Grasping God’s Word

Week 8

The Literary Context
Burning Questions & Answers
Q: Why were some of the books in the New Testament written in Greek? Was it due to greek speaking people who lived in Judea, an influence of Alexander the Great and his previous ruling of the area?
Q: Why were some of the books in the New Testament written in Greek? Was it due to greek speaking people who lived in Judea, an influence of Alexander the Great and his previous ruling of the area?
“The basic language of the New Testament was Greek. Until the late nineteenth century, New Testament Greek was believed to be a special “Holy Ghost” language, but since that time it has come to be identified as one of the five stages in the development of Greek itself. This koine Greek was the most widely known language throughout the world of the first century... its cultural values and vocabulary encompassed a vast geographical expanse, and it became the official language of the empires into which Alexander the Great’s conquests were divided.”

- Norman Geisler, *From God To Us: How We Got Our Bible*
Group Discussion
1. Which of the following genres do you most enjoy reading? (Pick 3-4.) Why?

- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Poetry
- Comic Books
- Scripts
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Blogs
- Social Media Posts
- Internet Forums
- Love Letters
- Maps/Directions
- Catalogs
- Instruction Manuals
- Cookbooks/Recipes
- Restaurant Menus
- Dictionaries/Encyclopedias
- Textbooks
- Song Lyrics
2. Imagine what it would be like to approach one of your favorite reading materials as if you were reading a different genre. (EX: approaching fiction as nonfiction, cookbooks as song lyrics; etc.)

- Fiction (any genre)
- Nonfiction (any genre)
- Poetry
- Comic books
- Scripts
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The Literary Context
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

BIBLE HANDBOOKS
Holman Bible Handbook, Dockery
Zondervan Handbook to the Bible, Alexander

SINGLE-VOLUME COMMENTARIES
IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament, Keener
Expositor's Bible Commentary: Abridged Edition, Barker & Kohlenberger III

MULTI-VOLUME COMMENTARIES
NIV Application Commentary
Expositor's Bible Commentary
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS (PT. 2)

STUDY BIBLES

*ESV Study Bible*
*Global Study Bible (ESV)*
*NIV Zondervan Study Bible*
*NIV Study Bible*

HELPFUL WEBSITES

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
[www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)
[www.netbible.org](http://www.netbible.org)
Video Lecture
THE LITERARY CONTEXT

Literary context relates to the particular form a passage takes (**literary genre**) and to the words, sentences, and paragraphs that surround the passages you are studying (**surrounding context**).
“I heard an interesting story on the news the other night. The quarterback faded back to pass. Carbon buildup was keeping the carburetor from functioning properly. The two-inch steaks were burned on the outside but raw on the inside. Ten-feet-high snow drifts blocked the road. The grass needed mowing. The elevator raced to the top of the one-hundred-story building in less than a minute. The audience booed the poor performance.”
HOW TO IDENTIFY THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT

1. Identify how the book/passage is divided into paragraphs or sections.

2. Summarize the main idea of each section in about a dozen words or less.

3. Explain how the section you are studying relates to the surrounding sections.
Activity
Write a short paragraph describing the surrounding context of the following passages:

1. Acts 1:7-8

2. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

- Identify how the passage is divided into paragraphs or sections.
- Summarize the main idea of each section in about a dozen words or less.
- Explain how the section you are studying relates to the surrounding sections.
HOUSEKEEPING

• Attendance
• Books & Payment, $7! Pay Online! sdcfchurch.com/resources/adult-bible-class
• **No reading this week**
• Catch up on reading *(Ch. 1-7 done)*
• Submit questions: questions@sdcfchurch.com