

Digging Up the Past

Historical Background

Historical Background: information about the time and culture of a biblical author and his original audience.

I. Four Steps for Investigating Historical Background:

1. Look for links with other passages in the Bible that discuss the same events.
 - a. Psalms, Prophets → Samuel, Kings
 - b. Paul's Epistles → Acts
 - c. Synoptic Gospels
2. Be sensitive to historical and cultural references.
3. Gather information about the historical and cultural references.
 - a. Bible Dictionary
 - b. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, by Everett Ferguson
 - c. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*
 - d. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*
4. Determine the impact the passage would have had in its original setting.

II. Discussion of 1 Kings 16-18

Survey

- Date: written when Israel was exiled in Babylon.
- Purpose: to explain why the exile occurred. Israel was exiled because they forsook the Lord and worshipped other gods.
- 1 Kings 11: the nation of Israel divides in two
 - Jeroboam leads a rebellion
 - Judah in the South, Israel in the North
 - Jeroboam creates an idolatrous religion to compete with worship of God.
- Chapters 16-18 take place a couple generations later.