

3. Logical Fallacies

Here I will simply point you once again to the important chapter in D.A. Carson's Exegetical Fallacies. In technical and popular studies there are probably more of these than there are even of word-study or grammatical fallacies. Here too the basic encouragement is to think carefully and critically. Your mind is a great gift from God-- use it!

4. Figurative language

The importance of appreciating and understanding figurative language can hardly be over-emphasized. Figurative language greatly enhances the power of language to communicate truth. It also offers the exegete some particular challenges.

a. Short figures of speech

1) simile--a comparison using a word such as "like" or "as."

Jer. 23:29 Word is like a fire and a hammer

Ps. 1:3-4 Man of God is like a tree...

2) metaphor--direct comparison without "like" or "as."

Lk. 12:32 Disciples are the little flock

1 Jn. 1:5 God is light

3) metonymy--one term is used for another because the two are frequently associated.

Lk. 24:27 Moses stands for Pentateuch

Rom. 3:27-30 Circumcision | Uncircumcision stands for Jew | Gentile

4) synecdoche--a part is named for the whole or a whole for the part

Judg. 12:7 "Cities of Gilead" actually stands for a city of Gilead

1 Pet. 3:21? Is baptism a reference to the whole salvation experience, a part for the whole?

5) personification--a thing, quality, or idea represented as a person.

Ps. 114:3-6--what about vs. 7? The sea, the Jordan, etc. have person-like qualities

Rom. 7:11 Sin is pictured as an evil person

6) euphemism--substitution of a less direct word where the more direct term might appear harsh or distasteful for one reason or another.

Gen. 4:1 - know = sexual relationship
(though it may be biblical insight into)

~~Matt 5:2 at passion~~ Or: death = sleep
(But again this might be a case of biblical insight rather than just euphemism)