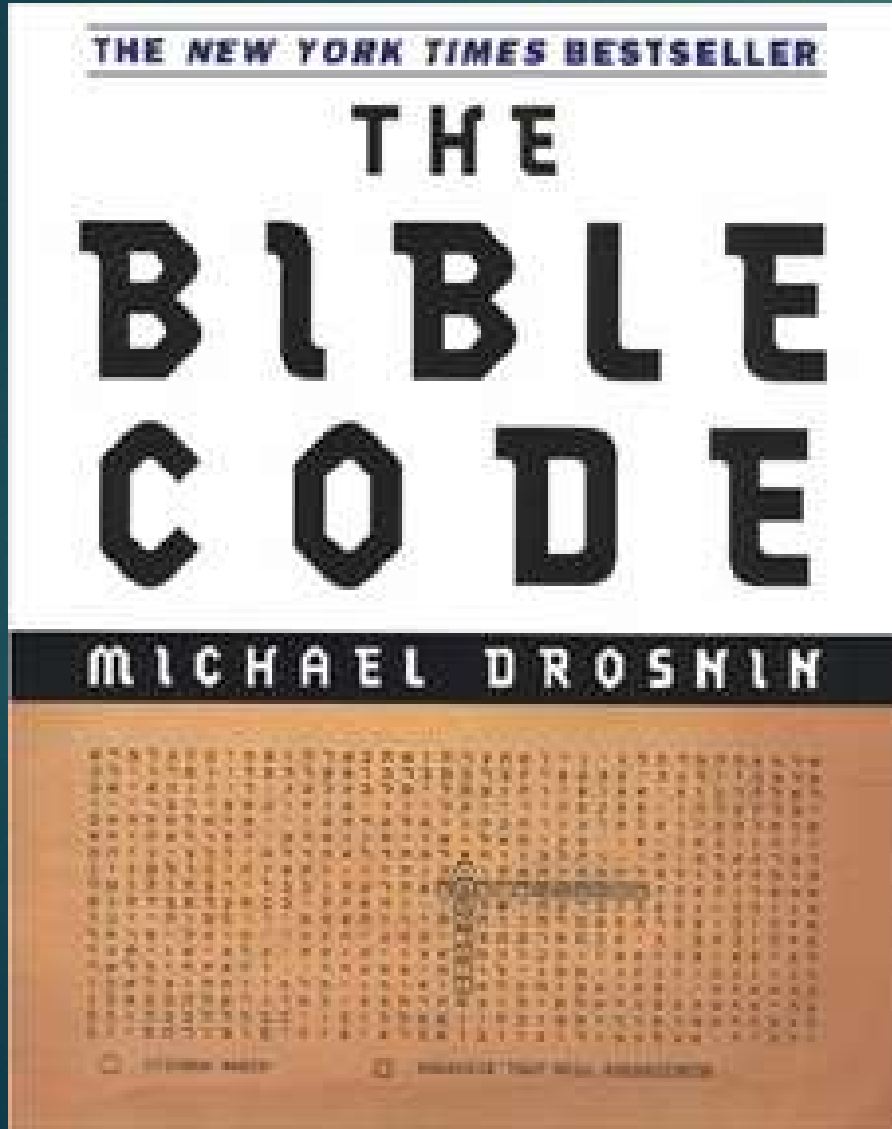


# COMMON INTERPRETATION ERRORS



# ***Bible Codes***



The authors of this book claimed that there was a special letter sequence code hidden in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. This special code could predict future events.

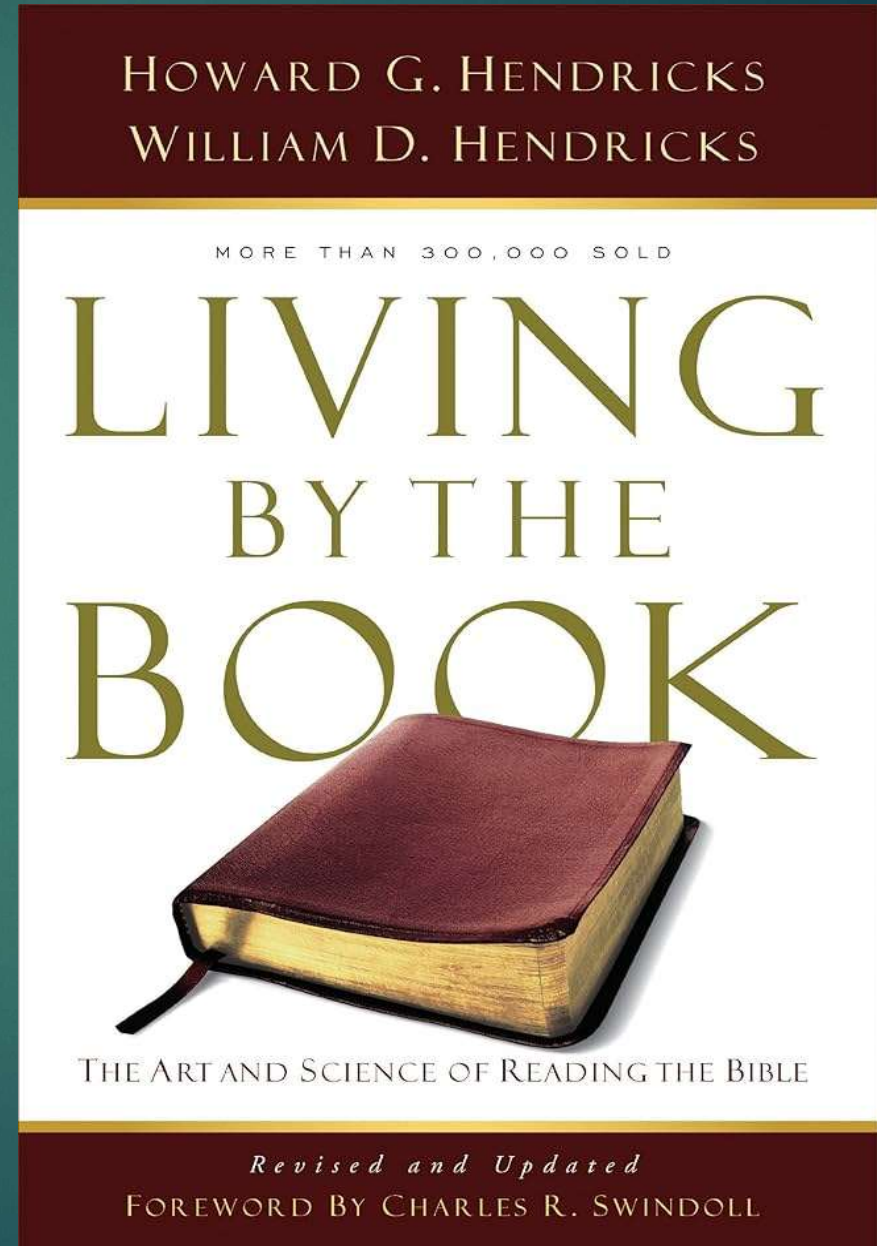
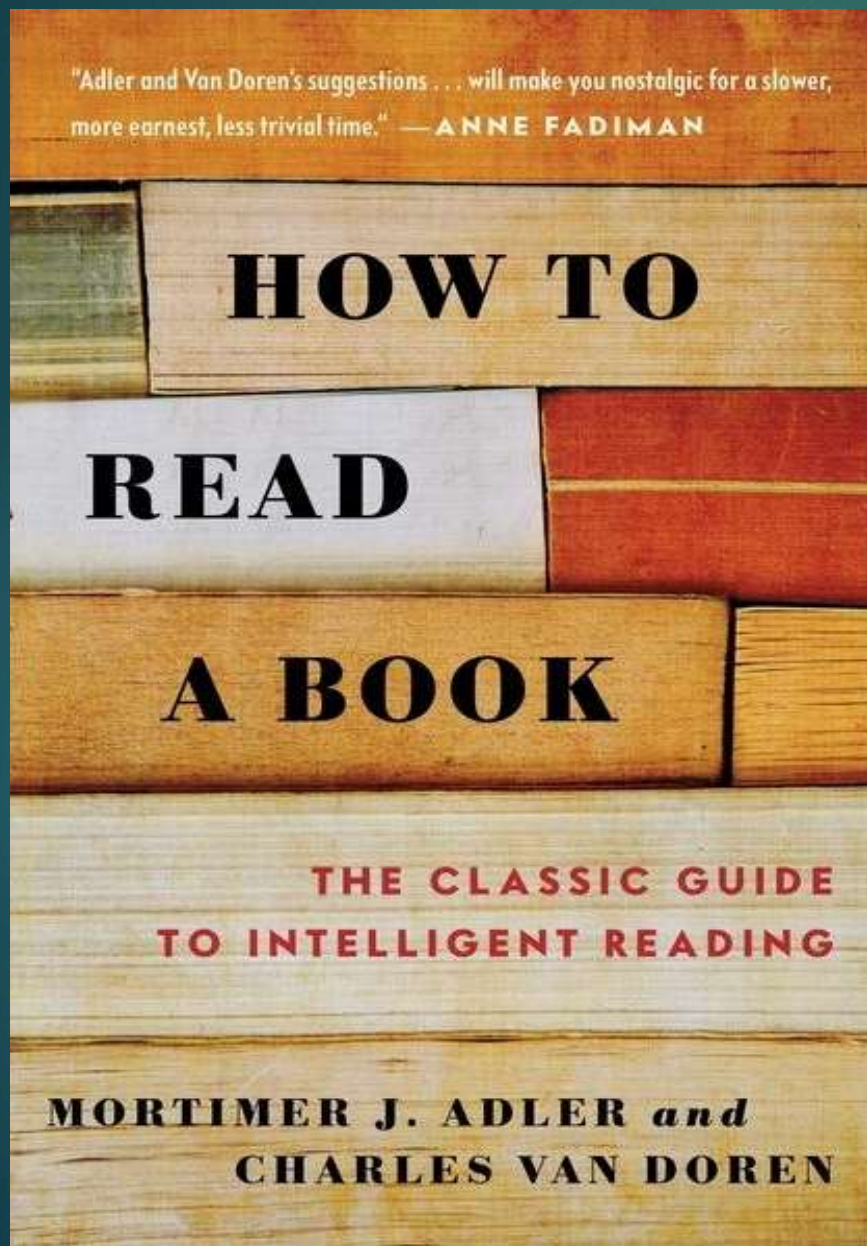






# **LITERAL or NORMAL MEANING**

**This term refers to the  
meaning the authors have  
placed in the text.**





# HOW TO READ

**SENTENCES**

PARAGRAPHS

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## 1. Repetition of Words

Look for words that repeat.

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'*

**1 Peter 1:15-16**

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## Repetition of Words

- ▶ How many times is this word repeated in the immediate context?
- ▶ Is this word repeated in the wider context?
- ▶ Does the repeated word always serve the same function?
- ▶ Does the repeated word utilize the same meaning each time it occurs?

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## 2. Contrast

Look for items, ideas or individuals that are contrasted.

## 3. Comparisons

Look for items, ideas or individuals that are compared with each other.

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

**Proverbs 15:1**

*Like a muddied spring or a polluted  
well are the righteous who give way  
to the wicked.*

**Proverbs 25:26**

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## 4. Lists

When you observe more than two itemized things, then you are observing a list.

*God heard their groaning  
and He remembered His  
covenant with Abraham,  
with Isaac, and with  
Jacob.*      **Exo 2:24**

Questions:

1. What items are in this list?
2. What is the order of this list?

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## 5. Figures of Speech

When images are communicated with words that are being used in a sense other than the normal, literal sense.

*You word is a lamp  
for my feet, a light  
on my path.*

**Psalm 119:105**

Question:

What is the figure of speech  
in this verse?

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## 6. Conjunctions

Conjunctions hold our phrases  
and sentences together.

**Therefore, as God's  
chosen people, holy  
and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with  
compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness  
and patience. Col 3:12**

Questions:

1. What conjunctions do you see?
2. What purpose does each conjunction fulfill?

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

What function does the conjunction serve?

**Connecting** (and)

**Contrasting** (but)

**Concluding** (therefore)

# Things to Look for in SENTENCES

## 7. Verbs

Verbs communicate the action of the sentence.

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

**Col 3:1**

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the tense of the verb?  
(present, past, future, perfect)
2. What is the voice of the verb?  
(active or passive)
3. Is the verb an imperative?
4. Who is the subject of the verb?
5. Does the verb have a direct object or indirect object?

Connects back

FOS = figure of speech

Therefore, **I** urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of **God's** mercy,

Paul  
strong active verb

connects back, too?

to offer **your** bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and **pleasing** to **God**

repetition of God 3x

your bodies (plural)

FOS plur FOS sing irony FOS

this is **your** true and proper worship. Do not conform to **the** pattern

both modify worship negative imperative

def. FOS

your mind (sing)

of this world, **but** be transformed by the renewing of **your** mind.

Contrast!

cooj. imperative but passive vb.

the way to be transformed

introduces the effect

Then you will be able to test and approve what **God's will** is his

not the world God

good, **pleasing** and perfect **will** (Rom. 12:1-2)

test and approve: connection?  
does "test" come first?  
parallel to "true and proper" worship?

List: good  
pleasing  
perfect } will

contrast: do not conform but be transformed

living sacrifices → pleasing  
God's will → pleasing

God's mercy → in earlier chapters (Therefore, in view of)  
God's will → following chapters?



# HOW TO READ

SENTENCES

PARAGRAPHS

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## 1. General and Specific

The author begins with a general statement, which is followed by the specifics that explain this general thought.

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

**Rom 12:9-13**

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## General Statement

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

**Rom 12:1**

## Specific Details

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

**Rom 12:9-13**

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## 2. Questions and Answers

- ▶ *Who asked the question?*
- ▶ *Was the question answered?*
- ▶ *Is the question rhetorical?*

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## Questions

*Who can forgive sin but God alone?*

**Mark 2:7**

## Answers

*But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. So he said to the man, I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.*

**Mark 2:10**

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## 3. Dialogue

- ▶ Who are the participants?
- ▶ What is the setting?
- ▶ Is the setting public or private?
- ▶ What is the spirit of the dialogue (argument, lecture, discussion)?
- ▶ What is the objective of the dialogue?

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## Dialogue Partner 1

*How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong?* **Hab 1:2-3**

## Dialogue Partner 2

*Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people,* **Hab 1:5-6**

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

## 4. Purpose/Result Statements

These phrases or sentences describe the reason, the result, or the consequences of some action.

KEY WORDS: that, so that, in order that, or an infinitive

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.*

**Eph 2:10**

# Things to Look for in PARAGRAPHS

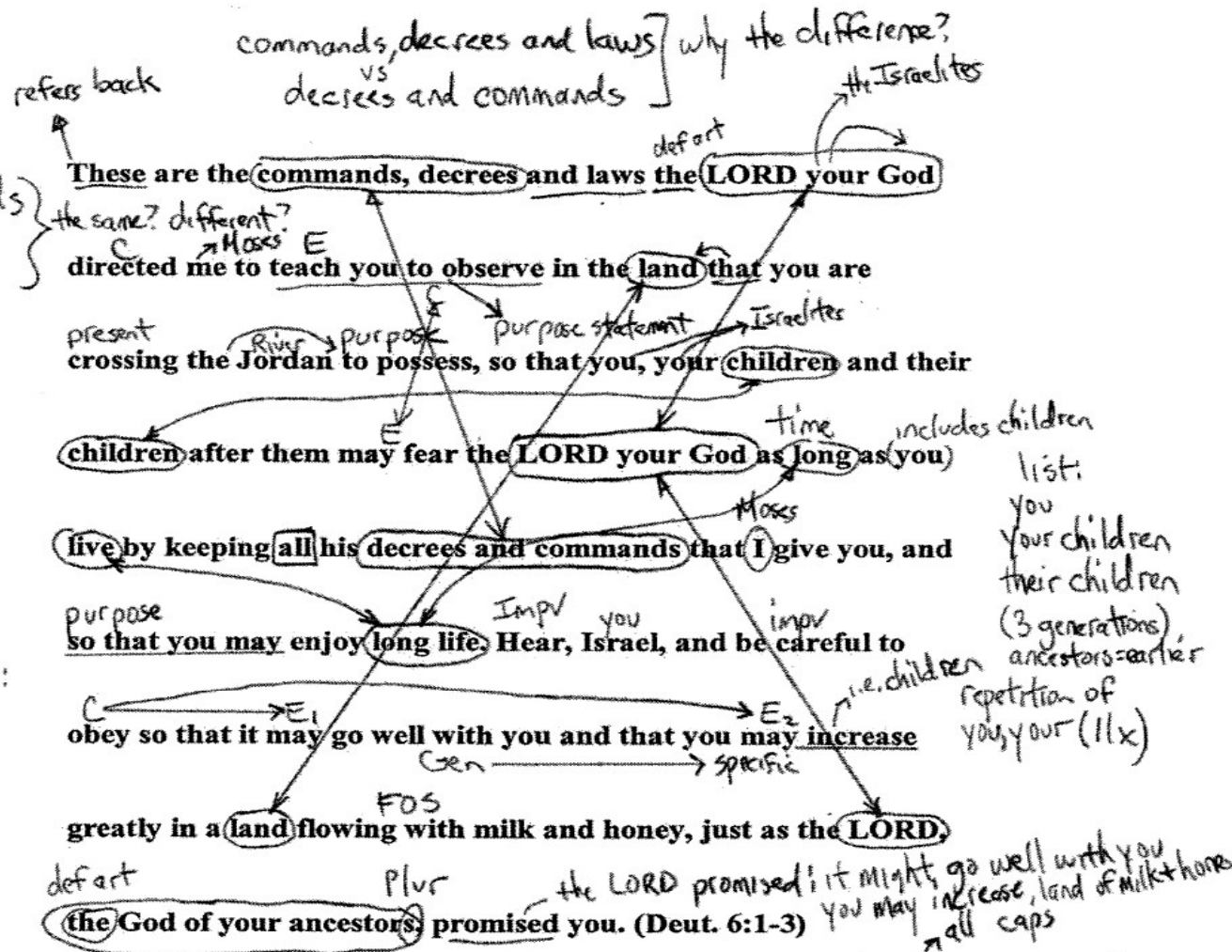
## 5. Conditional Clauses

These clauses present the conditions whereby some action, consequence, reality, or result will happen.

- ▶ What is the conditional clause (if)?
- ▶ What is the result clause (then)?

***If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.***

**1 John 1:6**



Cause: teaching to observe commands, decrees and laws

Effect (1): may fear the LORD

Effect (2): may enjoy long life

Opens with children and grandchildren

Closes with ancestors

things to look forward to and enjoy [enjoy long life, increase in a land flowing with milk and honey]

the LORD your God  
 the LORD your God  
 the LORD the God of your ancestors  
 (connection of ancestors)