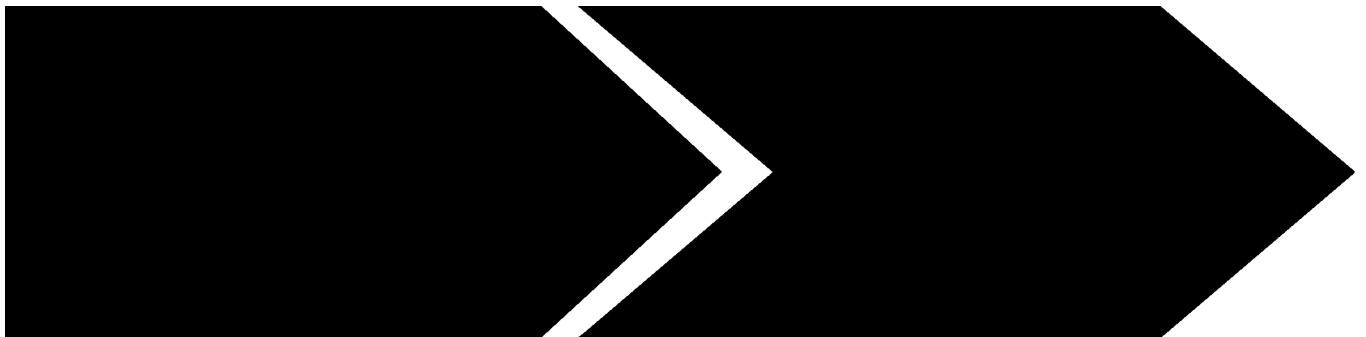


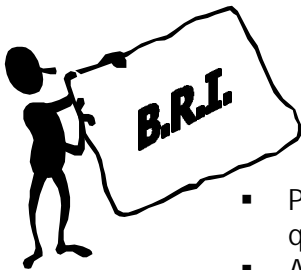
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ➔ KNOWING THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF A BOOK IS NEEDED TO DO GOOD INTERPRETATION.
- It will give information about the situation of the reader/hearer and the author. It will help us understand why the author wrote the book and how the original reader/hearer would have understood it.
 - Answering the Basic Required Information – questions (B.R.I.) will give you a good overview of the Historical Background.

- ➔ INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVIDENCE
In answering the B.R.I. questions you always need to look at Internal Evidence first. After that you can look at External Evidence.



- ◆ Use more than one external source; different dictionaries will show different opinions.
- ◆ ALWAYS give credit to your source!



- Put your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Label clearly the questions and answers.
- As you read through the text, mark verses that will help you with the Historical Background
- You need to do the B.R.I. before you start your vertical charts because it will be key in interpreting the book. If needed you can add or change information after you are done charting.
- Support and defend your answer. Dialogue with external sources, don't just copy it.

BASIC REQUIRED INFORMATION

NEW TESTAMENT

1. Critical Method

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When was it written?
- c. To whom was it written?
- d. From where was it written?

2. Historical Method

- a. What is the historical setting of the book? What is the culture of the reader?
- b. If it is an Epistle, when was the church founded?
- c. Who makes up the church?
- d. What are their strengths and weaknesses?

3. Literary Method

What types of literature are used in this book? Give the specific references where each is found.

If it is an epistle, identify the elements of an Ancient Greek Letter.

- name of author
- name of recipient
- greeting
- prayer of thanksgiving
- body of the letter
- final greeting and farewell

4. Survey Method

- a. What is the main idea of the book?
- b. What is the major reason that the book was written?

[For the Gospels and Acts you don't have to answer 2 b-c-d]

BASIC REQUIRED INFORMATION

OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE

1. Critical Method

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When was it written?
- c. To whom was it written?
- d. From where was it written?

2. Historical Method

- a. What was God doing in Israel's history at this time? (Original Hearer)
- b. What is the situation of the Original Reader?

3. Literary Method

What types of literature are used in this book? Give the specific references where each is found.

4. Survey Method

- a. What is the main idea of the book?
- b. What is the major reason that the book was written?

BASIC REQUIRED INFORMATION

PROPHETS

1. Critical Method

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When:
 1. were the prophecies spoken?
 2. were the prophecies written/compiled?
- c. Audience:
 1. To whom were the prophecies spoken to? (original hearer)
 2. For whom was the book written/compiled for? (original reader)
- d. From where was it written?

2. Historical Method

- a. What is the political situation:
 1. World Powers
 2. Israel or Judah's political situation
 3. Alliances or important battles
- b. What is the religious situation in Israel, Judah and surrounding significant nations?
- c. List any contemporary prophets.

3. Literary Method

What types of literature are used in this book? Give the specific references where each is found.

4. Survey Method

- a. What is the main idea of the book?
- b. What is the major reason that:
 1. the prophecies were spoken?
 2. the book was written/compiled?

BASIC REQUIRED INFORMATION

WISDOM LITERATURE

1. Critical Method

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When was it written?
- c. To whom was it written?
- d. From where was it written?

2. Literary Method

What types of literature are used in this book? Give the specific references where each is found.

3. Survey Method

- a. What is the main idea of the book?
- c. What is the major reason that the book was written?