

Author's Intention and Biblical INTERpretation (Paper No.7)  
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His thesis is that the author's intention is determinative in defining the goal of the interpretation of verbal meaning. The author's intended meaning is the only true meaning.

What is the goal of interpretation? How do we reach that goal?

I The Goal of Interpretation

The goal of interpretation is to know the single sense, and this single meaning is the author's intended meaning.

1. Intention is not to be identified with the psychological experience of the author.
2. Intention is not to be identified with the relation between mental acts and mental objects.
3. Intention is not to be identified with the hoped for consequences of his writing.
4. Intention is to be identified with the "sense of the whole" by which the author arranges and relates each particular meaning of his composition. The intention must be discovered in the shared Divine/human expression of the text.

The human author did not share fully in the divine author's meaning at times, cf. 1 Pet. 1:10,11

Note Peter and Paul's use of Psalm 16. (7-11)

II The Principle of REcognition (7-12)

No author is able to entertain in conscious thought at any one moment all the meanings he intends to express. (7-12). The principle of re-cognition means that the interpreter re-cognizes the author's chosen type of meaning. The particulars of the text reflect a type of meaning which the author chose to express.

III The Principle of Exegesis (7-16)

This is that the interpreter exegetes the implications of the author's chosen type of meaning.

The first principle(recognition) is inductive and thus the product is preliminary and tentative. The second principle(exegesis) is logical and reasoned. Exegesis is the leading out of the logical implications of the identified type of meaning.

Reference to Waltke's "canonical process approach to the Psalms" with which Johnson disagrees. (7-21, 22)

Walter Kaiser on 2 Pet. 1:10-12 to mean the prophets's search was not for the meaning of what they wrote, but an inquiry into the temporal aspects of the subject, which went beyond what they wrote.

The author's intention expresses a single, defining textual sense of the whole.(7-24)

Divine implications of meaning transcend the historical setting. The single sense is defined in the affirmations of the text of Scripture. It is shared by human and divine. The full references are only divine and only fully recognized by the interpreter in the progress of revelation.