



The Observation Of The Whole

① WHAT IS MEANT BY AN OBSERVATION OF THE WHOLE

The **Word of God** contains **66 books**, and **1,189 chapters**, and **31, 102 verses**, and **788,280 words** and **EVERYTHING IN THE WORD OF GOD HAS ITS PROPER PLACE IN RELATION TO THE WHOLE!**

By **OBSERVATION OF THE WHOLE** we mean;

“an overview or general observation of a verse, a passage, or book of Scripture”

The **OBSERVATION OF THE WHOLE** is;

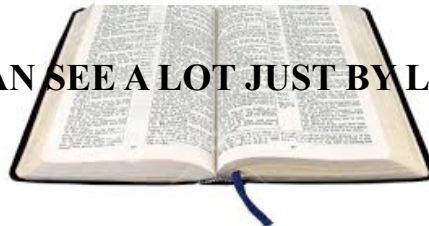
“looking for the plain sense of what is written, it is seeing the obvious, such as people, places, and events”

Observing and **identifying** the obvious, makes the other parts more clear and more easily understood. Just like a detective will look for the obvious before looking for the more minute details, even so when reading the **Word of God! RECOGNIZE THE OBVIOUS!**

Even when reading straight through a passage of **Scripture** without stopping to ponder what is being said; **THERE SHOULD BE AN INITIAL IMPRESSION, AND A GENERAL FEEL AND SENSE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER!** Reading straight through a passage of Scripture without stopping to ponder; **THERE SHOULD BE A GENERAL OBSERVATION OF THE MAJOR FACTS!** If there is not, then proper attention is not being given!

LOOK!

YOU CAN SEE A LOT JUST BY LOOKING



② THE PURPOSE OF A GENERAL OBSERVATION

Again, **EVERYTHING IN THE WORD OF GOD HAS ITS PROPER PLACE IN RELATION TO THE WHOLE!** It is always easier to put everything in its proper place when there is an **overview of the whole!** It is like **working a jigsaw puzzle**, the wise thing to do is to

look at the picture on the box before trying to fit all the pieces together! **OBSERVATION OF THE WHOLE IS LIKE LOOKING AT THE PICTURE ON THE PUZZLE BOX!**

LOOK!



Looking at the picture on the puzzle box:



Is Preparation For Putting The Pieces Together.

One Obtains A General Idea Of The Subject Matter Of The Puzzle.

Initial Impressions Are Made And Familiarity With The Subject Matter Is Established.

One Obtains A General Idea Of Where The Pieces Fit In The Puzzle.

Likewise, a **GENERAL OBSERVATION** of a passage of Scripture, is **in preparation for fitting the pieces together**. One looks at the picture on the puzzle box before they begin to examine and group the pieces together. A **GENERAL OBSERVATION** of a passage of Scripture **enables one to obtain a general idea of the subject matter of the passage**. Just as there is a initial focal point in looking at the picture on the puzzle box, so it is with a passage of Scripture! **THERE IS A FOCAL POINT!** This is the subject or theme. A **GENERAL OBSERVATION** of a passage of Scripture results in **initial impressions, and familiarity with the subject matter**. In a **GENERAL OBSERVATION** of a passage of Scripture **one obtains a general idea of where the pieces fit**. Just as looking at the picture on the puzzle box, one obtains a general idea of where the green, red, and blue pieces go, so it is with a **GENERAL OBSERVATION** of Scripture! In a puzzle all the pieces have a place in relation to the subject matter, and they all fit in their place, and likewise with the **Word of God!**

③ HOW TO MAKE A GENERAL OBSERVATION

A **GENERAL OBSERVATION** is accomplished by **reading a passage of Scripture through repeatedly!** Again, like **looking at the picture on the puzzle box**, the more you look at it, the more you see, and the more familiar the subject matter becomes. There are also sub-themes and **the more you read and observe the more noticeable these become!** A **GENERAL OBSERVATION LEADS TO FURTHER RECOGNITION OF PARTS AND DETAILS!** In reading a passage through repeatedly observe the subject or theme, and observe that which is

connected with the subject and theme, and **make note of initial impressions each time through**. having done this, you will have enough information to form a general outline. An outline is a means of **drawing out what is there in a logical and systematic way**.

EXAMPLES:

JOHN 6:37-40

SUBJECT-THE MISSION OF CHRIST

General Outline From General Observations



- I. Christ's Mission Involved Being Sent Of The Father (**verses 38, 39, 40**).
- II. Christ's Mission Involved Coming Down From Heaven (**verse 38**).
- III. Christ's Mission Involved The Father's Will (**verses 38, 39, 40**).
- IV. Christ's Mission Involved A Particular People (**verses 37, 39, 40**).
- V. Christ's Mission Is A Complete Success (**verses 37, 39, 40**).

JOHN 10:14-18

SUBJECT-CHRIST IS THE SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

General Outline From General Observations



- I. The Character Of Christ As A Shepherd
 - A. He Is A Good Shepherd (**verse 14**).
 - B. He Knows The Sheep (**verse 14**).
 - C. He Is Known Of The Father (**verse 15**).
 - D. He Knows The Father (**verse 15**).
 - E. He Is Loved Of The Father (**verse 17**).
 - F. He Is Beyond The Power Of Man (**verse 18**).
 - G. He Possesses Authority (**verse 18**).
- II. What Christ Does For His Sheep
 - A. He Gives His Life For Them (**verses 15, 17, 18**).
 - B. He Brings Them (**verse 16**).
 - C. He Calls Them (**verse 16**).
- III. The Character Of The Sheep
 - A. They Know The Shepherd (**verse 14**).
 - B. They Hear His Voice (**verse 16**).

A **GENERAL OBSERVATION** of a passage of Scripture is an **important step to thorough Bible study**, but it is important to realize that this **GENERAL OBSERVATION** by itself stops short of a full interpretation! Again, using the analogy of a puzzle; merely observing the picture on the box stops short of putting the pieces together! **IT IS CRUCIAL THAT ONE DOES NOT STOP WITH A GENERAL OBSERVATION OF A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE!**