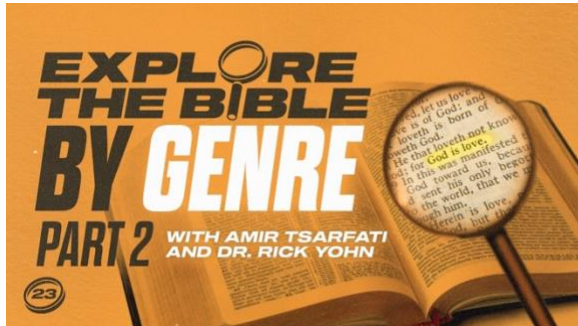




Amir Tsarfati
Explore the Bible with Dr. Rick Yohn
Literary Style Part II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQFFqn2LJnc>



AMIR: Hey, shalom everyone. I'm Amir Tsarfati and welcome back to *Explore the Bible*, one of my favorite podcasts where we try to really understand how to read and glean from Scriptures and not just read because you have to, but literally be excited

about knowing and devouring the Word of God. And the best way to do that is to study from people who are very, very well-versed with how to study the Word. It's not something that we should be embarrassed with; I think everyone needs to ask himself, "Do I even know how to study the Scriptures?" And I think everyone, even at an advanced age, can find out that he learns so much more as we move on the ladder of life. So welcome again. I'm Amir Tsarfati, and together with me is Dr. Rick Yohn from Parker, Colorado. Shalom, Rick. How are you, my friend?

RICK: I am doing well, Amir. What an opportunity we have today to get into the Word and see things that we have not seen before, even though perhaps our viewers have read this passage that we're going to look at even numerous times, you are going to find some—make some new discoveries as we get into the Scriptures.

AMIR: Yeah, I think it happens to me almost every time that I read. But it happens when I take the time and quietly read through that I get to find things that I haven't seen before, and pay attention to things I haven't paid attention before to. So, I'm sure, I'm sure everyone will somehow find themselves learning so much today from passages that they may have read before. But Pastor

Rick, Dr. Rick, before we do that, would you do us the honor and start today's program with a prayer?

RICK: I'd love to. Lord God, we are always, always, dependent upon You when it comes to reading the Scriptures and understanding the Scriptures, because it is Your Holy Spirit who enlightens us, who helps us to see things that we haven't seen before. And as we slow down in our reading of the Word and start asking questions, You make things known to us, even those passages where we've read them again and again, You show us new truths. And I pray that's exactly what You will do today as we look into the Scriptures. May Your Holy Spirit be our instructor, in the Savior's name, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

AMIR: Amen, amen, amen. Well, thank you again for being our mentor here on this program, and we've learned so much. Last time we met here, we traveled through so many different parts of how to study the Bible, and we did the biography part where we looked at the life of John Mark, and the life of Ezra the priest. But then last time we changed course and we started looking at the different—We began to explore the different literary types that we have in Scriptures. And the first one we're examining was the Epistles. We looked at 2 Peter chapter 1, and we've learned so much. It was such an amazing time that we spent together.

This time we're going to look at 2 Corinthians 5, so it's no longer Peter, now it's the Apostle Paul, and now we know exactly to whom he is writing because it's to the Corinthians. That's what it says. So Why don't we ask ourselves, maybe before we do that even, why don't we go and read that portion from chapter 5? Why don't you lead us by reading verses 1 through 8, again from 2 Corinthians 5, and I will read 9 to 17.

RICK: I'd love to. **¹ For we know if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we**

groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³ if indeed having been clothed we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

AMIR: I’m the first one to say that. I’ll continue. ⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord,...” Or the fear of the Lord, “we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. ¹² For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. ¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us

the ministry of reconciliation,...” So, I mean, I read all the way. I guess I read more. I read until 18. Is that okay? You said 17, but ...

RICK: That’s fine.

AMIR: All right. Why don’t we start with the context? What is the context of all? First of all, these are super, super, famous Scriptures. I mean, from the very beginning, you see verses that are quoted often: “to be absent from the bodies, to be present with the Lord.” And things that have to do with the Bema Seat of Christ. But give us the context for this particular portion.

RICK: Oh, we have to go back. Yeah, when you think of context, you think of what came before and then what goes after. And this chapter is in a very special context. If you go to 2 Corinthians, and I’m going to read from the NIV here, **2 Corinthians, chapter 1**; I want our viewers to realize what we have in Jesus Christ. And then as you go to 2 Corinthians 5, you will find more blessings that He has given us. In **chapter 1:21–22**, we are told, **“²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”**

AMIR: The Greek word is ‘*arabon*’— guarantee, ‘*arabon*’ in the Greek. And in the Hebrew, the Hebrew has almost the same word, ‘*eravon*’. I guess it’s very close to *arabon*. Yeah.

RICK: It’s a guarantee that He has so much more for us because He has given us his Holy Spirit. Then we are told over in chapter 2, verse 14–16, **“¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life.”** [2 Cor 2:14-16 NIV]

It reminds me of when Mary anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. We are told that wherever she went in that house, they could smell the fragrance of that perfume. And in our lives, we should have that fragrance of Christ that when people see us, they see something different in us compared to many of their friends. What is it about you that seems to be so different? Ah, the fragrance of Christ. And we keep on going through the Scriptures. We find these other things, these other wonderful truths that—Let's look at chapter 4, and we are told in chapter 4 ...

AMIR: ... Now, this is the Apostle Paul writing a second epistle to a church in Corinth, in northern Greece. Excuse me, it's not northern Greece, it's south of Athens, a place plagued with so much idolatry, sexual immorality, and he's now writing them the second epistle. And so now it's chapter 4. Are you going to read from the NIV again?

RICK: Yeah, I'll still be reading from here. In verse 3, [2 Corinthians 4:3–4, 6 NIV] “³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God....” And then He says, “⁶ ... ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

I just want you to realize that when you read epistles, there is so much doctrinal truth and theological truth that you don't find in the Psalms, and you don't find in the historical books, you don't find in the other types of literature. So when you are reading the Epistles, look for doctrinal truths, especially the blessings that God has given to each one of us as believers. And as we get to 2 Corinthians 5, we're going to find more blessings.

AMIR: I understand that. So, we're going to ask those preliminary observation questions as always: the who, the what, the where, the when, and the why.

RICK: And that's where you can get out your pencil and paper or get out your various color markers and look for repeated phrases, look for repeated words, look for doctrinal statements, look for commands; and as you read through you just start marking those things. In fact, I'll show you what I did. Sometimes I mark in my Bible. In fact, if you look at my Bible, you can see— oops, here it is.

AMIR: Oh, we can.

RICK: That's all the markings that I do. I have arrows, I have colors, and in fact...

AMIR: ... What do you do? By the way, I have a question. Because we're in the 21st century, and

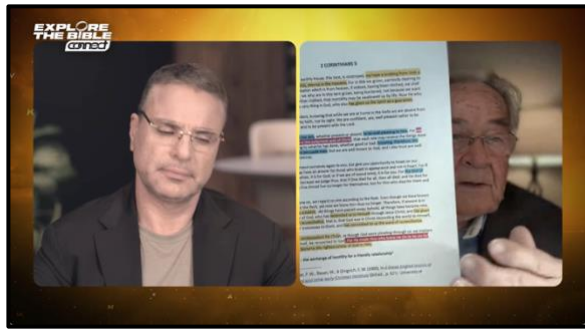


a lot of people are actually using their iPad, for example, as their Bible. I have a question, I think a lot of people are asking that question: How different is it, do you think... How different is it to read from a physical printed Bible than a Bible

that I can read on my iPad? Is there any added value? Obviously it's the same words, but do you have any word of wisdom about that?

RICK: Well, one of the things I find with my Bible study, some of them just bring their phones and follow the Scriptures on their phone, and I think they miss out on a lot, because when it comes to marking various words in that, you can't really do it on your phone. Now there are some apps that you can get where you can actually color code on your phone, but some of those are expensive and then others aren't. I think the YouVersion, you can color code on your phone, but I'd like to have a physical Bible that I'm either color coding there, or what I do is print off that passage of

Scripture and put it on a sheet of—I put it in a Word document, and then I can do all my color coding. And what I did for our study today, you can just see my color coding where I color code repeated words, and then I’m able to write on the side, over here I’m able to write the things that I find in the Scriptures.



So yeah, for our viewers, I just encourage you to get into the Scriptures and make use of what God has given to us, and either circle words or underline words or whatever you want to,

however you want to do it. But I see in my sheet of paper here, there are certain commands that we are given, and there are certain motivations. If you look at the motivations, starting down, **“⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”** Why? **“¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,...” [2 Corinthians 5:9–10]** or the Bema seat. And the Bema Seat is a place of either receiving reward or losing reward. We don’t lose our salvation there. We are not judged for our sins. Our sins have already been dealt with. But here is a motivation. And Amir, when you were here in Parker and you and Barry and I spoke at the church that I attend, the message that you asked me to give was on the Bema Seat, and I called it basically, “Looking Forward to the Bema Seat.” A lot of people are afraid of the Judgment Seat of Christ, but I look forward to it.

AMIR: True.

RICK: And since I am looking forward to that wonderful event I want to make sure that my life is going to be worthy of reward and not loss of reward when I appear before the Lord. So I am anticipating the Bema Seat.

AMIR: A lot of people are asking—the loss of reward—you mean they receive and then it’s taken from them? Or they could have received, but they didn’t?

RICK: Right. I can just imagine, and I’ve thought of this in my own life, I don’t want to be before the Lord and then having Him say, “Now remember that time when I gave you a challenge and you decided not to take it? Let me show you what I had in store for you. These are the things I wanted to do in your life, wanted to provide for you.” I don’t want that kind of a situation at the Bema Seat. I just want to know that I have done all that the Lord has asked me to do.

AMIR: It’s all about faithfulness. The rewards are all about faithfulness.

RICK: When you look at the motivations, my other motivation I see here is “¹¹ **Knowing therefore...**” It says in the King James or New King James, “**...the terror of the Lord.**” [2 Cor 5:11] That means the fear of the Lord or the respect.

AMIR: Yeah, it’s not like—God is not a terrorist and we’re not a jihadi movement. This is the fear of the Lord. Yeah.

RICK: But because I respect Him, I honor Him in my life. Because of that, I want to make sure that I am persuading others to experience the kind of life that I have. And then there’s another one: “¹⁴ **...for the love of Christ compels us**” [2 Cor 5:14] So here are three motivations in my life for me to do the things I do. And Amir, you talked earlier about even at my age—Yeah, you had asked at the other podcast, are you learning anything? And I am saying, I am learning so much. [AMIR: Yeah. Yeah] And it’s fresh every day. And when I teach my Bible study, I’m not teaching them things I taught years ago, I’m teaching them things that I am learning right now.

AMIR: You’re not pulling old sermons from the drawer, but you have everything fresh. Yeah. I have a question. Do you find yourself, nowadays—you’re very close to 89—Do you find yourself teaching the same portion in a completely different way than you used to before?

RICK: Definitely. I see things so differently, so much more in depth. I can't wait to get in—I'm my study [room]—I can't wait to get in here in the morning. I have breakfast and then I rush in here, and I spend hours in my study just reading the Scriptures, learning more as to who God is, and what He wants me to do in my life.

AMIR: Wow.

RICK: I just love the Word.

AMIR: What if somebody is 40, 50 years younger than you and he doesn't have that privilege of spending that many hours in the morning in his study room? So obviously what we are trying to do here is—Okay, find the time that you do have, and do it in a very productive way.

RICK: And I'm thinking that those who are in the car, or those who are driving trucks, delivering things, where they don't have the time to sit down and read, they can later on, but the entire Bible is audio. You can get a digital copy of the Scriptures and listen as you are reading. That's why all of our books are in audio, [AMIR: Tell me about it.] because there are those who don't have time to read the books, and yet, they are audio kinds of people, they get the information, but they get it by just having it digitized and listening to it.

AMIR: It's not easy, I can tell you. I can tell you, being locked up in a tiny little room, sitting in an uncomfortable chair, and your eyes are just almost in tears because you're—I mean, the iPad is right there in front of you, and you have some lighting device or not, but there's no air conditioning because of the sound, and it's the microphone, the iPad, and you. And in my case, because English, I speak maybe okay English, but it's not my mother tongue, so many times I have to repeat words and sentences that I guess someone else shouldn't because of language barriers.

RICK: It's really more authentic coming from you though, Amir.

AMIR: Yeah. Well, I tell you, it's not easy. Yeah, but it's worth it. People tell me that it's worth it because they don't get a chance to read, but they do have a chance to listen and hear, and it does the work. But I actually say, yeah, you can read our books or listen to our books, but the most important thing is that you read your Bible. And that's what we're trying, even though the teaching books that we do together, we're trying to draw you or direct you to study and read from Scripture. So, Rick, we're coming very, very close to the end of today, but why don't we discuss a little bit more about the observation questions? And finish with them.

RICK: Okay. I think we should get down to the bottom of our passage, and I would like our viewers to see the blessings that God has given to us. Down where it says, **[2 Corinthians 5:16–18 NKJV], “¹⁶Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to flesh, yet now we know him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore...**” Listen to these blessings. “¹⁷ **...if anyone is in Christ...**” first of all, “**he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**” And when you come to Christ, you see life differently. And as you grow in the Lord, you see things in such a different way because you are developing a biblical worldview. The old things are passing away. New things are coming to you. And it says, “¹⁸ **Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...**”

AMIR: Yep.

RICK: Bringing others to Christ. No longer are they going to be separated from God, but they will be brought to God. [2 Corinthians 5:18–] “¹⁸ **... and has given us the ministry, ¹⁹that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**” And since we have the word of reconciliation, guess what? “²⁰ **Now then, we are the ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading**

through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled... ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Look at these blessings that God has given to us, and because He has blessed us, our responsibility is to bless others, to reconcile them, sinful man and a holy God. No longer animosity between the two, but now they are brought together because we are carrying out our responsibility of reconciling others to the Lord Jesus Christ.

AMIR: And we can't do it unless we are reconciled. We can't do it unless we're reconciled first.

RICK: And that the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives to touch other lives, to be willing to open up our mouths and just asking people about their life. And when we ask people about their life, usually they ask us about our life, and then we can tell them about God's life, and what He wants to do for them, and has already done.

AMIR: Beautiful. Wow. Yeah, definitely it is a very unique literary type, that genre of the Epistles. And I mean, I'm glad that the last time we looked at Peter, this time we're looking at Paul. But we see the same amazing truths that are being communicated to us through this literary type. And I'm so blessed that we were able to do that.

So I guess we ran out of time for our program today, and I'm pretty sure that the next time we're going to have some more amazing things to bring to you as for how to effectively study and explore the Bible.

Dr. Rick, you have your own website that is rickyohnministries.org. But I also remember you go to beholdisrael.org and you'll find the place where it's about the *Explore the Bible* program, where you can see a whole presentation that Dr. Rick prepared, and you can also leave there a question to Dr. Rick regarding this program that we just had today.

I want to thank you, Dr. Rick, for being with us today. And I want to thank everyone for watching. Look, we just scratched the surface of this amazing portion, but this is not a Bible study, and this is not—we're not doing a thorough study of this entire epistle. We try to whet your appetite, and we try to give you an understanding of this type of literature and how important it is to ask the right questions, to get the right context, and to delve deep into God's Word.

Thank you for watching. Please watch, subscribe, share, leave a comment, and like this video. And we thank you as always for supporting and praying for this ministry. Thank you, Dr. Rick. Thank you, everyone. Shalom and God bless.

* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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