

Week 4

Interpretation Exercise

INTERPRETATION PROCESS
2. TEXTUAL ANALYSIS (con'd)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical, cultural issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Genre-specific issues

1. What was the **historical and cultural context** of the term 'Samaritan' ? (Check the Davids materials at page 74, and the Zondervan Bible Encyclopaedia entry.) How does this help your understanding of the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37?
2. What is the **historical and cultural context** of 'food offered to idols' (Check the New Bible Dictionary entry on 'Idols, Meat Offered to', as well as the Davids materials at 75-76). How does this help your understanding of Paul's discussion in 1 Corinthians 8-10?
3. The book of Joel is written in which **literary genre**? The book is generally regarded as divided into four **oracles**. At which verses do they divide? (Check the Stuart Commentary on Joel.) Joel's role as a '**covenant enforcer**' is shown in verses 1:1 to 2:27 (see overleaf). Which predictions remind Judah and Jerusalem of God's covenant curses and blessings in Deuteronomy 28?
4. Review the introduction section in several **commentaries** on Romans. What **historical background** information have you found concerning the church at Rome that Paul was planning to visit? How is this helpful in understanding Paul's letter? Which of the commentaries did you find useful, and why?