Principle 1: Interpretation must be based on the author’s intention of meaning and not the reader. This means we must get into the author’s context, historically, grammatically, culturally and the literary forms and conventions the author was working in. To be able to do this some good Bible study tools are needed since we are 2000 years or more removed from the biblical authors and their context is very different than ours. Principle 5: Interpretation must be distinguished from application. While there is one interpretation that is historical, there are many applications that can be carried over to our modern context. Build an application bridge from the interpretation to the timeless principle and then to the application now. Essays on Biblical Interpretation. Paul Ricoeur was Professor of Philosophy and Theology in the Faculty of Arts at Paris-Nanterre, then was the successor to Paul Tillich at the University of Chicago. This book was published in 1980 by Fortress Press. It was prepared for Religion-Online by Harry W. and Grace C. Adams. Forward For students of the theory and practice of biblical interpretation, Paul Ricoeur’s work grows in importance. Biblical interpretation is more than knowing a set of rules, but it cannot be done without the rules. So, learn the rules, and rightly apply them.” (Divorce & Remarriage, Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1967). The rule of HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The interpreter must have some awareness of the life and society of the times in which the Scripture was written. The spiritual principle will be timeless but often cannot be properly appreciated without some knowledge of the background. If the interpreter can have in his mind what the writer had in his mind when he wrote without adding any excess baggage from the interpreter’s own culture or society then the true thought of the Scripture can be captured resulting in an accurate interpretation.