

“How to Interpret the Bible and Why It Matters? [Bible Hermeneutics]” was posted on the Seventh-day Adventist Church YouTube channel on 2/27/23. Frank Hasel, PhD, who has been the associate director of the General Conference Biblical Research Institute, was the speaker.

“Hermeneutics” means the process of interpreting something. If you know big words like that and have a PhD many people will believe you.

Dr. Hasel, to be hereafter referred to as Frank, has been a principal contributor to two Sabbath School Bible Study Guides that I know of (first quarter of 2017 and second quarter of 2020). Here is a list of the bibles used in those publications that must have been accepted by this man who wishes to teach you how to interpret the Bible.

English Standard Version (ESV) – Roman Catholic
New American Standard Bible (NASB)
New International Version (NIV)
New King James Version (NKJV)
New Living Translation (NLT)
Revised Standard Version (RSV) – Roman Catholic
King James Version (KJV)
New English Bible (NEB) – Roman Catholic
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
Revised English Bible – Roman Catholic
Today’s New International Version (TNIV)

That would be ELEVEN “the Bible” that this man apparently approves of. All of those “the Bible” except one contradict themselves, contradict Seventh-day Adventist doctrine and contradict the Spirit of Prophecy.

Frank tells several “amusing” stories during this video that I doubt are based on truth. Thus far there are seven comments on this thread all of which are positive. The sheep have been entertained.

After his first “amusing” story of an old lady that didn’t know what oxygen was and thought it was a “newfangled thing” she didn’t need, Frank compares it to “hermeneutics” which some people may think is a “newfangled thing.” You better listen to Frank unless you want to be like that stupid old lady.

Building on the example of the stupid old lady Frank says people might think (people like stupid old you), “I don’t need any hermeneutics, they say. I simply take my Bible as it reads. And many people claim they need no interpretation.”

Here is what the old lady, Ellen G. White, said back around 1884.

“The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, ‘If any man will do His

will, he shall know of the doctrine.’ If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.” *Spirit of Prophecy* volume 4 pages 416 to 417.

The Lord’s Messenger apparently thought the Bible should be taken “as it reads.” She had more advice.

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then by controlling the minds of these leaders he can influence the multitudes according to his will.” *Spirit of Prophecy* volume 4 pages 413 to 414.

You would never have needed to know what “hermeneutics” means. Sister White explained in very simple terms how to study the Bible and, as far as I know, she never used the word “hermeneutics” anywhere in her writings even though that word existed and was defined in Noah Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language. Take the real Bible “as it reads” and ignore the advice of a blowhard who is so deceived that he doesn’t know a fake “the Bible” from the real Bible.

Here is more advice from the Lord’s Messenger.

“When you search the Scriptures with an earnest desire to learn the truth, God will breathe His Spirit into your heart and impress your mind with the light of His word. The Bible is its own interpreter, one passage explaining another. By comparing scriptures referring to the same subjects, you will see beauty and harmony of which you have never dreamed.” *Testimonies for the Church* volume four page 499.

At 1:55 Frank says, “Now there is certainly there is certainly some truth to the statement, that, the Bible says it, and that settles it for me. Yes, we definitely should take the words of Scripture seriously and at face value. We should not read the Bible in a mystical or allegorical manner. But this does not eliminate the need interpretation.”

Notice the “some truth” that if “the Bible says it” it is settled. That implies it may not always settle it. That’s true if you’re using one of the fake “the Bible” Frank has used preferentially. After the “some truth” part, he says “Scripture” must be taken “at face value.” That appears to contradict the first statement and, if using one of his fake “the Bible” it is not true.

At 2:36 Frank says, “especially people who are new to the faith” will “blindly open the Bible and then take very literalistic what the Bible allegedly tells them to do.” He then tells a story about something that never happened though he doesn’t tell you it never happened. Ha, ha, ha...

At 4:03 Frank says, “If you take a passage out of context and read them literalistically, you can come to very wrong conclusion. It can even end deadly for you. Because you have not given

adequate attention to the context of those biblical statements, and this is where interpretation starts. I recently saw a statement that said, ‘I can do all things through a passage taken out of context.’ He then chuckles.

Frank should have said that if you use a fake “the Bible” you can come to very wrong conclusions. As noted above, ELEVEN DIFFERENT BIBLES were used in a couple of publications authored by him with NO disclosure stating that most of them were fake bibles and not to be trusted. Here is just one example, of the many I could show, that should clearly demonstrate to Seventh-day Adventists that neither Frank, nor the book he recommends in this video, nor his fake bibles should be trusted.

“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the ESV.

“Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself.’ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the NASB.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)” Revelation 19:7-8 from the NIV.

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the NKJV.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.’ For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the NLT.

“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure’—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the RSV.

“Exult and shout for joy and do him homage, for the wedding-day of the Lamb has come! His bride has made herself ready, and for her dress she has been given fine linen, clean and shining.’ (Now the fine linen signifies the righteous deeds of God’s people.)” Revelation 19:7-8 from the NEB.

“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the RSV.

“Let us rejoice and shout for joy and pay homage to him, for the wedding day of the Lamb has come! His bride has made herself ready, and she has been given fine linen, shining and clean, to wear.’ (The fine linen signifies the righteous deeds of God’s people.)” Revelation 19:7-8 from the REB.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s people.)” Revelation 19:7-8 from the TNIV.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 from the KJV.

Every one of those bibles except one contradicts Seventh-day Adventist doctrine, contradicts the Spirit of Prophecy and supports Roman Catholic doctrine in this passage in easily interpreted English.

“To the church it is given ‘that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,’ ‘not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ The fine linen, says the Scripture, ‘is the righteousness of saints.’ It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” *Christ’s Object Lessons* page 310.

My copy of *Christ’s Object Lessons* was published in 1900. Ellen G. White would have been about 73 years old at that time making her an old lady. She knew that the fine linen was the righteousness of Christ and not “righteous acts,” “righteous deeds,” etc. which teaches righteousness by works as the Roman Catholic Church teaches. Righteousness by faith and not by works is a key Seventh-day Adventist doctrine.

You don’t need to take anything out of context to get you started on the path to hell if you use one of the fake “the Bible” Frank has endorsed by using it

At 6:04 a book titled *Bible Hermeneutics An Adventist Approach* authored by Frank himself is advertised. If I were you, I’d save my money and invest it in reading material written by someone who knew the difference between the real Bible and a fake one.

At 6:12, the well groomed, well dressed, slick minister begins to explain that “the Bible was written in another language.” Duh. He says that if you read your Bible in English, or another language, “it is a translation!” Another duh. He then says, “Now when you want to study

carefully what the Bible teaches, a more literal word by word translation is to be preferred. And even better than that would be if you could learn the biblical languages and master them. This is, by the way, why we include Hebrew, and Greek, in the theological training of our pastors because it helps them to understand the original meaning of the biblical text.” Where have I heard this before?

“The Books of Scripture were originally written in Hebrew and Greek, and you have only the translation. Before you are certain that the translation is faithful you must study the Hebrew and Greek languages, and then compare the translation with the original. How few are capable of this gigantic undertaking! *Faith Of Our Fathers* by James Cardinal Gibbons page 80. This was the 47th edition published in 1904.

Hopefully you understand that the “Cardinal” means he was a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.

Here is the interpretation of what Frank is saying in plain English. A Bible written in English is just a translation so you can’t be sure it’s correct unless you’re fluent in Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic. Since in all likelihood you will never be fluent in even one of those languages, you have to rely on someone who has had training in those languages, like a pastor who has attended a seminary, to know what God really said. He doesn’t tell you that it would be a very rare pastor who had mastered any of those languages. He also doesn’t tell you, and he probably doesn’t know, that many Seventh-day Adventist ministers whose native language is English, frequently misunderstand their English Bible. Worse yet is that fact that many ministers, like Frank, use fake bibles. They confuse themselves and their flock.

“The orthodox view was that to make the Bible accessible to the common people would threaten the authority of the Church, and lead the people to question its teaching.” *The Story of English* (ISBN 0-670-80467-3) page 110.

“This sentiment was echoed by the seventeenth-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes who sourly observed: ‘After the Bible was translated into English every man, nay, every boy and wench that could read English, thought they spoke with God Almighty and understood what he said.’ So Wyclif and his dissident Lollard movement were rigorously suppressed. Similarly when William Tyndale published his translation of the New Testament from the Greek in 1525, he entered into a conflict with Church and State that eventually brought him to the stake.” *The Story of English* page 110.

Just like the church and priests of the Middle Ages, Frank hopes you will have to go to him or one of his colleagues to understand what God’s Word says in English.

At 8:31 Frank asks, “Why don’t you ask your pastor to help you learn some Greek or some Hebrew?” I think you should do that and while you’re at it, ask your pastor if there is any Bible that has no error; that’s infallible, meaning no error at all. My prediction is that your pastor will not know enough Greek or Hebrew to read a single sentence written in Greek or Hebrew letters and will not propose a single English Bible that doesn’t have ANY error. You may get some

response like “the best translation is” or such and such translation “is a good one.” Neither of those responses count for affirming that the Bible is error free from cover to cover.

Another advertisement for Frank’s book starts at 8:53 where he says, “If you would like to learn more about different Bible translations and the difil Bible manuscripts, and how they affect our interpretation of the Bible, you should read chapter three in the new book, *Biblical Hermeneutics An Adventist Approach*.”

At 9:13 Frank says, “Here is a second reason why interpretation is needed. The Bible was written in another time and another culture. Some of the things we read in Scripture sound strange to our western ears and our individualistic western culture and can only be understood adequately if you have a better understanding of the times and the culture in which it was originally given. So if you want to explore the fascinating question of what in the bible is universal in application and what is time limited, and what biblical and text based principles can guide us, in determining these important questions, I encourage you to read chapter five in the new book, *Biblical Hermeneutics An Adventist Approach*.”

I would encourage you to evaluate with skepticism any publication emanating from the General Conference or the Seventh-day Adventist seminaries unless it’s one of Ellen G. Whites unadulterated writings. Remember that the proposal to accept the ordination of women to the ministry was defeated in a General Conference session and yet the North American Division and some other divisions have persisted in that practice.

The ordination or commissioning of women (a commissioned woman has the same authority as an ordained male minister) is not at all supported by “the Bible” unless you use one of Frank’s fake ones and even then the evidence supporting it is extremely scant. This is one of the reasons the princes of our church like to point out that things are different now and claim that the office of priest, elder, deacon and apostle being exclusively for males was merely because of different cultures and times.

“In this parable, Jesus presented before his disciples the responsibility of those whose work it is to give to the world the light which they have received from him. The Old Testament was all the Scripture then in existence; but it was not written merely for the ancients; it was for all ages and for all people.” *Spirit of Prophecy* volume 2 page 254.

At 12:22 Frank says, “I will come to completely different conclusions if my interpretation of the Bible is not in harmony with the Bible itself.” Frank said “the Bible” twice in one sentence. “The Bible” is singular meaning ONE Bible and Frank doesn’t think there is a single English Bible, or any Bible for that matter, on the face of the earth at this time that doesn’t contain some error.

At 18:55 Frank says, “Sola scriptura does not mean that we cannot benefit from other insights and other sources, but when it comes to the final authority, when it comes to the highest norm, that decides matters of faith and practice, it is Scripture and not other sources that has the final word.” I agree with that as long as the Bible you use is infallible.

Frank's presentation came to an end with another plea to read his book. You don't need to read Frank's book if you use the following technique for your Bible study.

1. Always pray before Bible study.

"Never should the Bible be studied without prayer." *Spirit of Prophecy* volume 4 page 418.

2. You should engage in Bible study daily.

"We are not safe if we neglect to search the Scriptures daily for light and knowledge." *Selected Messages Book One* page 359.

3. Study a Bible that's infallible. Infallible means no error no error at all.

"Man is fallible, but God's Word is infallible." *Selected Messages Book One* page 416.

4. Unless a symbol or figure is used, take the Bible as it reads.

"The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, 'If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.' If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error." *Spirit of Prophecy* volume 4 pages 416 to 417.

5. You may say "I don't understand" but never say "I don't believe." Some things in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy require study to understand; you aren't going to understand everything at once.

6. To most quickly understand the Scriptures, the collection of books called the "Conflict of the Ages Series" is extremely helpful. The five books in that collection are *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Acts of the Apostles* and *The Great Controversy*. I recommend starting with *The Great Controversy* or *The Desire of Ages*.

SatanIsDead.com
InfallibleBible.com
DeathConfusion.com
AdventistsToday.com
SabbathSchoolGuide.com