



## Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

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### COURSE BROCHURE

# Biblical Interpretation In Historical And Cultural Context Training

Human and Social Studies / Religious and Ethical Foundations of Society

Unit Standard 116000 · NQF Level 5 · 18 Credits · 15 Days

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the skills to interpret biblical texts by examining their historical and cultural contexts. Participants will explore how ancient Near Eastern and Greco-Roman backgrounds influence scriptural meaning, enabling more accurate and relevant application today.

Category	Human and Social Studies
Subfield	Religious and Ethical Foundations of Society
Unit Standard	116000
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 18 Credits
Duration	15 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply historical-critical methods to identify the cultural and historical settings of biblical passages.
- Analyze the influence of ancient Near Eastern and Greco-Roman contexts on biblical narratives and teachings.
- Evaluate different interpretations of scripture in light of their original cultural frameworks.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate biblical insights with sensitivity to historical and cultural nuances.
- Design teaching or preaching materials that integrate historical and cultural context for contemporary audiences.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is ideal for pastors, theologians, religious educators, and lay leaders seeking to deepen their biblical understanding through historical and cultural analysis.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Day 1: Introduction to Biblical Interpretation

- Overview of the course and learning outcomes.
- Why context matters: the gap between ancient and modern worlds.
- Basic principles of hermeneutics.
- Common pitfalls in interpretation.
- Introduction to exegetical methods.
- The interpreter's presuppositions and biases.

### Day 2: Historical Background of the Old Testament

- Timeline of Old Testament history (Patriarchs, Exodus, Monarchy, Exile).
- The cultural milieu of the Ancient Near East.
- Archaeological discoveries and their interpretive value.
- Covenants and treaties in the ANE context.
- The role of kingship and temple in Israelite society.
- Prophetic literature in its historical setting.

### Day 3: Historical Background of the New Testament

- The Roman Empire and its governance.
- Jewish sects: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots.
- The role of the Temple and synagogue.
- Hellenistic influence on language and thought.
- The Jewish diaspora and its significance.
- Key archaeological finds: Dead Sea Scrolls, inscriptions.

### Day 4: Cultural Context of the Old Testament

- Family and kinship structures.
- Marriage customs and laws.
- Economic life: agriculture, trade, and debt.
- Legal systems and justice.
- Honour and shame dynamics.
- Ritual purity and holiness codes.
- The role of women in ancient Israel.

### Day 5: Cultural Context of the New Testament

- Greco-Roman social hierarchy.
- Patronage and benefaction.
- Honour and shame as core values.
- The household codes and family life.
- Slavery in the Roman world.
- Religious pluralism: mystery cults, emperor worship.
- Economic realities: trade, taxation, and poverty.

### Day 6: Literary Genres in the Bible

- Overview of biblical genres: narrative, law, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, apocalyptic, gospel, epistle.
- Characteristics of Hebrew poetry: parallelism, imagery.
- Narrative conventions: plot, character, setting.

- Prophetic literature: oracles, visions, symbolic acts.
- Apocalyptic literature: symbolism, dualism.
- Epistolary form: structure, rhetoric, occasional nature.
- Practical guidelines for genre-based interpretation.

#### **Day 7: Language and Translation Issues**

- Introduction to biblical Hebrew and Greek.
- Key linguistic features: word order, tenses, particles.
- Translation philosophies: formal equivalence vs. dynamic equivalence.
- Major English translations and their strengths.
- Using concordances, lexicons, and interlinears.
- Pitfalls of word studies: semantic range, context.
- Textual criticism basics: manuscript evidence.

#### **Day 8: Exegetical Methods – Observation and Interpretation**

- Steps in the exegetical process.
- Observation: who, what, where, when, why, how.
- Asking interpretive questions.
- Determining the author's purpose.
- Identifying literary context: immediate and broader.
- Handling difficult passages.
- The role of the Holy Spirit in interpretation.

#### **Day 9: Exegetical Methods – Application and Contextualisation**

- The hermeneutical bridge: from text to today.
- Identifying timeless principles vs. cultural specifics.
- The role of the interpreter's context.
- Case studies: applying OT laws, NT household codes.
- Contextualisation in the South African setting.
- Avoiding ethnocentrism and anachronism.
- Practical steps for application.

#### **Day 10: Old Testament Interpretation in Context**

- Case studies: Genesis creation accounts, Exodus law, Psalms, Isaiah.
- The OT as Christian Scripture: promise-fulfillment.
- Typology and allegory: uses and abuses.
- The OT in the New Testament: quotations and allusions.
- Contemporary approaches: liberation, feminist, postcolonial.
- Workshop: exegesis of an OT passage.

#### **Day 11: New Testament Interpretation in Context**

- Case studies: Gospels (parables, miracles), Acts, Paul's letters, Revelation.
- The Synoptic problem and gospel genre.
- Paul's letters: occasion, rhetoric, theology.
- The role of the Holy Spirit in the NT.
- NT ethics in cultural context.
- Workshop: exegesis of a NT passage.

#### **Day 12: Theological Themes Across Testaments**

- Covenant: from Abraham to New Covenant.
- Kingdom of God: OT anticipation, NT fulfillment.
- Salvation: deliverance, redemption, justification.
- Worship: tabernacle, temple, church.
- Justice and righteousness in the Bible.
- Eschatology: prophetic hope, apocalyptic vision.
- Integration: how themes connect the Testaments.

#### Day 13: Contemporary Approaches and Challenges

- Reader-response criticism and its implications.
- Liberation hermeneutics: reading from the margins.
- Feminist and womanist interpretations.
- Postcolonial biblical criticism.
- Interpreting violent and problematic texts.
- Science and Scripture: creation, miracles.
- The role of tradition and community.

#### Day 14: Practical Application in Ministry and Teaching

- Designing a contextual Bible study.
- Preaching from the Old and New Testaments.
- Teaching hermeneutics to others.
- Handling controversial passages in a group.
- Using resources responsibly.
- Case studies: applying interpretation in South African churches.
- Workshop: group presentation of a study.

#### Day 15: Integration and Assessment

- Review of key concepts and methods.
- Final exegetical assignment: passage analysis.
- Peer feedback and discussion.
- Personal reflection on interpretive journey.
- Resources for further study.
- Course evaluation and certification.

## ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **18 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

## PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 51,000.00	R 51,000.00
1	In-House	R 66,400.00	R 66,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 76,500.00	R 76,500.00

## UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
06 Jul 2026	24 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Mombasa, Kenya
07 Jul 2026	27 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Luanda, Angola
08 Jul 2026	28 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Kigali, Rwanda
09 Jul 2026	29 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Kinshasa, DRC
10 Jul 2026	30 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Kampala, Uganda
10 Jul 2026	30 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Mbabane, Eswatini
13 Jul 2026	31 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
13 Jul 2026	31 Jul 2026	On-Campus	Luanda, Angola

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

## HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

- 1. Get an instant quotation online:** visit [www.aaticd.co.za](http://www.aaticd.co.za), open the page for this course (Unit Standard 116000) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
- 2. Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to [apply@aaticd.co.za](mailto:apply@aaticd.co.za) – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
- 3. Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
- 4. Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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