

HERMENEUTICS



Ray Mondragon

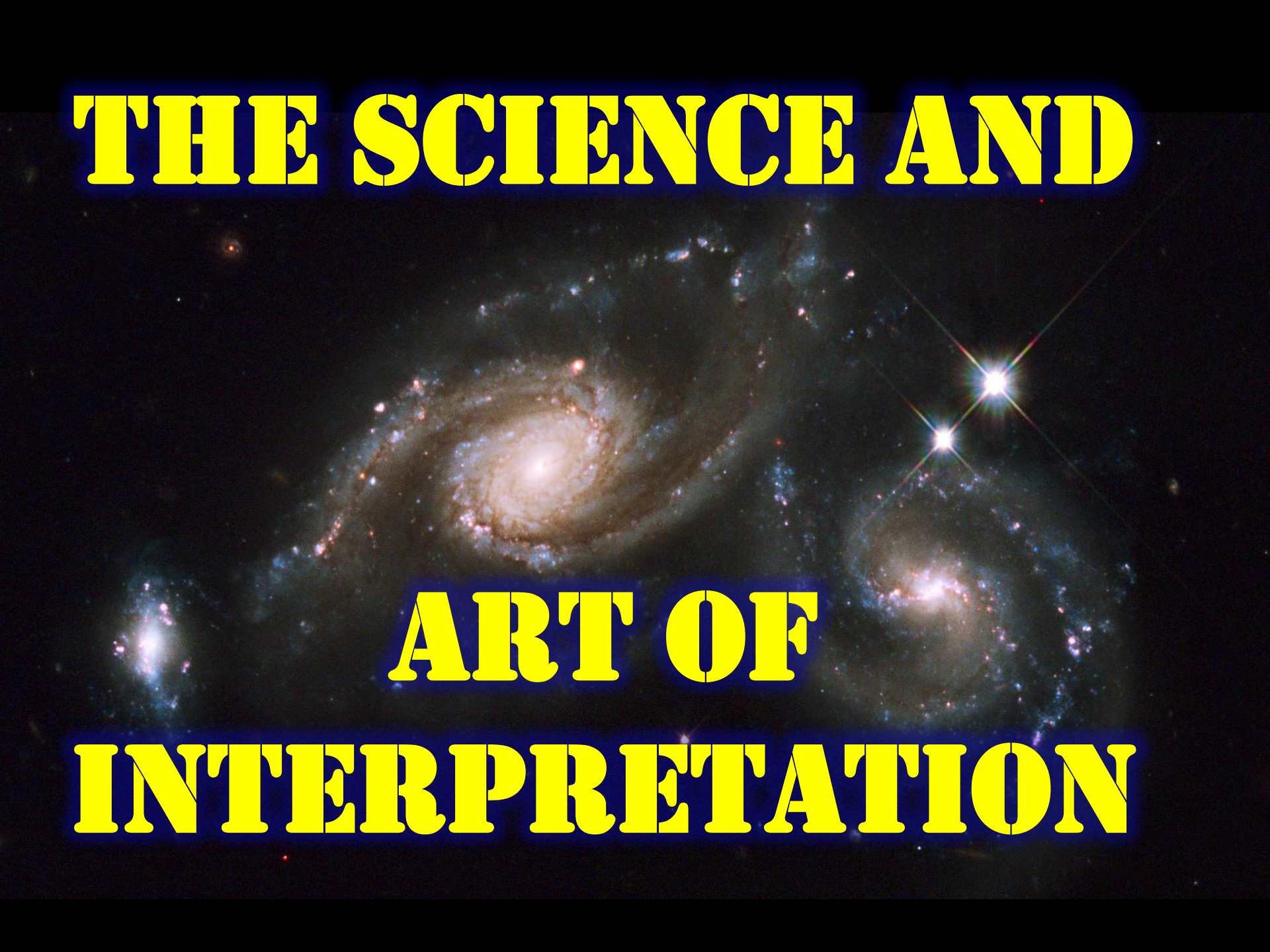
ESSENTIAL



- **Pretribulation Rapture**
- **Eschatology**
- **Dispensational Theology**

THE SCIENCE AND

**ART OF
INTERPRETATION**





1. Universal Nature

A black and white photograph of Agatha Christie, an elderly woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a dark jacket and a pearl earring. She is sitting and looking slightly to the right of the camera. In her hands, she is holding an open book, which she appears to be reading. The background is dark and out of focus.

LITERATURE

- **Agatha Christie (d.1976)**
- **Mystery novels - 2 billion**
- **Management of daughter**
- **Management of grandson**

“If Agatha Christie is to be as popular in the 21st century as she was in the 20th, we have to be open-minded about interpreting stories in modern ways.”

A black and white photograph of an elderly woman with short, curly hair, wearing a dark jacket and a pearl earring. She is sitting and reading a newspaper. The background is dark and out of focus.

LITERATURE

- Post-modern Interpretation
- Author's Intent

GOVERNMENT & LAW

- Living Document
- Framers's Intent



“Let me put it this way; there are really only two ways to interpret the Constitution — try to discern as best we can what the framers intended or make it up. No matter how ingenious, imaginative or artfully put, unless interpretive methodologies are tied to the original intent of the framers, they have no more basis in the Constitution than the latest football scores. ...”

**Clarence Thomas’s Wriston Lectures
to Manhattan Institute**

HISTORY



➤ Data = Traces of Events

➤ Interpretation of Events

Robinson's Arch

✧ **DATA =**

Traces left by Event



✧ **HISTORICAL FACT =**

Data + **Interpretation**

SCIENCE



Andromeda

✧ **OBSERVATIONAL
SCIENCE →**

Observations in **Present**

✧ **HISTORICAL
SCIENCE →**

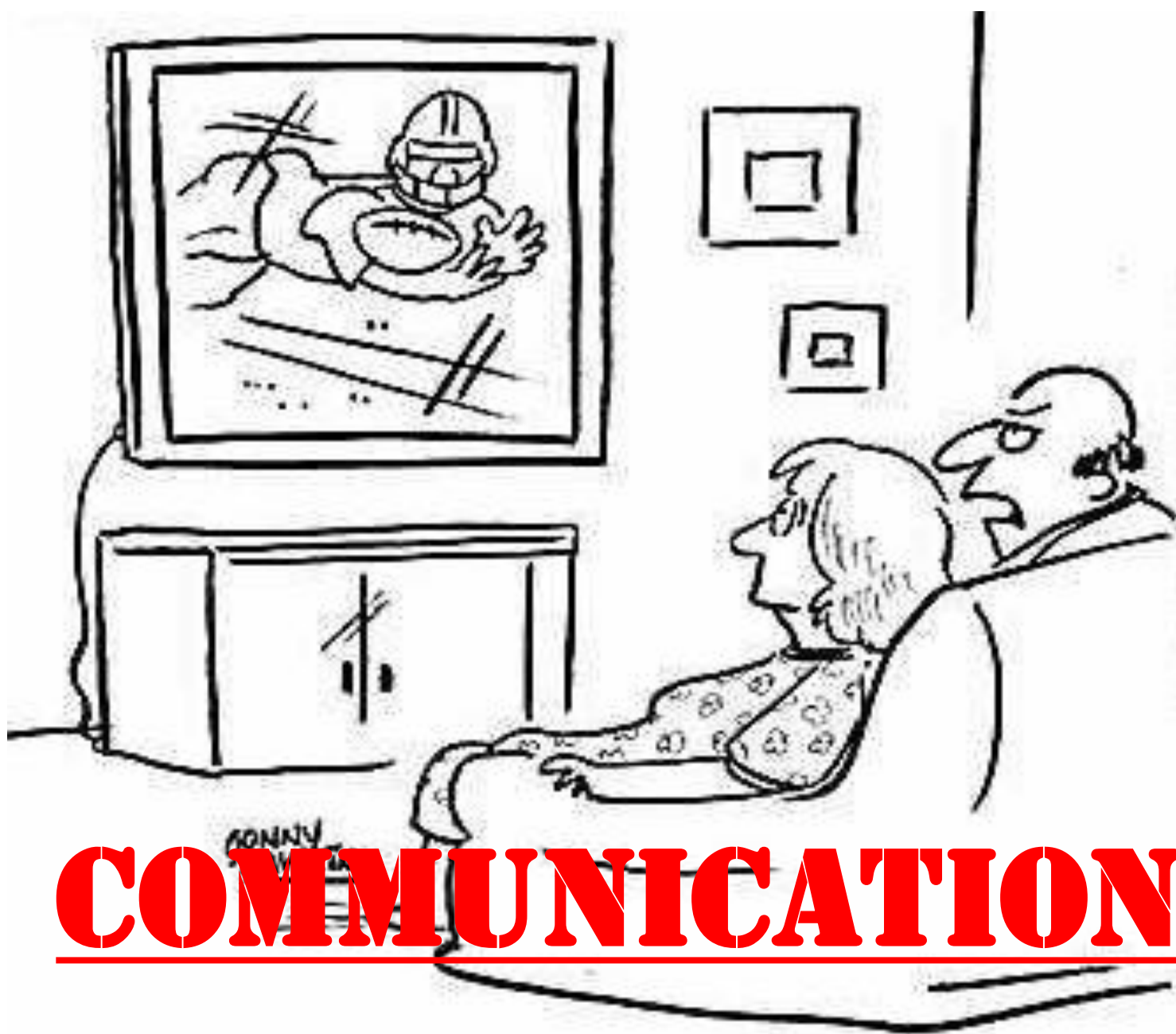
Traces of Past

SCIENCE

➤ **Methodological
Naturalism**

➤ **Truth Seeking**

Andromeda



COMMUNICATION

“He’s the ‘receiver’, not the ‘receptionist’.”

MARRIAGE

YOU ALWAYS
INSIST ON HAVING
THE LAST
WORD!

SORRY!





**Will this
talk
Save your
Marriage?**



- 1. Universal Nature**
- 2. In Theology**

G-H-C ESSENTIAL

➤ Beginnings

- 1. Universe created by our Creator God**
- 2. Universe ~6,000 years young**
- 3. Worldwide Flood**

➤ Endings

- 1. Pretribulation rapture of Church**
- 2. Premillennial coming of Christ**
- 3. Distinction between Israel and Church**

“The basic difference between the premillennial and amillennial schools and between the pretribulation and posttribulation rapturists are hermeneutical, arising from the adoption of divergent and irreconcilable methods of interpretation.”

JD Pentecost

SPIRITUAL



➤ **Fall of Man - Gen 3:1**

“Indeed, has God said ...”

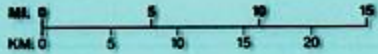
➤ **Peacemakers - Mt 5:9**

**“Blessed are the
peacemakers ...”**

“... to find out the meaning of a statement for the **author and for the **1st hearers or readers**, and thereupon to transmit that meaning to modern readers.”**

Mickelsen

- city
- city (uncertain location)



© 1985 The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

The Author's Willed Meaning





- 1. Universal Nature**
- 2. In Theology**
- 3. Essential Principles**

**GRAMMATICAL-
HISTORICAL-
CONTEXTUAL
METHOD**

Or

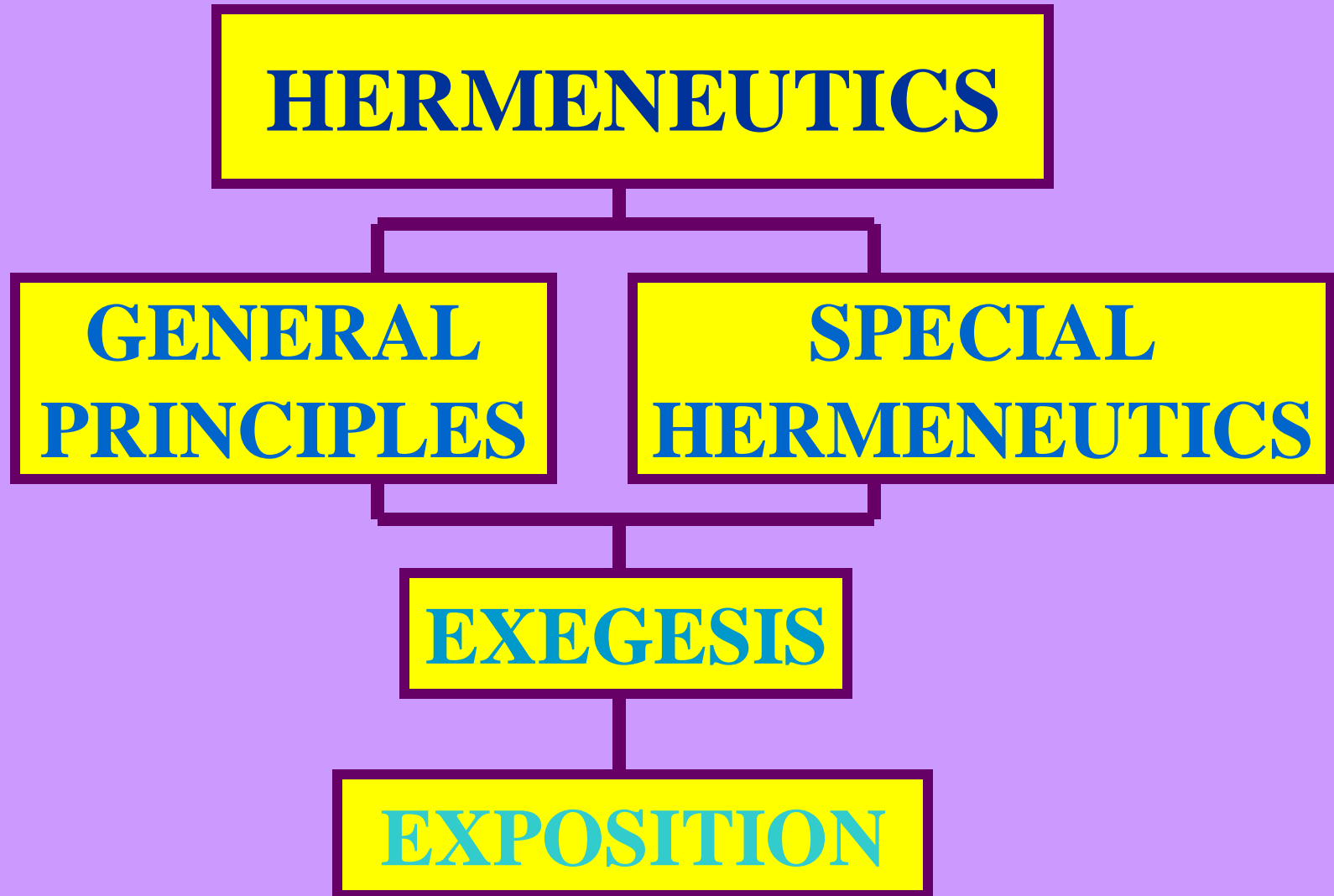
“Literal Method”

DETERMINE MEANING:

- **Laws of Grammar**
- **Facts of History**
- **Framework of Context**



BIBLE HERMENEUTICS



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

LINGUISTIC

An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, Israel. The city is densely packed with buildings, including modern skyscrapers and traditional stone structures. The Dome of the Rock, a prominent Islamic shrine with a golden dome, is visible in the middle ground. In the foreground, there is a large cemetery with many stone tombs. The city is surrounded by a high stone wall, and the terrain is hilly with some greenery and terraced fields.

Determine meaning by
conventions of language

BASIS

- **Omniscient God & Intellect**
- **Origin of Language**
- **Image of God & language**
- **Verbal Inspiration**
- **God communicates with language**
- **Goal of Exegesis**

LINGUISTIC



- ✓ **Language**
- ✓ **Text**
- ✓ **Lexicography**
- ✓ **Syntax**
- ✓ **Phonology**
- ✓ **Morphology**
- ✓ **Literary Devices**

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Linguistic

2. Metaphorical

METAPHORICAL

A photograph of an ancient stone wall under construction or repair. The wall is made of large, rectangular stone blocks and is partially covered with scaffolding. In the foreground, there is a path made of stone slabs and a metal railing. The background shows a hillside with some vegetation and a clear blue sky.

**Interpret according to
appropriate metaphorical
conventions**

BASIS

- **Complex Image of God**
- **Aesthetics, Emotion, Imagination**
- **Non-literal Language**

“If asked what has been the most powerful force in the making of history ... I should have answered ... figurative expression. It is by imagination that men have lived; imagination rules all our lives. The human mind is not, as philosophers would have you think, a debating hall, but a picture gallery ... Remove the metaphors (i.e. figurative expressions) from the Bible and its living spirit vanishes ... The prophets, the poets, the leaders of men are all of them masters of imagery, and by imagery they capture the human soul.”

W. M. Dixon



➤ **1104 Pages**

➤ **200 Categories**

➤ **8,000 Illustrations**

➤ **28 pages of Table of Contents**

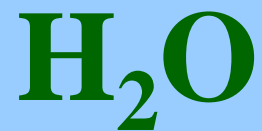
SYMBOLS

$$E = MC^2$$

$$V = d/t$$

$$A = pr^2$$

$$A = v/t$$



$$\tan q = y/x$$



ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Linguistic**
- 2. Metaphorical**
- 3. Historical**

A detailed miniature model of an ancient city, likely a Roman or Greek city, featuring stone walls, columns, and buildings. The model is set against a backdrop of a stone wall and a cityscape. The word "HISTORICAL" is written in large, bold, red letters at the top of the image.

HISTORICAL

**Historical setting
contributes to meaning**

BASIS

- **Purpose & Plan of God**
- **From Eternity to Eternity**

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Linguistic**
- 2. Metaphorical**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**

CULTURAL



Cultural setting
contributes to meaning

BASIS

- **Origin of Relationships**
- **Divine Institutions**
- **Expressed in Cultures**

CULTURE

1. Geography

2. Politics

3. Sociology

4. Economy

5. Agriculture

6. Religion

7. Legal

8. Architecture

9. Military

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Linguistic**
- 2. Metaphorical**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**
- 5. Contextual**

CONTEXTUAL

An aerial photograph taken from an airplane, showing a vast coastal cityscape. A multi-lane highway runs parallel to the coast, with the ocean on the right and the city on the left. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The wing of the airplane is visible in the upper left corner.

**Context is the final
determiner of meaning**

BASIS

- **Structure of the Mind**
- **Origin of Logic**
- **God communicated with Logic**
- **Authors Structured Books**

CONTEXT - Types

- 1. Textual - primary**
- 2. Literary**
- 3. Historical**
- 4. Cultural**
- 5. Theological**

IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

1. Literary

2. Single Meaning

3. Clarity

4. Unity

5. Analogy

6. Progress

7. Logical

8. Supernatural

9. Finite

10. Christological

**GRAMMATICAL-
METAPHORICAL-
HISTORICAL-
CULTURAL-
CONTEXTUAL
METHOD???**

**GRAMMATICAL-
HISTORICAL-
CONTEXTUAL
METHOD**

Or

“Literal Method”

HERMENEUTICS



**Yes, hermeneutics
matters!!!**

Ray Mondragon