



# MONDAY-CONTEXT

## Exegesis: What Does It Say?

### Today's Objective:

To place the passage in its historical and literary context.

### Today's Goal:

To have a few paragraphs written that help you explain the contribution the passage makes to the argument of the book as a whole, along with its relationship to the portions that precede and follow it in the text.

### Task 0. Continue your panoramic reading of the book.

Remember, there are few things that will keep the entire message in front of us better than continuing to soak in the message of the book as a whole.

### Task 1. Describe the Immediate Context of your Portion

This task consists of describing the immediate context and relating it to key background material.

To Do: Summarize the immediate context in a few paragraphs, completing the following sentences: (1) In the portion prior to this one, the author dealt with the question of... (2) In the portion following today's passage...

### Task 2. Read the Passage Repeatedly, Noting Observations

With this task one begins to soak in the portion to be studied. The purpose is to get a clear (but revisable) basic idea of the passage as a whole: the themes it touches, the arguments it addresses, the contribution it makes.

To Do: Read the passage repeatedly and in different versions. Jot down your observations and questions, and make a list of your initial conclusions.

### Task 3. Determine the Contribution of the Passage to the Immediate Context and the Overall Argument of the Book

This task is intended to relate your provisional understanding of the passage (Task 2) to your contextual discovery (Task 1). It is about linking the fruit of the second task with the fruit of the first task.

To do: Complete the following sentences: (1) In this portion our author tells us about... (2) This portion relates to the preceding and following portions and to the book as a whole in the following ways...

### Task 4. Investigate Important Contextual Issues

Research the contextual issues — historical, cultural, literary or theological — that you noted above.

To do: Take notes as you research each topic and summarize your findings in a memorable statement that can be shared with others.