

## **Exegesis Guidelines: Points to Consider**

### **Text and Translations**

- If you are not reading the text in its original language, look at *at least* three or four different translations of the passage – it may give you an idea where difficulties or ambiguities in the text may be found.

### **Historical Setting and Context**

- What historical event(s) produced the conditions described in this passage?
- What are the resulting social and political conditions in the community?

### **Literary Function & Setting in Life (*Sitz im Leben*) Within the Community**

- In what life setting is this passage “being used” or “recording events”?
- What is the setting of this piece with regard to surrounding passages?

### **Literary Form**

- Meaning, intent, and usage of that form for the occasion/crisis depicted in the passage?

### **Literary Structure & Grammar**

- Ordering, arrangement, grammatical structures within the passage (e.g. chiasmic; inclusio; etc.)

### **Word Study**

- Note and research words that are key to the message in the passage.

### **Message in the Biblical World**

- With the above information in mind, what is the specific message of the text in the biblical world (message to the *original audience*)

### **Theology**

- What do we know about G-d from this passage?
- What do we know about the relationship between G-d and G-d’s people at this juncture in the life of the community?

### **Commentators’/Scholars’ Views**

- What opinions do long-time students and scholars have concerning this passage?
- What are the variety of opinions, and for what reasons?

### **Comparable Life Situation in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life/Parallels in Message**

- How might the message of the text pertain/relate to modern times?