

## The Why and the How of Biblical Interpretation

I. Introduction: cultivating attention *or* how not to talk over God

II. The why and the how of biblical interpretation: Psalm 19

A. “Sweeter than drippings of the honeycomb”: why biblical interpretation matters

Beyond what God reveals about himself in creation (the “Book of Nature”), God more fully and more clearly speaks to us in Holy Scripture—and teaches us how to speak to God (the “Book of Scripture”).

1. The Book of Nature: Psalm 19:1-6

2. The Book of Scripture: Psalm 19:7-14

B. Savoring the honeycomb: how to pay attention to the biblical text

1. Count words

2. Define key words

3. Discern imagery

4. Determine relationships between words: small scale relationships, larger scale relationships

C. Tasting the sweetness: ends of attention

1. The subject matter of the text

2. The flow of the text

3. The point of the text

4. The handsome king: the honey in the honeycomb

III. For further reading

Scott R. Swain, “Scripture, Interpretation of the Bible as,” in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, edited by Daniel J. Treier and Walter A. Elwell.