

GT-Appendices, Contents, 6 pgs

GT#1: APDX-1, TAXONOMY – Organizing by Contexts, Categories, and Vocabulary

Reading the Bible: Approaching Scripture through Categorizing - Training Exercise, **Gen.12:1-3**
Our minds are ordered by categories. Both clearly defined classifications and their labels are necessary for understanding and communication.

APDX-2, FEAR is a major factor in our lives - fear of Man and fear of death. It is one of the weapons in the devil's arsenal used to manipulate us. One of the clear lessons in this incident is that being afraid causes us to act irrationally. All of us have a natural tendency toward self-preservation. We twist, squirm, run away and do all kinds of gymnastics to get out of, bypass, work-around, deny, or otherwise avoid facing what we fear. That's what Abram did. He thought of an alternative that would both save his life and increase his wealth. It was the only out Abram, the rationalist, could come up with. In his mind, it worked, but it was inconsistent with relying upon God's promises to him which was the goal of his training. It denied God the opportunity to supernaturally provide a solution to the immediate problem. Waiting upon God is most certainly BASIC to our training. We tend to be in a hurry and are reluctant to give God room to open another way.

I had a friend, Mark Graham, who suffered tremendously from bouts with incapacitating, irrational fear and wrote a book entitled *Harnessing the Harassment of Human Fears, 2013*. Mark's second book, *The Way of Sonship*, 2022, is about how God trains us to become like Jesus through irritations, suffering, hardship, and all the other things associated with them like rejection, failure, disappointment, and heartache.

APDX-3, THE PROBLEM WITH RICHES: In pagan cultures, **material wealth and children** (especially males) were universally considered to be a blessing from the gods. The NT warns us about the power riches have over us. The book of **Job** tells us how very costly **spiritual warfare** can be. He suffered the loss of everything that was his, including his health. His friends could not conceive of any reason for his bad fortune other than blaming him for angering God. **BEWARE THE PURSUIT OF AFFLUENCE:** This CATEGORY represented by the acquisition of riches includes the pursuit of fame, power, status, control, and influence. [Don't make the accumulation of wealth or any of the other things in this category a goal]

APDX-4, Abram was a man of his times, **embedded** in the **patriarchal culture** of his day. Sarai was a woman of her times as well, raised in and **enculturated** in the same **patriarchal society**. The **dynamics between husbands and wives** was obviously different in those days. Women are not inferior to men. The only difference results from the office or position they occupy in a given chain of authority. **Structure** is necessary for the function of an ordered society, government, business, home, club, gang, or church. **The scriptural mandate for all of us** is to love one another by serving each other in humility, even to the point of disregarding our own preferences.

Such is the word of God to the captives from Israel and Judah, who because of their unfaithfulness to God were conquered by foreign nations such as the Assyrians and Babylonians, and relocated to distant lands as exiles ... *the God of Israel says, to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down ... carry on with your lives* [submit to your captors, do not

rebel against them] seek the [welfare] of the city to which I have brought you ... Pray to the Lord for it because if it prospers, you too will prosper, Jer.29:4-7, 28 [see Dan.1:11-13 for insights into creative alternatives].

Joseph's mind set was to make the best of the situation. At 17 he was sold into slavery by his own brothers (**Gen.39:1-6**). Years later things were going well for he had been given charge of his master's entire estate. But because he refused the advances of the master's wife, she falsely accused him and he was falsely imprisoned (**v.20-23**). Once again he made the best of his situation and rose to the status of trustee in charge of everything related to care of the inmates. He was 30 at the time God gave him another position of prominence over the entire kingdom of Egypt. When he revealed himself to his brothers, he said ... *I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt ... God's purpose in sending me ahead of you was ... to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.*

He faithfully and competently served each master in performing the duties entrusted to him. For 13 years he was a slave before being appointed to a high office. His attitude was one of submission and dedication to each master in turn, and God blessed him for it.

DISCUSSION

*You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you. In this **judgment oracle**, the Lord announced a struggle, a conflict between the man and the woman expressing the **erosion** of [harmony between man & woman] from that which God intended. Division, distrust, and sexism entered the world [through their disobedience]. This is describing what the world would be like as a result of their sin and alienation from God. However, as with the other [degenerative] results of the fall ... the appropriate human response is not resignation but resistance.*

Organization is clearly necessary in the world, whether fallen or ideal. The English translation of certain words in Scripture doesn't always convey the right idea of the meaning. **Submission, subjection, and subordination** [same Gk word] refer to a command and control structure which carries with it the idea of forced compliance – obey or else. The **same idea** is inherent in references to obedience to someone as **father, master, or lord**. This translation may be appropriate for certain societal situations: the military, civil authorities, employment, businesses, etc. Most words [except for narrowly defined technical terms] are more or less **flexible** in usage depending on their context, subject, and nuances of their definitions and connotations. This variation is one aspect of language that makes it so useful and colorful.

I have elected to change certain words above referring to wives' responses to their husbands from "submit, subject, and obey" to defer because the connotation of the literal translations do not comport with the relationship being referred to. For Adam and Eve in the Garden, **deference** is more appropriate: yielding oneself to, acquiescing to, or adapting to the expectations and wishes of another by restricting one's own freedom and ambitions to harmonize with them. This is an expression of meekness (to be non-assertive of one's own self-interests) and humility (serving others by assuming a lower status) that maintains peace and order (unity and harmony) while preserving structure in the family.

Historic Precedent: There is an emphasis in Scripture on the fact that Man was formed FIRST, but to be alone was NOT GOOD, men & women were made to be together, united as a couple. Scripture reinforces the fact that Woman was created FOR, a support role for her husband. Eve was made to be a COUNTERPART, a HELPER who corresponded to Adam. She was a suitable PARTNER and COMPANION who complimented him. After The Fall, Scripture reiterates that Adam sinned. He was not deceived but the woman was. The husband occupies a position of authority [headship], *the man is the head of the woman*. There is no demeaning or denigration of wives or women here.

APDX-5, CLARIFYING SCRIPTURE: An example of how Scripture is to be interpreted:

[In his address to the crowd at Pentecost] *Peter understood the gospel promise of **whosoever** in Joel to include three distinct groups. Clarify who is included in the promise that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved [from God's judgment (wrath)].*

1. *To you*, [interpretation: unconverted convicted sinners who repent and believe];
and the same promise is to [understood]
2. *Your children*, [interpretation: themselves, not by proxy] *if they repent and believe* [understood];
and likewise the same promise is to [understood]
3. *All who are afar off* [interpretation: in heathen Gentile lands],
if they also repent and believe the same gospel [understood]

objections to using **Acts 2:39** as a proof text for infant baptism:

- a. An exhortation to lost sinners to trust Christ cannot be interpreted as a promise to Christian parents that their children are in a special covenantal relationship with God.
- b. Paul also quotes **Joel** and shows that the promise spoken of in Joel and quoted by Peter is the promise of the gospel to all unbelievers whether they are Gentiles or Jews.
- c. Peter understood the gospel promise for **whosoever** in Joel to include three distinct groups, categorized as *everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved* [from God's judgment (wrath)].
 1. Peter is declaring that just as all people without exception (covenant children included) are guilty lost sinners who need to be saved, so all men without exception are freely invited in the one gospel of grace to believe and be saved. There is now only one category of lost people before God. No one is physically either inside or outside of a special covenantal category by birth.
 2. Being under a covenant of grace has nothing at all to do with physical birth. There is not a special spiritual category in Scripture for the physical children of believers to be in before God through physical birth and baptism. The promise was given equally to the pagans, to the hearers, and to their children.
 3. One of the major problems created by using **Acts 2:39** as a proof text for infant baptism is that it confuses the message of the gospel of grace to all men.

Acts 2 is about our Lord Jesus Christ of whom prophecy and promises were made. The message, especially **v.39**, is that the promise has been fulfilled — the Messiah Redeemer has come — believe

in Him and be saved whoever you are. There is only ONE status before God — GUILTY, regardless of who your parents are, and there is only ONE gospel message to every guilty sinner — REPENT and BELIEVE. Ceremonies (such as baptism) depict realities. **God's Kingdom is spiritual in nature.** It can only be entered through spiritual regeneration, rebirth, which cannot be accomplished by a ceremony.

Peter's inspired interpretation is an example of how to read the OT Scriptures in the light of its interpretation by inspired NT apostles. The new age of the Spirit is the gospel age predicted by Joel. Peter was stating the following facts about the kingdom.

- 1. WHEN** would this kingdom be established? the time in which you and I live **today**.
- 2. To WHOM** was this kingdom promised? The promise is equally applied to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews.
- 3. HOW** were the blessings of kingdom to received? Deliverance was to be given on the basis of faith in the gospel message and had nothing at all to do with physical birth.
- 4. WHAT** did Joel mean by deliverance? Joel's deliverance was spiritual salvation for Jews and Gentiles in the gospel age.

Peter, a New Testament apostle, understood and applied an Old Testament prophecy concerning the Davidic kingdom.

The following facts are established by comparison of the actual words in the prophecy and Peter's inspired interpretation of them.

- 1.** Peter identifies Christ as the seed that was raised up to sit on the throne in fulfillment of the covenant promise to David.
- 2.** Peter shows that David understood these words to be more than just a promise of the bodily resurrection of Christ. He connected the resurrection and ascension of Christ with the establishment of the kingdom promised to David. **Peter's words mean** that David's greater Son was to begin sitting on the promised throne at the time of Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Taking Peter's words literally, proves that **the Holy Spirit deliberately spiritualized the OT prophecy of the Davidic kingdom.**
- 3.** Christ would sit on David's throne at the same time that David was still sleeping with the fathers or before David's resurrection. **Peter is saying**, The promise to David has been fulfilled in the exact manner and at the precise time it was prophesied to David. The throne was to be established at the time of the resurrection and ascension of Christ while David was dead awaiting his own resurrection.
- 4.** The words *I will establish his kingdom* in the promise to David becomes *raise up Christ to sit on his throne* in the inspired interpretation by Peter, an event that took place at the ascension of Christ. *The gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was the direct and earned response to the victorious work of the enthroned King, and it was also the full proof that the Father was perfectly satisfied with that work.*

APDX-6, Declining Post Flood Longevity - This type of declining curve (exponential decay)

strongly suggests that man's environment underwent a drastic change which reduced human life spans.

APDX-7, Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did [his obedience]. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. **Abraham's faith serves as a paradigm for all believers**. The words it was credited to him **were not written for him alone**, but for us as well to whom God **was going to credit righteousness**— for us who believe in him who raised Jesus from the dead.

GT#3 APDX-8, The **foundation of classical logic** consists of three laws. Practically these mean: if something is true, then the opposite is false (correct/incorrect, good/bad, right/wrong, real/fictitious). **This is the language of cause and effect**. We cannot think logically or rationally in any other way.

Exception: Antinomies exist when a pair of principles that stand side by side seem logically irreconcilable, yet are undeniably true. They **exist in Scripture and in nature**. Therefore when we find Bible passages that speak of God's sovereignty and others that speak of man's responsibility or accountability, which we do, man's freedom of choice is validated as is God's sovereignty. They are both true concurrently and we cannot logically, understand or explain it. The three in one of the Trinity, the humanity & deity of Jesus, and the mystical union between Christ and his people are examples of antinomies in the Bible.

APDX-9, Classification of Irritations

There are 2 types of **frustration inducing developments**: **1** - those disturbances we can and should take care of & remove: grinding car disc brake pads should be replaced; personal habits can be changed; toothaches can be cured. **2** - There are other disruptions, irritations, or heart-aches over which we have little or no control: inconsiderate neighbors; flooding; chronic back pain; etc.

Major Sources of Irritation

We can be annoyed and frustrated by **(1) other people**, **(2) inconveniences in our environment**, **(3) personal defects** and weaknesses, **(4) unmet expectations** in the way things are going, and **(5) unforeseen difficulties** with and disruptions of our normal routines or status quo.

Wrong Reactions to Sources of Irritation

(1) Self-defense is used to excuse your culpability; **(2)** Blame it on the circumstances or someone else diverts responsibility to someone or somewhere else; **(3)** Allow frustration to morph into anger. Hold Anger in and Nurse it into something dangerous and ugly; **(4)** ignore it and fail to get the lesson and address the problem.

Right Responses to Sources of Irritation

Thank God for the Irritation. A **quiet disposition** and a **heart giving thanks** at any given moment is the real test of the extent to which we love God at the moment.

Identify Possible Causes. Ask *did I in any way cause this or make it worse?* If you are even partly responsible for the difficulty, take the appropriate corrective actions.

Determine Ultimate Objectives. Ask what is God's purpose for this irritation? Is it to address something that needs to be attended to. Is it a cry for help to bring to our attention to someone's needs that gives us the opportunity to partner with God in coming along side of them?

GT#5 APDX-10, COMPLICATIONS: cultural conventions arose after the great flood of Noah's day. During that period and because the scattering of mankind at the tower of Babel, many customs and cultures developed along the same general lines. We find common elements in the 3 GT stories. Throughout the 40 year period of David's reign over Judah & then all of Israel there are hints of things that will cause problems. King David, just like all kings at that time, practiced two cultural norms that conflicted with them: **nepotism**, the practice of favoring relatives with appointments to prominent positions; **dynastic succession**, family line continuation of occupation of the throne. Besides the general requirement of faithfulness to God for his blessing, these practices ignore one basic qualification: competence to fulfill the duties of their offices.

Priestly succession & apostolic succession have been plagued by similar problems. Superior practices were utilized by the early church for choosing men for serving the church.

Privileges of Firstborn Males

There was another practice that became normalized in those days, **primogeniture**, the custom by which at least double share of the father's property was given to the firstborn son along with his blessing when the father was about to die. This can only create sibling rivalry! Like all of the other customs described in this appendix, it lends itself to the encouragement of fleshly vices rather than spirituality.

Foreign Wives, Concubines, & Polygamy

The Bible, particularly Proverbs, emphasizes the role of parents in raising children. Who raised the children in the kingdom of David? The father, tutors, Hebrew wives, foreign wives, or concubines? In the Bible, a concubine was a legitimate wife holding a lower status than a first-rank wife but still having a recognized relationship with the man, not as a mistress. Though sometimes a slave or servant, a concubine was treated as a lawful wife under the institution of polygamy. Their children were not primary heirs but their role was often to provide a male heir in the case of a barren wife. A woman living as a concubine was more common in Israel during the patriarchal period of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob than in later periods, but it still happened among the wealthy and especially with royals like King David and King Solomon.

Although he provided rights and protections for concubines in the Law of Moses, God did not introduce or approve of this marital model. The Hebrew word for concubine is a non-Semitic word borrowed to refer to a phenomenon not indigenous to Israel. Concubinage is considered a sin and is ranked with fornication and adultery in the NT which emphasizes the sacred institution of marriage and restores it to its original character as a symbolic reflection of the relationship between God and his people.