

Interpretation: Grammatical Context (Adapted from *Grasping God's Word* Chapter 9)

1. What a word means

a. Definition

- i. Semantic Range: English - Hand (limb, measure, verb, worker)
- ii. Semantic Range: Heb/Gk - entrust vs *paradidomi*
- iii. Pick the definition that makes most sense in context
- iv. Use a **Dictionary**
- v. **Interlinears** to find Gk/Heb

b. Grammatical Sense

- i. Subject
- ii. Object (Direct/Indirect)
- iii. Predicate

c. Meaning/Denotation - How the author is using this word

- i. In this passage
- ii. In this Book
- iii. In general
- iv. Use a **Bible Dictionary**

d. Connotation - How the Bible Uses the Word

- i. Different themes and ideas
- ii. Use a **Concordance**

e. Example - Romans 12:1-2

Interpretation: Context is King

Grasping the Text in Their Town

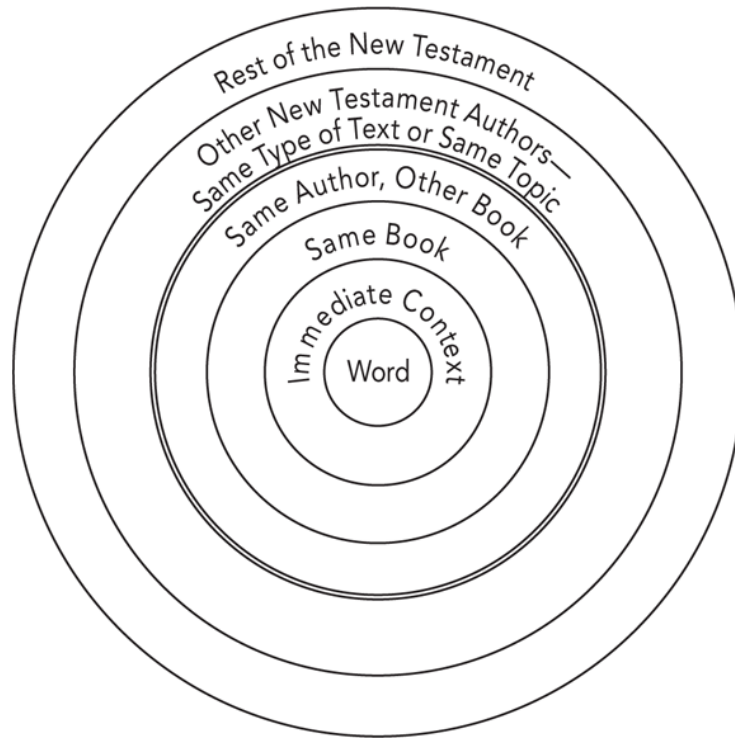
Historical Context	Literary Context	<u>Grammatical Context</u>
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1. Definition of a Word - What the word means across a broad semantic range
 - a. Semantic Range: The number of meanings implied by a particular word depending on its context

Note: English, Hebrew, and Greek will all have different semantic ranges for words, even if they are a direct translation
 - b. **Dictionaries** are helpful in determining a word's full semantic range
 - c. **Interlinears** can help discover the underlying Greek/Hebrew words and their meanings
2. Grammatical Context - where the word fits into a sentence
 - a. Subject - the Noun in the sentence which does the verb\
 - b. Predicate - the verb phrase in the sentence, including any tense modifiers (have been, will do, etc.)
 - c. Object (optional) - the noun upon which the subject acts
 - i. Direct - the object being manipulated by the verb
 - ii. Indirect - the object receiving the object manipulated by the verb. Usually follows a preposition (to, with, for, etc.)

Ex: God made a covenant with Israel

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3. Denotation - What the word means within the function of the sentence
 - a. How it relates to the words around it
 - b. How the author uses it in this passage/book
 - c. **Bible Dictionaries** will often help determine the denotation of a word
4. Connotation - How the word is understood by the original audience
 - a. How this author uses this word in general
 - b. How the Bible tends to use this word
 - c. **Concordances** will help determine the common understanding and usage of particular words.



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. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)