

Biblical Preaching: Genesis

PRH611

Nazarene Theological Seminary
Spring Semester 2004
9:00 a.m.-12:35 p.m. Tuesday

Roger L. Hahn, Instructor
816-333-6254, ext. 220
913-782-7131 (Home)
Rlhahn@nts.edu

Place in Curriculum

Biblical Preaching: Genesis, PRH611, is a senior level M.Div. course integrating the disciplines of biblical exegesis, preaching, and biblical theology. It fulfills the M.Div. requirement for a course in biblical preaching. Its prerequisites are BIB550, Biblical Hermeneutics, and PRH610, Christian Preaching, or their equivalents.

Course Rationale

The foundational assumption of the Biblical Preaching classes is that authentic preaching enables the biblical message to “refunction” in the minds and lives of contemporary listeners. One of the primary purposes of the Bible exegesis courses is to enable students to discover how the biblical text first functioned at the point of its initial writing and reading. One of the primary purposes of the Biblical theology classes is to synthesize the results of exegesis in a theologically coherent understanding. Because students often have not integrated the work of exegesis, biblical theology, and preaching, the Biblical Preaching courses have been designed to work intentionally toward that process of integration.

Course Vision

If God were to really bless this course **students** would experience the transforming vision of creation and redemption from their study of Genesis and would be confident that they are able to communicate that message to a needy church and world. The **churches** where these **students** serve will hear this message proclaimed with simplicity and with power and will experience the transforming power of the gospel. A transformed **church** will then share the gospel with the **world** which will be confronted with the demands of Christ rather than the requirements of institutional churches. Many unbelievers will respond positively to the challenge of the true gospel and the **church** will experience vitality and growth.

Course Purpose

To equip students for the task of preaching the creating and redeeming grace of God through learning the content of Genesis, Creation, Priestly, Yahwistic, and Elohist theologies, and homiletic methods appropriate for preaching the narrative portions of the *Torah*.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course the student will be able to:

- Describe the structure and flow of the book of Genesis,
- Identify the major theological themes of the book of Genesis,
- Identify and illustrate the major themes of Creation, Priestly, Yahwistic, and Elohist theologies,
- Identify the basic literary forms that are used to communicate the message of Genesis,
- Articulate the significance of the way these literary forms are used in Genesis,
- Discuss the roles of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph in Genesis,
- Describe and illustrate three major homiletical approaches that are useful in preaching from Genesis,
- Articulate the significance of preaching from Genesis and the Old Testament in a Christian way,
- Construct sermons from Genesis that are true to the meaning of the biblical text and reflective of contemporary methods of preaching, and
- Preach with joyful confidence from Genesis

Course Texts

The Bible: The foundational text will be the Scripture text of Genesis. For students not working from the Hebrew Bible, the NRSV or NASB (1995) is recommended. English-as-a-Second-Language students should consult with the instructor regarding the translation they use.

Akinson, David. *The Message of Genesis 1-11: The Dawn of Creation*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Genesis*. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.

Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Shelley, A. Carter. *Preaching Genesis 12-36*. Preaching Classic Texts. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2001.

Walton, John H. *Genesis*. The NIV Application Commentary: From biblical text . . . to contemporary life. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Course Schedule

Date	9:00-10:20	11:05-12:35	Assignments Due
2-03	Syllabus & Schedule	Preaching Methods	
2-10	Gen 1-2	Gen. 3-4	Inductive Study Steps 1 & 2 Brueggemann, pp 1-67 Walton, pp. 19-279 Atkinson, pp. 13-117
2-17	Gen 5-6	Gen 7-9	Inductive Study Steps 3 & 4 Brueggemann, pp. 67-104 Walton, pp. 279-387 Atkinson, pp. 119-190
2-24	Gen 12-14	Gen 15-17	Written Sermon #1 Mathewson, pp. 11-90 Brueggemann, pp. 105-157 Walton, pp388-471 Shelley, pp. 1-66
3-02	Gen 18-20	14 minute Sermons	Mathewson, pp. 93-130 Brueggemann, pp. 157-183 Walton, pp. 472-506 Shelley, pp. 67-91
3-09	Gen 21-23	14 minute Sermons	Mathewson, pp. 131-157 Brueggemann, pp. 184-196 Walton, pp. 507-529 Shelley, pp. 93-105
3-16	Gen 24-26	14 minute Sermons	Mathewson, pp. 161-175 Brueggemann, pp. 197-226 Walton, pp. 529-553 Shelley, pp. 107-136
3-23	Reading and	Research Week	
3-30	Gen 27-29	Gen 30-32	Mathewson, pp. 227-255 Brueggemann, pp. 226-274 Walton, pp. 554-621 Shelley, pp. 137-169
4-06	Gen 33-35	Gen 36-37	Mathewson Synthesis- Reflection Brueggemann, pp. 274-307 Walton, pp. 622-666
4-13	Gen 38-40	20 minute Sermons	Written Sermon #2 Brueggemann, pp. 307-325 Walton, pp. 666-673
4-20	Gen 41-45	20 minute Sermons	Brueggemann, pp. 325-351 Walton, pp. 673-683
4-27	Gen 46-50	20 Minute Sermons	Brueggemann, pp. 351-380 Walton, pp 683-727
5-04	9:00-10:50 - 20 minute sermons and	Course Evaluation	

Course Requirements

Inductive Study - The instructions for an inductive study are attached following the bibliography. The notes from Reading #1 and Reading #2 are due February 10. The color-coded copy of Genesis from Reading #3 and the Book titles, Major Section titles, and paragraph titles from Reading #4 are due February 17.

Textbook Reading - The textbooks should be read according to the schedule given in the Class Schedule above. You should be prepared to ask questions regarding either the passage or commentaries' treatment of it. A 4-5 page synthesis-reflection paper on Mathewson's book will be due on April 6.

Preaching in Class - From March 2-16 we will preach 12-14 minutes sermons in class. From April 14-May 4 we will preach 18-20 minute sermons in class. The 12-14 minute sermon should be based on a text in Genesis 1-22. The 18-20 minute sermon should be based on a text in Genesis 27-50. One of the sermons should be constructed as a narrative sermon according to one of the narrative sermon designs described in the class lecture. The other sermon should be either a didactic or inductive sermon. You will be asked to identify the sermon type before you preach it. You should be prepared to turn in your notes or manuscript to the instructor after preaching the sermon. You will be evaluated by your classmates and the instructor on the basis of fidelity to the biblical text, fidelity to the announced sermonic form, and delivery. Assume a "typical" Sunday morning context for preaching.

Written Sermons - In addition to the orally preached sermons, two written sermon manuscripts from Genesis are due, one on February 24 and one on April 13. The texts may be taken from any portion of Genesis other than the texts of your oral sermons. The manuscripts should be typed or laser/ink jet printed. The manuscript should reflect oral style and represent as much as possible the actual words you anticipate saying in the sermon. The sermon length should be projected at about 20 minutes. The sermonic form should be identified and one should be narrative and the other form will not be specified.

Sermon Idea File - A list or file of 20 further sermon ideas for biblical sermons from Genesis will be due May 4. Each entry should include the text, key exegetical insight(s) that provide the basis for the sermon, the sermonic form, and a one or two sentence description of the basic concept(s) to be developed in the sermon.

Attendance, Participation, etc. - A significant portion of the class's success depends on your attendance and participation in discussion. The instructor will be evaluating the impact of the class (both assignments and lectures) on you through your participation.

Class Grading

The instructor will assign numerical grades (between 0 and 100) to the work required. The final grade will be calculated using the following percentage weighting:

Inductive Study on Genesis	15%
2 Oral Sermons (Faculty Evaluation) @15% each	30%
2 Oral Sermons (Peer Evaluation) @ 5% each	10%
2 Written Sermons 9 % each	18%
Sermon Idea File	10%
Mathewson Synthesis-Reflection Report	10%
Attendance, Participation, etc.	7%

It is the commitment of NTS and of this instructor to make every reasonable effort to facilitate the learning of student capable of graduate level seminary work. Any student who has a condition that may prevent full demonstration of her or his abilities (e.g. , difficulty seeing or hearing, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities) should contact the instructor immediately, or as soon as possible, to discuss learning needs, alternatives which have worked for the student in the past, and mutually acceptable accommodations to ensure the student's full participation and appropriate evaluation in the course.

Bibliography:

Preaching:

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth *Preaching Hard Texts of the Old Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.
- _____. *Preaching from the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.
- Allen, Ronald J. *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.
- _____. *Preaching is Believing: The Sermon as Theological Reflection*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- _____, ed. *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.
- _____ and Bartholomew, Gilbert L. *Preaching Verse by Verse*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
- _____ and Holbert, John C. *Holy Root, Holy Branches: Christian Preaching From the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Bartlett, David L. *Between the Bible and the Church: New Methods for Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.
- Beasley-Murray, George R. *Preaching the Gospel from the Gospels*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Craddock, Fred B. *Overhearing the Gospel: Preaching and Teaching the Faith to Persons Who Have Heard It All Before*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.

- _____. *Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.
- Elliott, Mark Barger. *Creative Styles of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
- Eslinger, Richard L. *A New Hearing: Living Options in Homiletic Method*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.
- _____. *The Web of Preaching: New Options in Homiletic Method*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Farris, Stephen. *Preaching That Matters: The Bible and Our Lives*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
- Greenhaw, David M. and Allen, Ronald J. eds. *Preaching in the Context of Worship*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- _____. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.
- Hogan, Lucy Lind and Reid, Robert. *Connecting with the Congregation: Rhetoric and the Art of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Holbert, John C. *Preaching Old Testament: Proclamation & Narrative in the Hebrew Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991.
- Honeycutt, Frank G. *Preaching to Skeptics and Seekers*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.
- Jeter, Joseph R. *Crisis Preaching: Personal & Public*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Lewis, Ralph L. with Gregg Lewis. *Inductive Preaching: Helping People Listen*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1983.
- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.
- _____. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletic Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.
- _____. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.
- _____. *The Sermon: Dancing the Edge of Mystery*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.
- O'Day, Gail R. *The Word Disclosed: Preaching the Gospel of John*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.
- O'Day, Gail R. and Long, Thomas G. eds. *Listening to the Word: Studies in Honor of Fred B. Craddock*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.
- Miller, Calvin. *Spirit, Word, and Story: A Philosophy of Preaching*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1989.
- Shepherd, William H., Jr. *No Deed Greater Than a Word: A New Approach to Biblical Preaching*. Lima, OH: CSS Publishing Company, Inc., 1997.
- Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*, Fortress Resources for Preaching. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.
- Troeger, Thomas H. *Imagining a Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Practice of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- _____. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Standard Commentaries on Genesis:

- Alter, Robert. *Genesis: Translation and Commentary*. New York: Norton, 1996.
- Atkinson, David. *The Message of Genesis 1-11: The Dawn of Creation*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990.
- Baldwin, Joyce G. *The Message of Genesis 12-50: From Abraham to Joseph*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Genesis*. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.
- Cassuto, Umberto. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis: Part I: From Adam to Noah. Part II: From Noah to Abraham*. Trans. Israel Abrahams. Jerusalem: Magnes, 1961, 1964.
- Coats, George W. *Genesis: With an Introduction to Narrative Literature*. Forms of Old Testament Literature Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983.
- Fretheim, Terence E. "The Book of Genesis: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections," *The New Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. 1. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Gowan, Donald E. *Genesis 1-11: From Eden to Babel*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis: Chapter 1-17. The Book of Genesis: Chapters 18-50*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990, 1995.
- Harley, John E. *Genesis*. New International Biblical Commentary, Vol. 1. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000.
- Janzen, J. Gerald. *Genesis 12-50: Abraham and All the Families of the Earth*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.
- Kidner, Derek. *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Vol. 1. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1967.
- Louth, Andrew. *Genesis 1-11*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Old Testament Vol. 1. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Plaut, W. Gunther. *Genesis*. The Torah: A Modern Commentary, Vol. 1. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1974.
- Rad, Gerhard von. *Genesis*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1972.
- Sailhamer, John H. "Genesis," *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 2, Genesis-Numbers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Company, 1990.
- Sarna, Nahum M. *Genesis*. The JPS Torah Commentary. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1989.
- Skinner, John. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Genesis*. The International Critical Commentary. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910.
- Speiser, E.A. *Genesis*. The Anchor Bible, Vol. 1. New York: Doubleday, 1962.
- Towner, W. Sibley. *Genesis*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Viviano, Pauline. "Genesis," *The Collegeville Bible Commentary*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1989.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *Genesis: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1-15. Genesis 16-50*. Word Biblical Commentary, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. Dallas, TX: Word Publishers, 1987, 1994.

Westermann, Claus. *Genesis 1-11: A Commentary. Genesis 12-36. Genesis 37-50*. Trans. John J Scullion. Continental Commentary. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publisher, 1984, 1985, 1986.

Significant Monographs and Collected Essays on Genesis:

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Anderson, Bernhard W., ed. *Creation in the Old Testament*. Issues in Religion and Theology, No. 6. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Creation and Fall: Temptation*. New York: Macmillan and Co., 1966.

Borgman, Paul. *Genesis: The Story We Haven't Heard*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Capon, Robert Farrar. *Genesis: The Movie*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003.

Cotter, David W. *Genesis*. Berit Olam: Studies in Hebrew Narrative & Poetry. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2003.

Fethem, Terence. *Creation, Fall and Flood: Studies in Genesis 1-11*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1969.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Narrative Art in Genesis*. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1975.

Jeansonne, Sharon. *The Women of Genesis*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

Mann, Thomas. *The Book of the Torah: The Narrative Integrity of the Pentateuch*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1988.

Miller, Patrick D., Jr. *Genesis 1-11: Studies in Structure and Theme*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series, No. 8. Sheffield, England: Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, 1978.

Rendsburg, Gary. *The Redaction of Genesis*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1986.

Sarna, Nahum. *Understanding Genesis*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1966.

Steinmetz, Devorah. *From Father to Son: Kinship, Conflict and Continuity in Genesis*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1991.

Thielicke, Helmut. *How the World Began: Man in the First Chapters of the Bible*. Trans. John W. Doberstein. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1961.

Thompson, Thomas. *The Historicity of the Patriarchal Narratives*. Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 133. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1974.

Turner, Lawrence. *Announcements of Plot in Genesis*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series, No. 96. Sheffield, England: Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, 1990.

Van Seters, John. *Abraham in History and Tradition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975.

White, Hugh C. *Narration and Discourse in the Book of Genesis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

THE INDUCTIVE METHOD

"In truth thou canst not read the scriptures too much:
 And what thou readest, thou canst not read too well;
 And what thou readest well, thou canst not too well understand;
 And what thou understandest well, thou canst not too well teach;
 And what thou teachest well, thou canst not too well live."

--Martin Luther

It is the privilege of every believer to go directly to the Word and find there the clear-cut message of truth. The practice of running to a commentary before studying the Bible itself gives a definite direction to one's study and a cast to his thinking which may lead him to conclusions never intended by the Holy Spirit. Further, that individual deprives himself of the blessing of discovering eternal verities for himself. After all, those who wrote the commentaries had to get their material in the same way any present-day Bible student can get it. It should not be necessary for the Christian to consistently only depend on the Biblical research of another; he should seek a spiritual maturity that will enable him to get beyond this stage. The inductive method is in a peculiar way designed to enable one to develop rapidly in the ability to do independent Bible study.

The inductive method proceeds from the circumference to the center, from fact to principle, from details to a synthesis, from factual evidence to conclusions, from the specific to the general, from the concrete to the abstract. It is zealous to gather all the pertinent evidence before drawing conclusions; it believes that no explanation is preferable to the wrong one; it prefers to defer a final decision until all the evidence is gathered rather than hazard a decision on slender evidence.

Seven Characteristics of the Inductive Method

1. The inductive method proceeds from the specific to the general, from observation to interpretation, from sight to insight, from analysis to synthesis, from letter to spirit, from literature to life.
2. It does not insist that the Bible is a scientific book, nor concede that it is unscientific; it regards it as nonscientific.
3. It seeks to discover the individuality of the book as a whole.
4. It is intensive, unwilling to exchange extent for depth and accuracy.
5. It is direct, unwilling to substitute secondary knowledge for primary knowledge.
6. It is literary, recognizing that the content is cradled in literary forms.
7. It is patient, persistent, expectant, creative, reflective, and prayerful in approach.

Proper sequence is important in procedure.

Seven Steps in Study:

1. Aspiration - a prayer for spiritual illumination.
2. Observation
3. Compilation
4. Correlation
5. Interpretation
6. Assimilation - discovered truths.
7. Application - to the contemporary situation.

Procedure for Inductive Study

Gather your basic tools:

1. Bible - Preferably NRSV, RSV, or NASB
2. Set of colored pencils.
3. Notebook paper.

STEP One: First Reading

This should be a cursory, one-sitting reading of the whole book, not slowly, aloud if possible.

Don't slow down in your first reading; this will be a constant temptation.

After this reading jot down answers to such questions as these:

1. Your general first impressions of the book.
2. Atmosphere. This may be the atmosphere of the book as a whole, or of its separate parts. Atmosphere words such as "hate", "love", "activity", are tone or setting words. Aim at one-word identifications.
3. Key words and phrases. You may not find many of these in your first reading, but you will probably notice some.
4. Key persons and events.
5. Other observations that might seem striking to you.

STEP Two: Second Reading

The second reading should proceed more slowly than the first, and yet not too slowly. With this reading things should begin to crystallize and fit into a pattern, though that pattern may still not be too clear.

During this second reading, record further observations as you read. Thus they will be more thorough and definitive than those of the first reading.

Be inquisitive; ask yourself questions - Who? What? When? Why? How?

The major purpose of your second reading should be the securing of chapter titles, which should serve not as an outline of the book, but as clues to the content of each chapter. The sum of them represents a condensed picture of the general flow of the book's message. Characteristics of a good title are:

1. Preferably one word, not more than three.
2. Picturesque words if possible (exceptions: personal names like Stephen for Acts 7, or a geographical name).
3. Words taken directly from the text; not a paraphrase.
4. No duplication or similarity of titles.
5. Words which tell you where you are in the book.

STEP Three: Third Reading

Read the book this time for the purpose of marking themes, concepts, and special terminology. Use a scheme something like this or of your own design. Different books will produce different subjects to be marked.

- Green references to sin, rebellion, or spiritual failure.
- Blue references to significant persons.

Purple	references to governmental/political leaders, kings, etc.
Orange	references to Christ.
Yellow	references to names of God.
Red	questions underlined in red; promises boxed in red.
Brown	references to time.
Black	references to geographical locations.

Circle the question marks.

Record further observations as you read the book.

STEP Four: Fourth Reading

The major purpose of this reading would be to identify the major divisions and paragraphs and topics within each chapter. You may want to look at other modern versions as an aid.

During the analysis you must check chapter divisions in the Bible you are using. Make no changes without good reasons.

Re-evaluate your chapter titles.

Develop a title or brief description of each paragraph. Use no more than 5 to 7 words for the paragraph title.

Develop major book division titles of one to three words each. There should be no more than 6 major divisions in any book of the Bible and many books will have no more than 3 or 4.

Finally, develop a theme or title for the whole book that you are studying. This should be related very definitely to the major divisions of the book.

On a rough worksheet chart record book divisions, chapter titles, and major divisions of each chapter.

STEP Five: Further Reading

This does not involve another reading as such, but rather exhaustive study as time will permit.

Get acquainted with background material, biblical criticism, and problems relating to the book. Use scholarly commentaries which deal with word meanings and textual problems.

Reassess your divisional points.

Record on the work chart the concepts you choose as most important.

STEP Six:

Construction of final chart. A good chart necessitates attention to the following rules:

1. Be simple - overcrowding obscures perspective; the chart should be self-explanatory.
2. Be neat - what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.
3. Be honest - never withhold relevant evidence in the interest of theory; endeavor to interpret evidence without prejudice or bias.

4. Be pictorial - present ideas, movements graphically; do not present bare statistics without indicating their significance; employ eye appeal.
5. Be thorough - Spare no pains to ascertain the distinctive message of the book being studied, nor to present it with greatest accuracy and effectiveness.
6. Be modest - no chart is ever finished or perfect; you will need room for improvement; there will be fresh insights later.

The chart represents a panoramic view of the book, together with some interpretation. Accordingly, there may well be an analysis of the book into its paragraphs, chapters, and sections, along with some indication of the relation of the parts to the whole.

Paragraph titles are simply descriptive labels to recall the content of a paragraph. Such titles give a spatial outline of the book; the usual topical outline provides a logical analysis - both are important.

Equipment: Heavy chart paper is preferable. Type or use ink on the chart. Colors may be used to indicate relationships, for example, related paragraphs may have the same color. Perhaps the most convenient form of a chart is that which uses letter size paper (8 1/2 x 11) hinged at the left side by scotch tape. A roll is often inconvenient to handle.