

How to Answer

Question 8: What Special Statements does the Author Record?

Special statements make up the third emphasis technique we find in the Bible.

1. Read the study passage again, looking for:
 - **Blessings**, or statements about **good consequences**, which may—but don't always—include a variant of the word *bless*.
 - **Commands**, which are statements of **instruction** or **direction**. Commonly, they begin with action words, like *go*.
 - **Curses**, or statements of **adverse consequences**. They may include the word *cursed*, but don't look for that exclusively.
 - **Prayers**, or **petitions to God**. Sometimes you'll find phrases like *I pray...* or *May God ...* in these statements.
 - **Promises**, or statements **predicting future events or consequences**, including **prophecies**. You can often spot these by looking for *statements of future action*.
 - **Warnings** are **statements of caution** that may also include prediction of *future consequences*. They often begin with words of caution, like *beware...* or *look out....*
2. Mark or record the special statements you find. I underline them using certain colors:
 - **Blessings** – gold crayon
 - **Commands** – green crayon
 - **Curses** – maroon crayon
 - **Prayers** – blue crayon
 - **Promises** – yellow crayon
 - **Warnings** – red crayon
3. Notice who is speaking and to whom, as well as the subject discussed.

Hints & Hacks

- Your answer to Question 2 can help here, also:

In **narratives**, *look closely at dialogue*, since all six statement types could be spoken. With **letters** and **instruction**-type writing, look specifically for **commands**, **promises**, and **warnings**, though the other types may sometimes appear there. And, by definition, **prophecy** should contain *promises*. It may also contain **statements of consequences**, so look also for *blessings* and *curses*.
- When I find a particularly meaningful special statement, I often mark it in my bound Bible, too. For example, I've often revisited *prayers* and *promises* I've studied when I don't know how to pray in some circumstance, or I need to remember God's loving attributes.