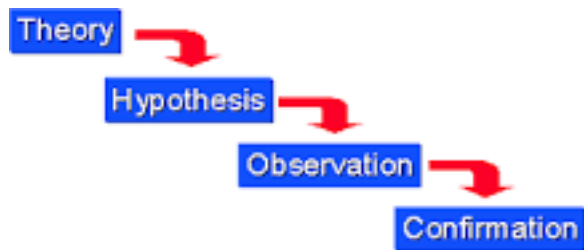


Addendum - Comparing Inductive Reasoning with Deductive Reasoning - two 'lenses' through which to interpret the Biblical data.

Deductive reasoning, or deduction, is making an inference based on widely accepted facts or premises. ... Inductive reasoning, or induction, is making an inference based on an observation, often of a sample case.

Deductive reasoning follows the path below, my observation of a specific case confirms the general principle that we already know and follow.



Deductive reasoning works from the more general to the more specific. ... **Inductive reasoning works the other** way, moving from specific observations to broader generalizations and theories.

Deductive Reasoning reasons from a generally accepted principle to a specific case.

Inductive Reasoning reasons from a specific case to a general principle.

An example to consider: (if you can excuse any possible politicalization of it)

From general principle to specific case: Gun ownership among private citizens is the cause of much violence and innocent death in our culture. 27 people were killed or wounded in Chicago over the weekend. The reason for such carnage is that there are not enough restrictive gun laws to protect our citizens. Therefore, the populace must be prohibited from gun ownership.

From specific case to general principle: Look at what happened in Tampa last weekend. An intruder committed a home invasion in order to sexually assault a mother with a three year old daughter. The mother used a firearm to protect herself and her child. She shot the intruder before the police could respond to her 911 call for help. Therefore, responsible gun ownership for personal safety is a vital right of the citizen. Private gun ownership lessens violence in our culture.

Moving to the example of Hosea's marriage to Gomer:

Deductive Reasoning would think: God hates adultery and prostitution - the general principle. Therefore He would never have commanded Hosea to marry a woman guilty of these sexual sins - the specific case under consideration.

Inductive Reasoning would consider: God commanded Hosea to marry Gomer (a woman given to prostitution, either in fact or in proclivity) - the specific case. Therefore there must be some other overriding principle by which God was acting. What would that be?

Consider, for example, the narrative contained in John 9:1-3. The overarching question here is, "Is this Man Jesus, truly a Prophet, or even THE Prophet of God sent from heaven, or is He an imposter, a fraud, to be rejected and punished?"

"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind.'"

What is the specific case?

What general principle is being assumed and applied? (This is the mistake Job's friends made when counseling him in his suffering.)

Were the disciples using inductive or deductive reasoning?

Did the disciples reach a faulty conclusion? "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

Later the blind man says, "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." What kind of reasoning was this on display?

Or again, "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind." Therefore, 'If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.'

Is this statement moving from general principle to specific case or from specific case to general principle?