

## The Verse-by-Verse Analysis Method

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Week 8

Bible Study Methods

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### **Introduction**

The last 4 weeks we are going to cover four methods that, while each is independent, when used together, will give you a complete and exhaustive look at a Book of the Bible. If you are going to be teaching a class or leading a small group, I would recommend you do those four methods prior to sitting down and preparing your class. However, if you don't have time to put that kind of work into your study, then this verse-by-verse Analysis is a way to examine a passage.

### **Definition**

The verse-by-verse analysis method involves selecting a very short passage of scripture and examining it in detail from 5 different perspectives. Those perspectives are:

- Write a personal paraphrase
- List some questions and whatever answers you find
- Find some cross references
- Write down some insights you have discovered
- Write out a brief personal application

### **Why this method?**

- This is an "open-ended" method, so it is useful when you don't have time to look a chapter as a whole.
- Because it is "open-ended" you can work your way through a chapter or book over many sittings, moving at your own pace
- You can use this method in combination with other methods. For instance, when completing the cross-references section of a Topical study.
- This can be done without reference tools (but, of course, you could use them too)

### **The Form**

#### *Write a personal paraphrase*

- Write the verse in your own words
- DON'T use a modern paraphrase (yet)
- Stay true to the verse you are paraphrasing and try to condense rather than expand

#### *List some Questions, Answers and Observations*

- Ask questions (mark them with a "Q")

- If the passage contains the answers to the questions, then write them down and mark them with an “A”. You might also come back if the next section (Cross-references) contain the answers.
- Record any observations (Mark them with an “O”).

*Find Some Cross-References for Each Verse*

- Write down at least one cross reference for the verse you are studying

*Record any insights you get from each verse*

- Having thought through the words, phrases, and concepts of the verse, record any insights you get from them.
- These might be further observations, words and names that you have looked up and defined, or any thought that comes to you.
- Let your imagination go.

*Write down a brief personal application for each verse*

- Because of the number of verses in your study, you will not be able to design an application project for each verse.
- Just try and record some possible application. Later, in a devotional Bible Study (or some other one) you can pick one of the thoughts and develop it more fully.
- If a particular verse seems to meet an immediate need (of course), then go ahead and write out an application statement that meets the 4 “P” criteria.

**Final Thoughts**