Read the whole context of the pericope (book or group of books)
 3. Read pericope itself several times in several translations
 4. Read about your pericope
 - A. Commentaries
 - B. Dictionaries
 - C. Encyclopedias
 - D. Books
 - E. Articles
 5. Read the pericope and the context again
 6. Organize your cards into four piles:
 - A. Text Criticism
 - B. Literary Criticism
- 
- Take notes on cards

C. Historical/Cultural/Geographic/Anthropological

D. Interpretation/Meaning/Application

7. NOTE: Piles A, B, and C should be the biggest (go back to the pericope and secondary sources to get more cards for short piles)
8. Subdivided each pile into logical paragraph groups

III. Writing

1. Text Criticism

- A. Define the beginning and end of the pericope
- B. Discuss the pericope's role in the context of the book (or group of books)
- C. Discuss specific words (variations: which words and grammar do you prefer)

2. Literary Criticism

- A. Structure (outline)
- B. Setting in Life (who said/wrote it and why)
- C. Genre (poetry, prophecy, history, law)
- D. Rhetorical/Content Analysis (how is it put together)
- E. Specific Structuring and Focusing Devices (metaphors, repetition, hyperbole, irony)
- F. Traditions (Exodus, Davidic, Covenant, Deuteronomic)

3. Historical/Cultural issues

- A. Dating (what else was going on in the world and how did it effect your material)
- B. Cultural Anthropology (kinship, politics, religion, economy)
- C. Geography (physical and political)
- D. Archeology (what has been dug up that helps us understand the time, place or action)

4. Interpretation/Meaning/Application (what does this pericope teach about God, humans, relationships, values)