

ONE-TO-ONE BIBLE READING

C.O.M.A. questions for Prophetic Literature

Context

Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the prophecy was given or written?

Are any people or places mentioned that you aren't familiar with? (Chase them up in earlier parts of the book, or refer to a Bible dictionary or commentary.)

Are other bits of the Old Testament mentioned or alluded to in the passage? What part do these 'memories' play in the text?

Observation

Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage?

Paying attention to when the prophet is speaking and when God is speaking, what does the passage tell us about God's plans? What does it tell us about God's character?

What kind of human behavior, if any, is condemned or rewarded? What response is called for (if any)?

What is the main point or points?

Meaning

Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?

Does the text have a sense of expectation about something happening in the future? What is to be expected and when? How should this motivate action in the present?

Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

Application

How is your own situation similar to or different from those being addressed?

How does this passage lead you to trust God and his promises in Jesus?

Is there some attitude or behavior you need to change?
