

Knowing Scripture – Chapter 4a R. C. Sproul
(The first five rules for interpretation)

1. Rule #1 is simply an application of which of the principles from Chapter 3?
2. State Rule #2 in your own words. Do not use the word “existential”. (Hint – look at the first full paragraph on page 66 and the first paragraph on page 67.)
3. The narrative is to be interpreted by the _____. What does this word mean?
4. Below is a list of guidelines from the Fee book for interpreting narratives. How many of these can you find mentioned in the Sproul book?
 1. Narratives do not usually directly teach doctrine, but may illustrate doctrine that is taught elsewhere.
 2. Narratives record what happened, not what should have happened. Therefore not all narratives have a moral application.
 3. What people do in narratives is not necessarily a good example for us to follow. We are not always told whether or not the outcome of the narrative was good or bad – we are expected to be able to determine that from what God has taught us elsewhere in the scripture.
 4. All narratives are selective and incomplete. We are told everything the inspired author thought it was important for us to know.
 5. Narratives are not written to answer all of our theological questions. They have specific, limited purposes, and leave other issues to be dealt with elsewhere in scripture.
 6. Narratives may teach either explicitly or implicitly.
 7. God is always the Hero of the narrative.
5. The argument against rejecting the authority of the apostles is essentially the same as which argument Jesus made to the pharisees?
6. What is a better question than “What would Jesus do?” which we can ask ourselves in problematic situations?
7. List three reasons why this question is better.
8. What is the primary example Sproul gives of phenomenological language?
9. What is meant by “implicit” and “explicit”?
10. In order for Sproul to use John 6:65 to support the doctrine of election, what is implicit in his understanding of that verse? Can you think of a different implication that would be consistent with the Arminian position?
11. What are two basic methods by which words get their meaning?
12. How many meanings does the “Will of God” have?