Exegesis Workshop

S. Kraftchick and R. Adams, February 15, 2017

Questions and Starting Points

- True Confession: every time I start a text analysis I have the sense that I have no idea what this text is about or what the author was trying to do---after 40 years.

- I don't think that this is a bad thing, it prompts me to look again at these texts

- I also am looking for something that I might have missed the last time

- There is a difference to me, between analyzing a biblical text and interpreting Scripture

- Exegesis applies more directly to the first. Hermeneutics more to the second.

    - I realize that this is a 'false division' but it is a helpful pragmatic one

Primary Questions

- 1) Why does this make sense to me?

- 2) Why doesn't this make sense to me?

- 3) Who, what, when, where, all important, however….

- 4) Most important to me is the question of how and for what reason—how did this text function and why did the author create or employ it?

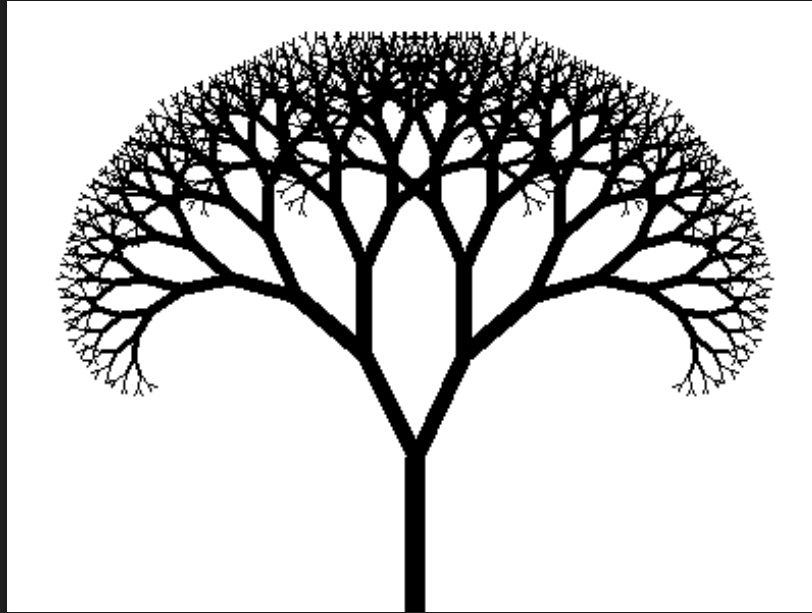- 5) This means that I have to ask about multiple contexts

Part and Whole/Whole and Part

- How do the individual pieces work together to create a meaningful idea, perspective, image, argument, worldview....?

- How does an image, idea, perspective shape the use of an individual part?

- Exegetical work helps to sort the pertinent and important from the incidental and ornamental
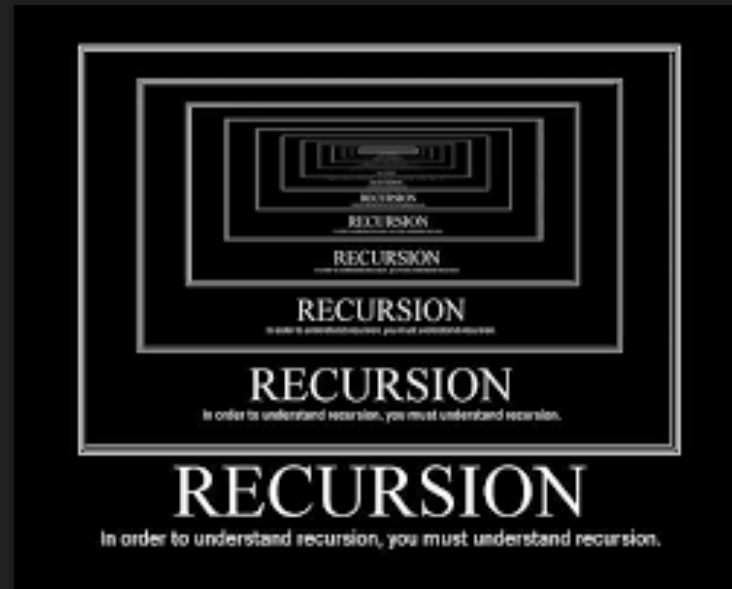
- This is part of your thesis for the passage

Albert Memorial Kensington Gardens
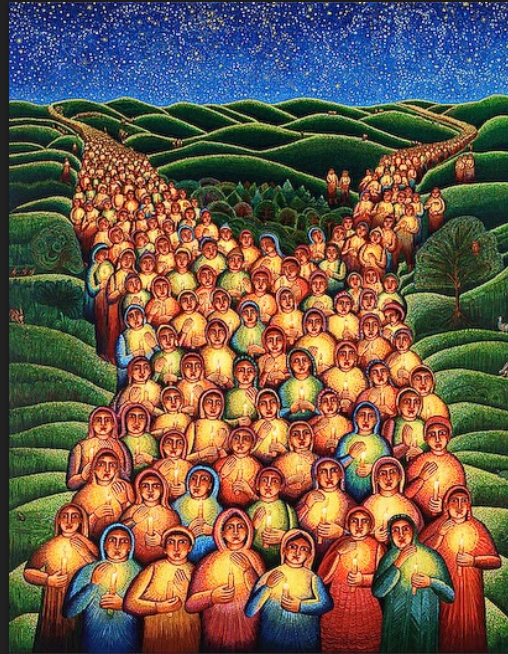
Recursive Functions #1

Recursive Functions #2

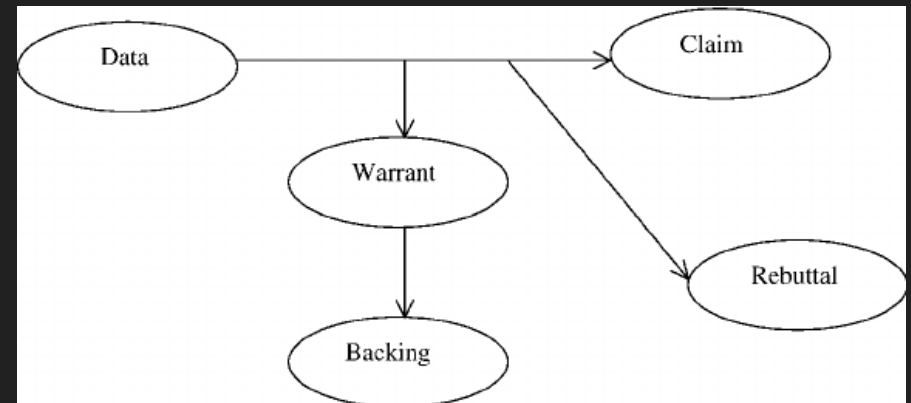# One looks to breadth and depth for understanding a text

John Swanson
Seriograph
"Festival of Lights"

Structuring your argument

- An exegesis has a thesis, it is not just reporting of data or someone else's ideas

- You are trying to show how and why the parts cohere

- This means that you are engaging data, not just recording it

- This applies to both primary and secondary materials

- A THESIS IS **A PLAUSIBLY CONTESTABLE** SENTENCE or A QUESTION THAT CAN BE ANSWERED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY

1 Timothy 3:14-4-6

1Tim. 3:14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, 15 if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. **16 Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great**:

He was revealed in flesh,

vindicated in spirit,

seen by angels,

proclaimed among Gentiles,

believed in throughout the world,

taken up in glory.

1Tim. 4:1 **Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. 3 They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.** 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

1Tim. 4:6 **If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed.**

1 Timothy 3:16

He was revealed in the flesh,   (a-natural)

Vindicated in spirit   (b-supernatural)

Seen by angels   (b-supernatural)

Proclaimed among the Gentiles   (a-natural)

Believed in throughout the world,   (a-natural)

Taken up in glory   (b-supernatural)

Exegesis for What?

- Data for history of the Early Christian movements?

- Sermon

- Theological Proposal

- Position Paper

- The exegetical work is to find out what is there and how it functions—Plural functions

- The "for what" is to ask what function you are trying to execute and then match one to the other.

- This means that what you might do to interpret the text may not look like the text under consideration, but it will reflect the tone, tenor, content, and function of that text