

3. For today's study, we'll focus on a single paragraph. The paragraph is the primary unit of thought. Let's study Micah chapter 4:1-5.
  - a. Read the passage repeatedly, using the observation skills you've been practicing in prior weeks. Try asking the 5 W's and an H. Watch for the Laws of Structure.
  - b. Use your imagination. Can you visualize the people "streaming" to Jerusalem? Can you hear the metal weapons being hammered? What does the shade of a fig tree feel like?
  - c. Ask questions (i.e., Does that mean physically raised above the hills? How will he "judge" between many nations? What does the pruning hook like like?)
  - d. Narrow your focus. Which questions are crucial to answer today?
  - e. Define key words. Dictionary.com is quick, and has a thesaurus too.
  - f. Compare translations. Biblegateway.com allows you to open up to five translations in parallel columns for comparison.
  - g. Investigate cross-references. Biblegateway.com also allows you to toggle on or off cross-references. Click on the cross-reference and it will open up the verse immediately.
  - h. Consult other resources. Really helpful to have a trustworthy study Bible with some notes, maps, background, etc.
  - i. Wrestle and summarize your findings.

# Sermon Notes

"When Christ Shall Rule the Earth"

Micah 4:1 – 5:9

July 8, 2018

**Let's Pray:**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 07-08-18

## Getting Started:

Keep an Overview of the Inductive Bible Study Process in Mind

There are three steps: observation, interpretation, and application.

1. Observation asks and answers the question: What do I see?
2. Interpretation asks and answers the question: What does it mean?
3. Application asks and answers the question: How does it work?

(Howard Hendricks repeated these questions so many times, I don't have a specific reference, but he's the one who taught them to me!)

Next, we'll begin working on Interpretation skills.

1. Don McLean's song, American Pie, is like a riddle set to music. Look up the lyrics sometime, and try to figure out what it means! If you do an internet search on the meaning of those lyrics, you will find a wide variety of interpretations.

Are all of those interpretations valid? That is, what determines if an interpretation is "correct" or "incorrect"?

Not all biblical interpretations are "created equal." Some are clearly superior to others. What makes an interpretation superior to others?

## Digging Deeper:

2. Pray first. John taught that we have an anointing (the Holy Spirit) which we received from the Father who abides in us and teaches us about all things (1 John 2:27). Acknowledge and ask for his teaching ministry in your mind and heart!

## Study Hint

In Interpretation, we're going to ask and answer the question, "What does it mean?" Here are some tips. You rarely are going to use all of these on any given study, but here are a variety of tools and processes to help discern the author's meaning. Remember, you are trying to determine what the original author meant by what he was saying.

Tools and Processes	Description
Use your imagination	Recreate in your mind the scene and all the people involved. Try to see, hear, feel what the persons are seeing, hearing, feeling. Try to imagine the actions, gestures, and the way persons said what they said.
Ask Questions	Get inquisitive! Bombard the text with questions. This will take work, because we've actually trained ourselves to stifle our questions. We've wondered about all sorts of things in the Bible, but we've made a practice of not asking. Now is the time to ask. Write them down.
Narrow your focus	Use discernment to select some key questions important for understanding the text.
Define Key Words	Use a dictionary to define key words. Think about their meaning and particular use in this text.
Compare Translations	Read the passage in several translations to discover what other words are used in translating the passage, or to see if you gain additional insight. Record parts of the translation that give you insight into meanings.
Investigate Cross-references	Many Bible translations provide cross-references in the margin. Look up those references pertinent to those words or phrases key to understanding the text.
Consult Other Resources	This is the point to consider the notes in your study Bible, a trusted commentary, a Bible dictionary, a concordance, or a set of Bible-times maps.
Wrestle	Wrestle with the information you have gained. This means you have to think, meditate, evaluate, reflect, and draw conclusions.
Summarize	Record your conclusions.

(Adapted from Oletta Wald, *The Joy of Discovery in Bible Study*, Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN, 1975, pp. 22-24, 31-32, 35-36, 41-47, 53-56, 61, 69-70).