



# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Dayspring Community  
2017 Churchwide Bible Study  
Pastor Cynthia T. Turner

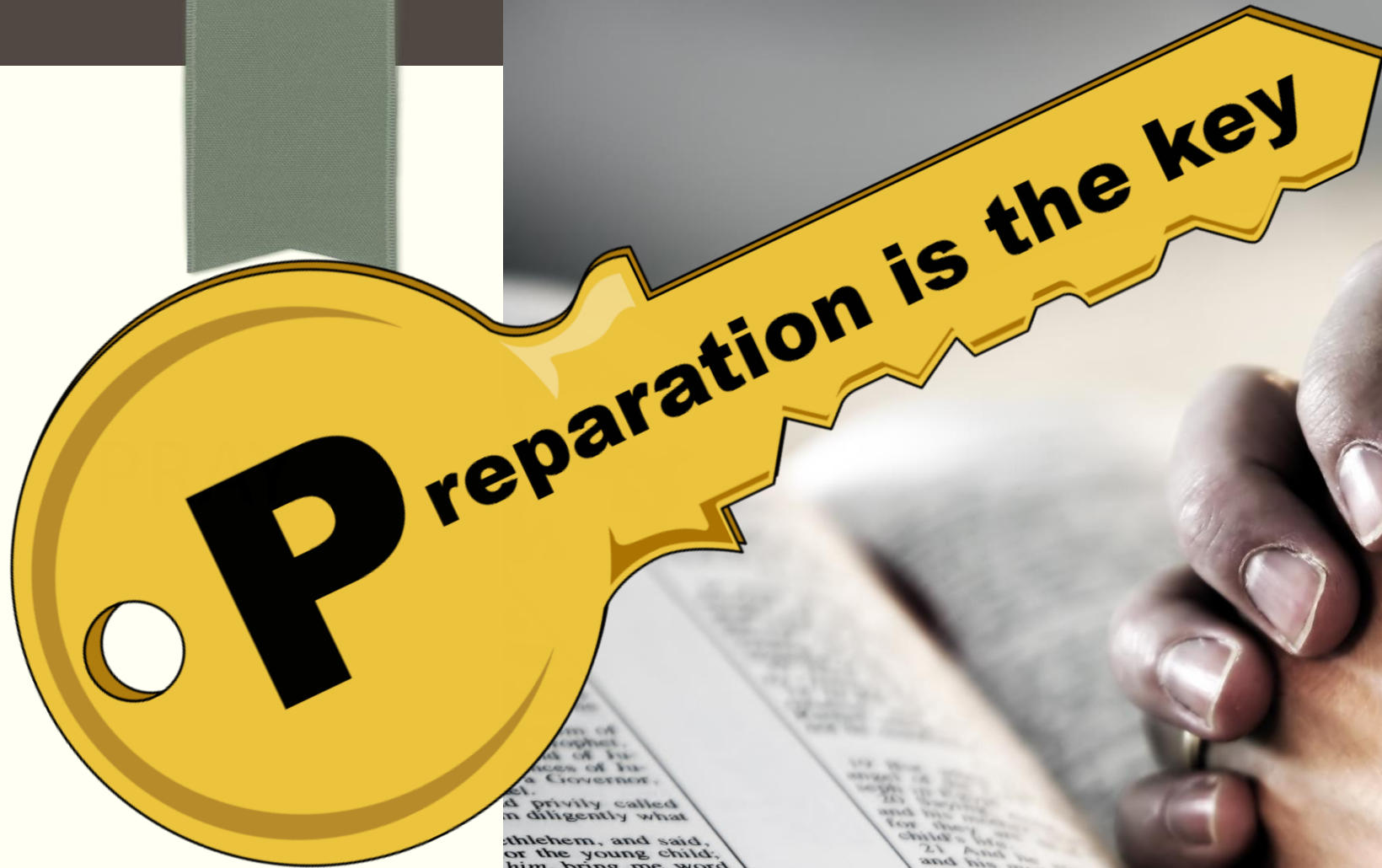




# DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

## 5 KEY WAYS TO DEEPER STUDY

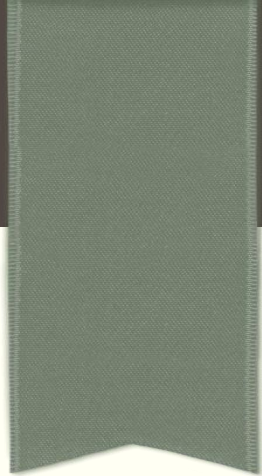
Preparation / Interpretation / Classification / Collaboration / Motivation



**P**reparation is the key







Pray.





Before

During

After

## Why Should I Pray First?

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- "If you aim at nothing, you'll probably hit it."
- We are dependent on the Holy Spirit when studying the Scripture.
  - to reveal truth ([John 16:13](#))
  - to give spiritual discernment ([1 Corinthians 12:11](#)),
  - and to soften our hearts.
- The enemy of our soul is looking to snatch away the Word sown in our hearts ([Mark 4:15](#)) and prevent us from bearing fruit.

## Scriptures to Prepare Our Hearts for Study

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- Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.  
([Psalm 119:18](#))
- The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand [see] them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Cor. 2:14)
- This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.  
(Matthew 13:13)

## Sample Prayer for Bible Reading and Study

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Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I need, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart. Amen.  
(Origen, 184-253 AD)




# INTERPRETATION (HERMENEUTICS)



# **Different Readings of the Bible**



**Literal interpretation  
takes into account what  
the author intended to  
convey**



**Literalist interpretation  
ignores various literary  
forms and the cultural  
and historical factors of  
the period in which the  
biblical authors wrote**

## How To Interpret (Understand) Scripture

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- #1. Seek to understand *what the text is saying.*
- #2. Translate that information into the *intended theological message.*
- #3. Explain *that message to the others/ congregation.*

**Hermeneutics: The science and art of interpreting human communication from God to humans.**



[Redacted name]

My sisiter in law died in a fire, her Bible was beside her bed on a stand, not a burn mark on the Bible....Awesome...miracle from God...

Yesterday at 8:31 PM · Like ·  8 ·

Reply

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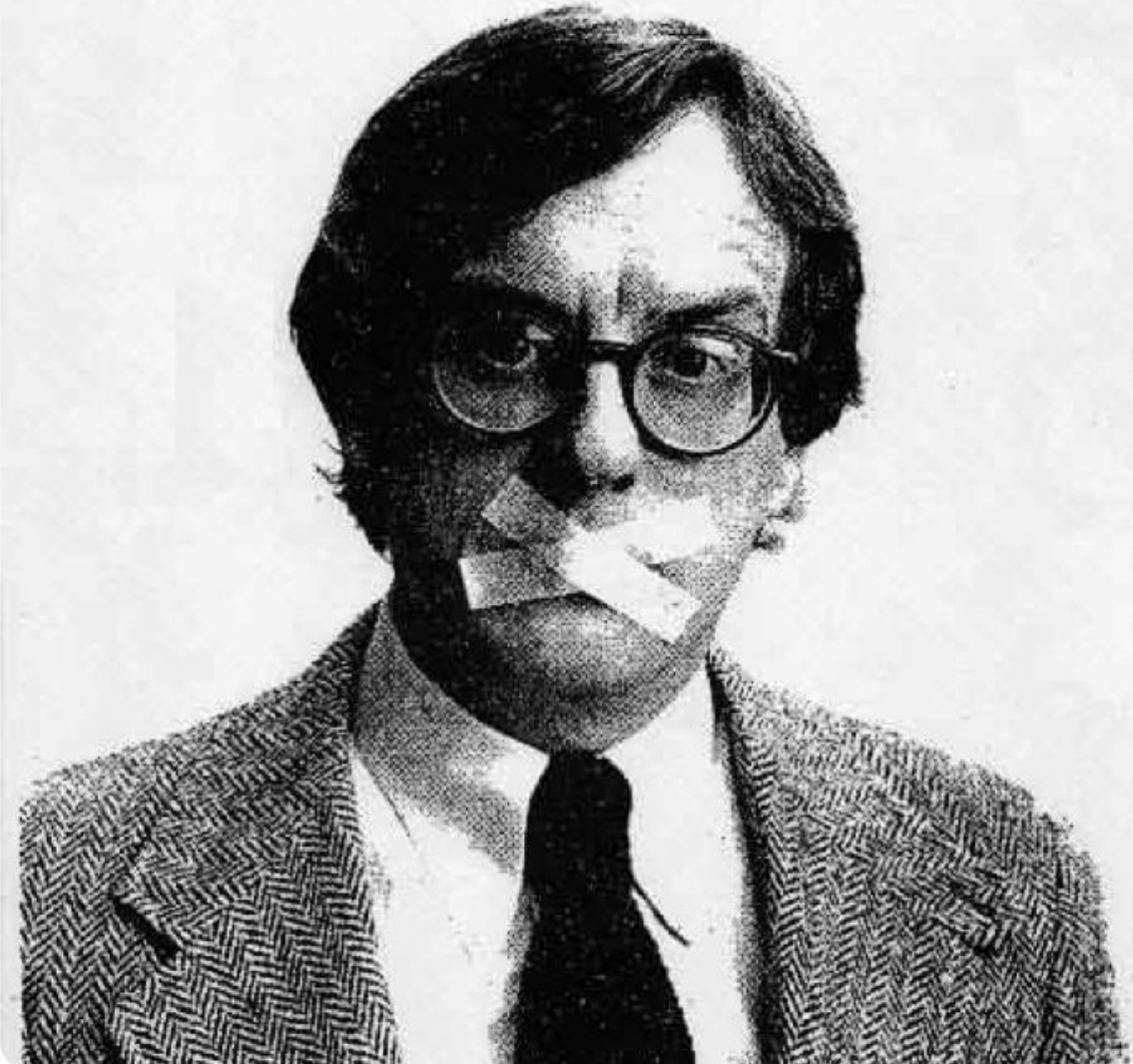
Heaven needed  
another angel

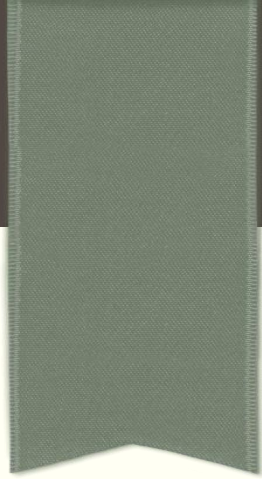


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There's only one problem with religions that have all the answers. They don't allow questions.





CONTEXT/  
BACKGROUND

CONTEXT

MATTERS

## Questions of Context

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- When was it written?
- Why was it written?
- Who is telling the story?
- Whose voices are silent? Missing?
- Where was it written?
- Who was in power? Who was isolated? On the fringes?
- What was the social context?
- What genre of scripture is it?



# White Fire

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## Questions for Going Deeper

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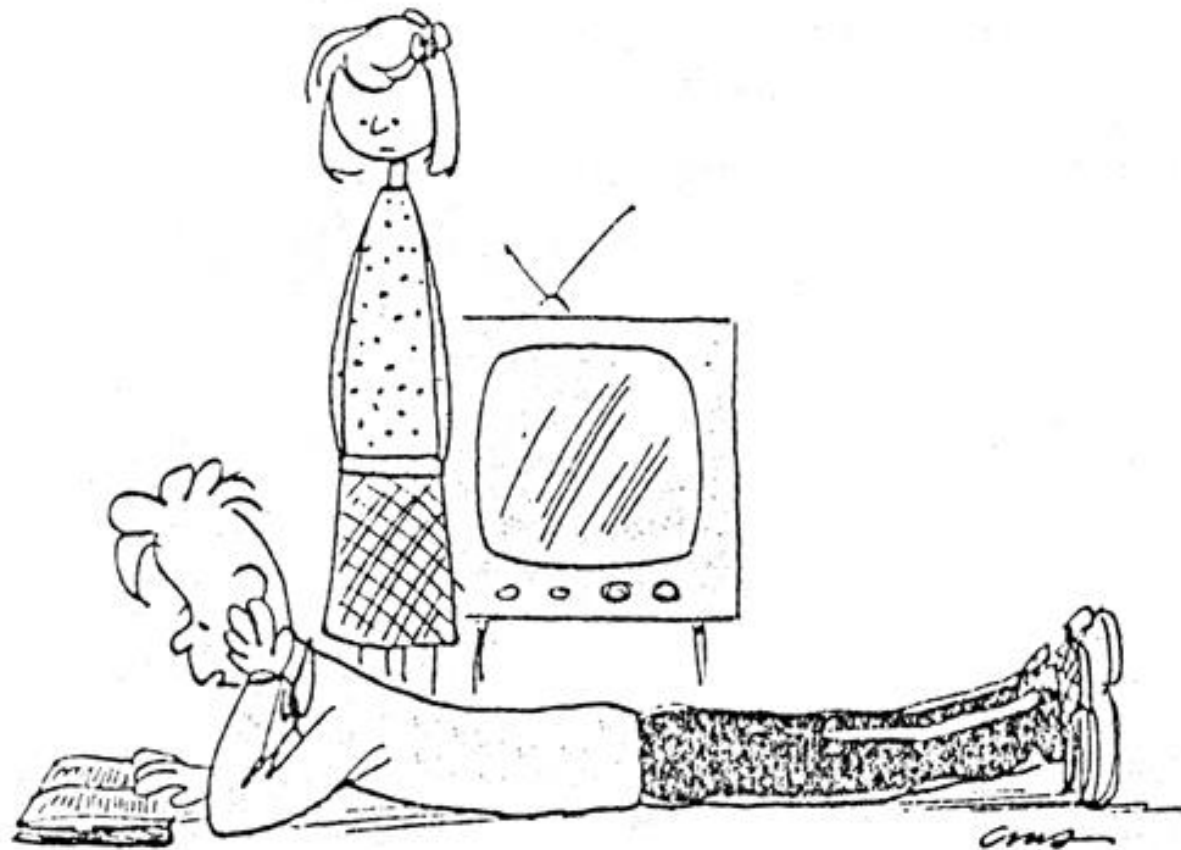
- Why is this included in scripture?
- What does this scripture reveal about God?
- What is God saying to me?
- How do I apply this to my life?

**Until the lion tells his the side of  
story, the tale of the hunt will always  
glorify the hunter.**



**-Igbo Proverb**

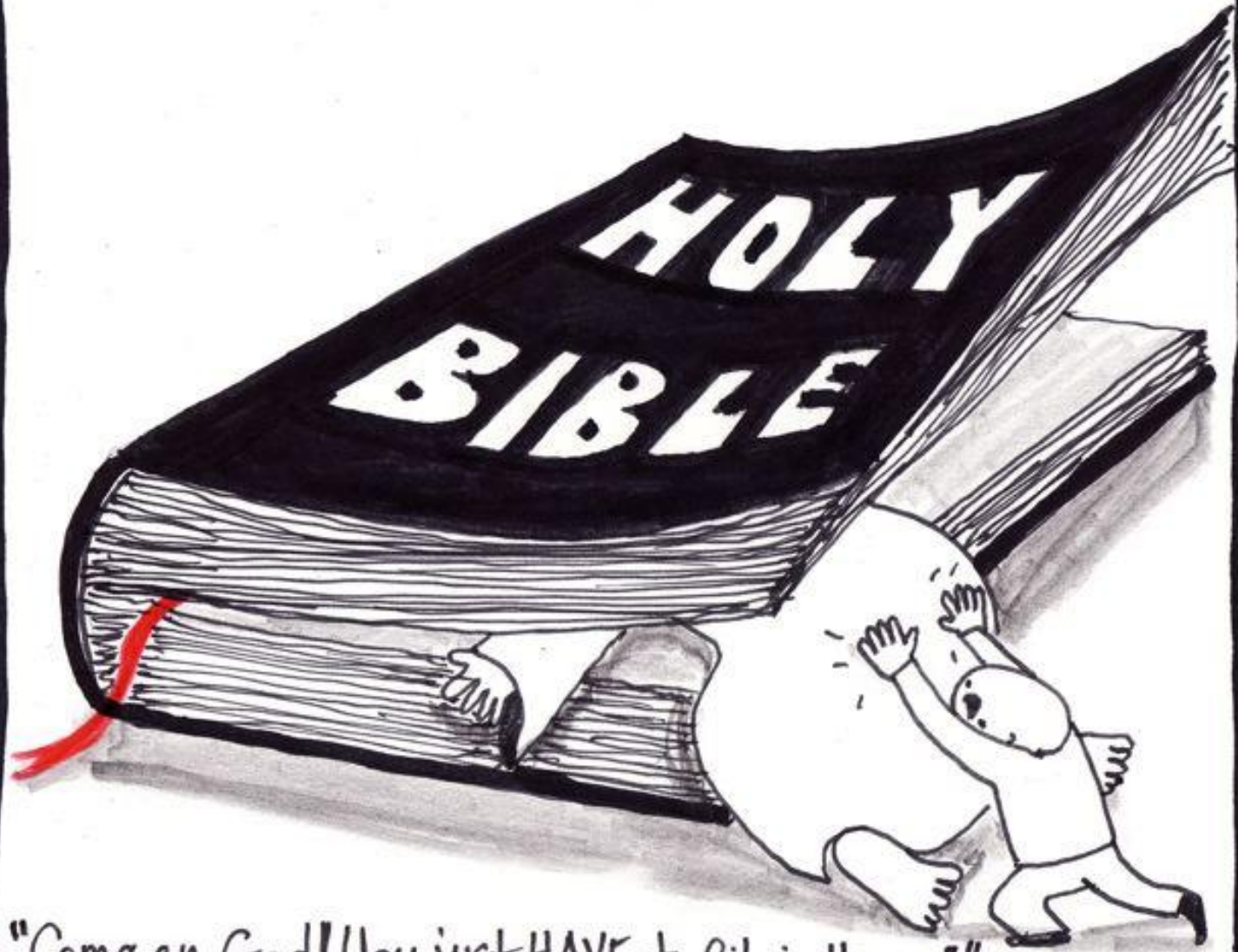
**DANGER  
CHERRY-  
PICKING DATA  
AHEAD**



"Don't bother me. I'm looking for a verse of Scripture to back up one of my preconceived notions!"



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"Come on God! You just HAVE to fit in there!"



SUBMIT  
TO YOUR  
HUSBAND  
(EPHESIANS 5:22)

THE WOMAN SHALL  
BE SAVED THROUGH  
CHILD-BEARING  
(1 TIM 2:15)

SEEN AND  
NOT HEARD

HOME  
SWEET  
HOME

I DO NOT PERMIT  
A WOMAN  
TO TEACH.  
(1 TIMOTHY 2:12)

A WOMAN  
PLACE IN  
THE HO...

CHARITY  
BEGINS AT  
HOME

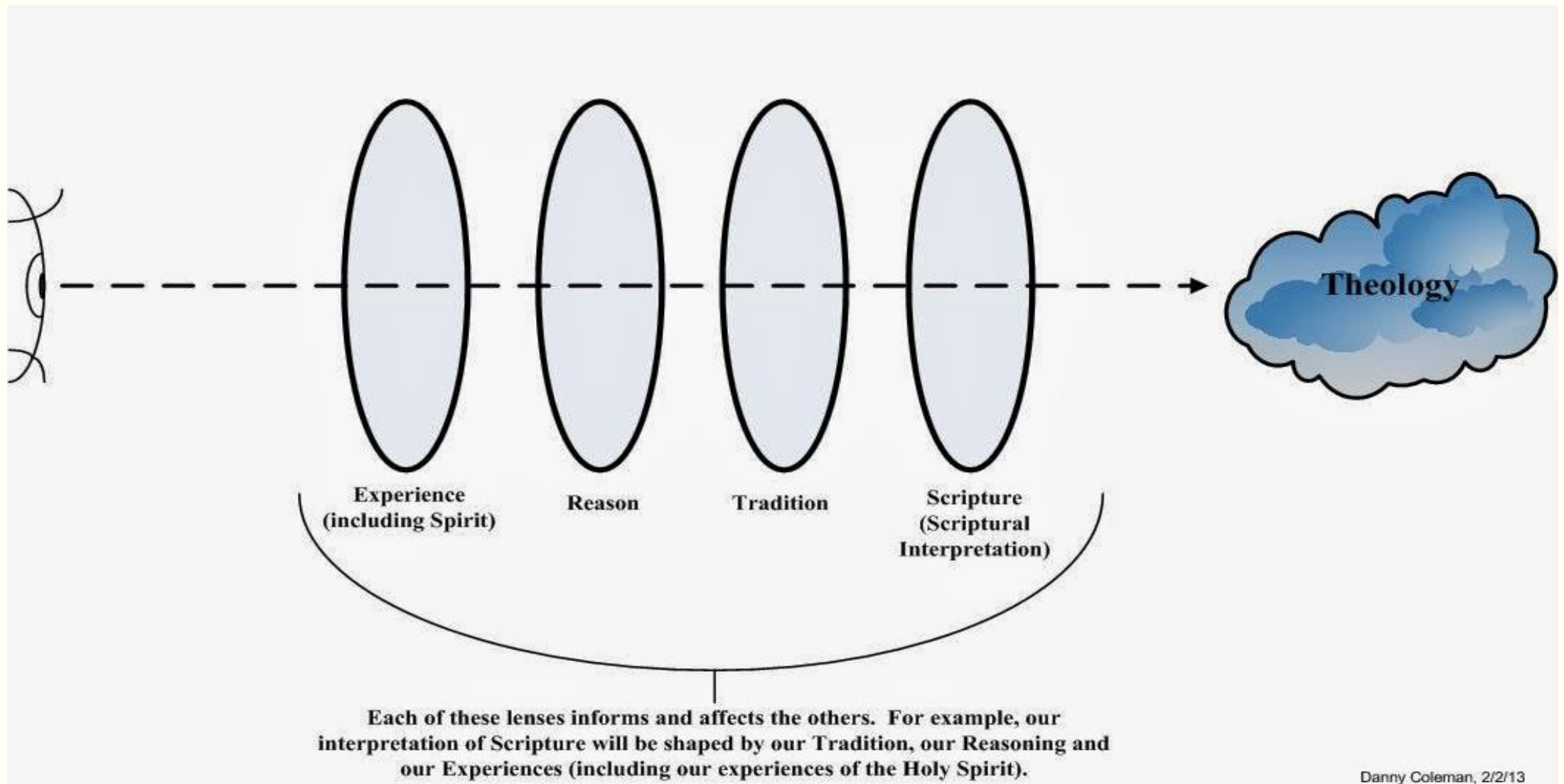
IT IS THE  
WOMAN  
WHO IS  
DECEIVED.  
(1 TIMOTHY 2:14)

DO NOT  
LET YOUR  
BEAUTY  
BE  
EXTERNAL  
(1 PETER 3:3)

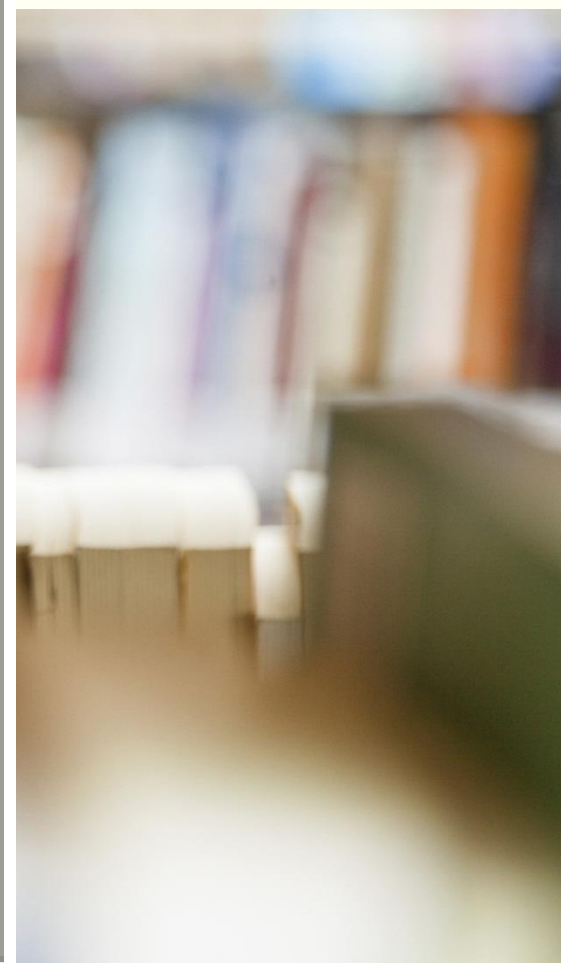
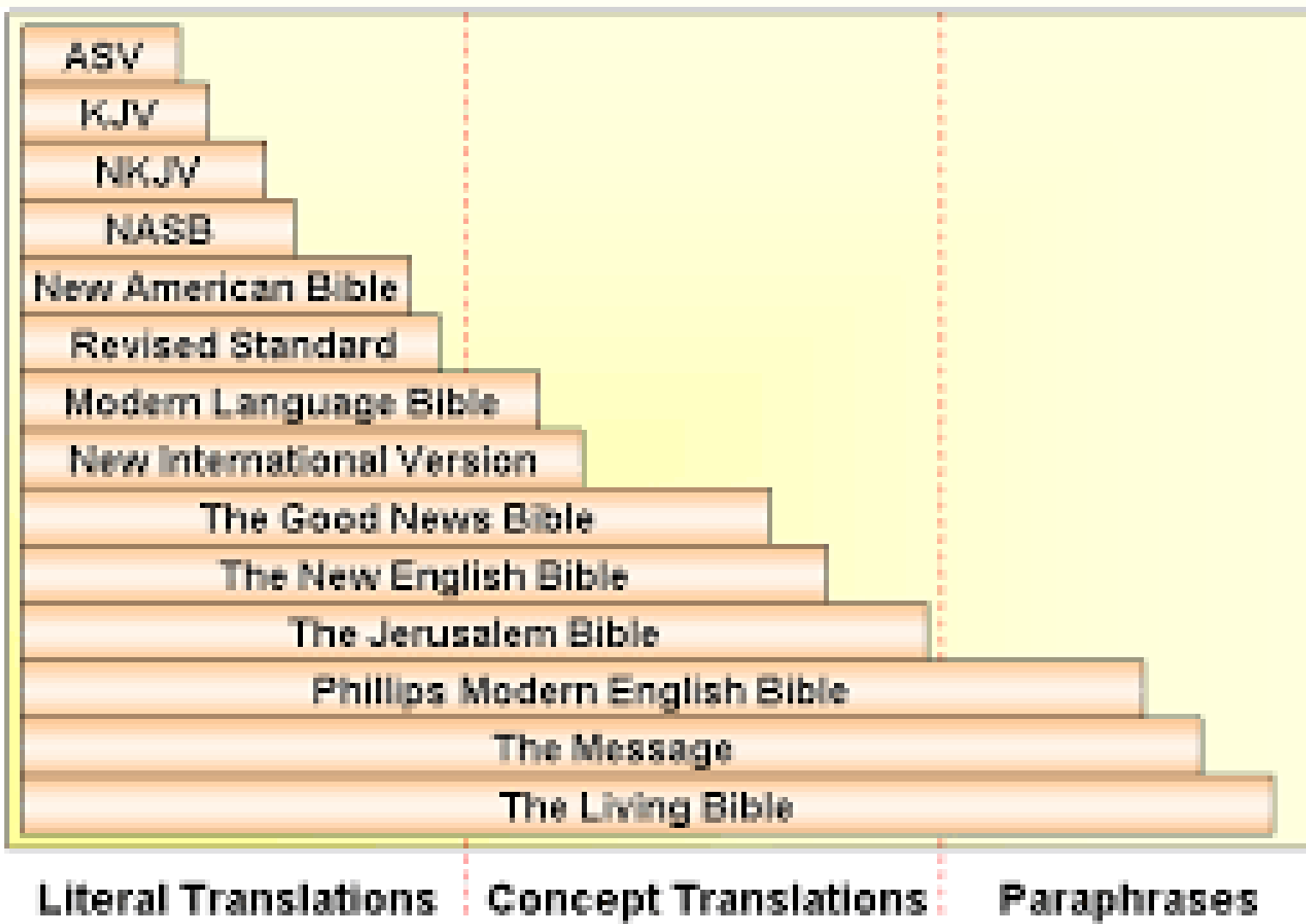
...as the weaker  
partner, and  
(1 Peter 3:7)



# Wesleyan Quadrilateral “Lenses”



# Comparison of English Bible Translations



## What Is Context?

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Definition: Context

**The circumstances in  
which an event  
occurs; a setting**

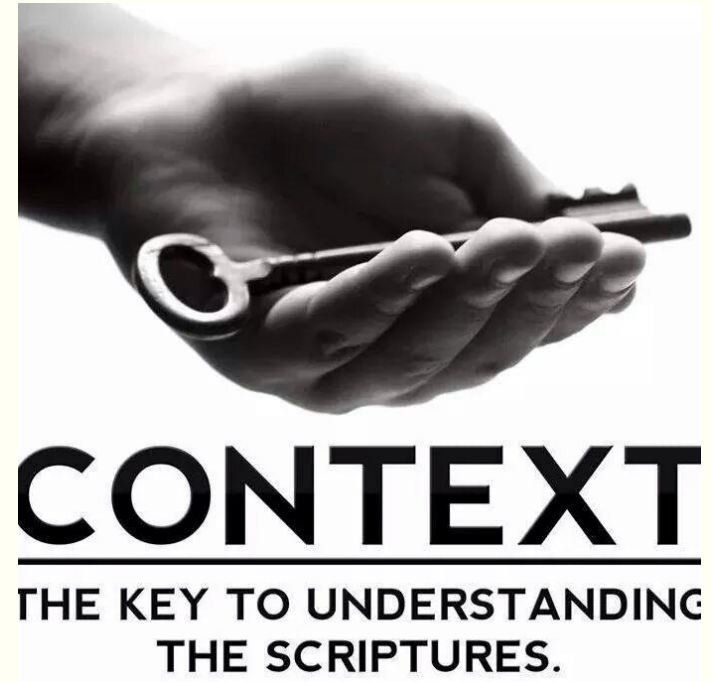
Knowing more about the context of something helps the audience understand how it came about and what it is referring, or alluding, to.



## What Is Context?

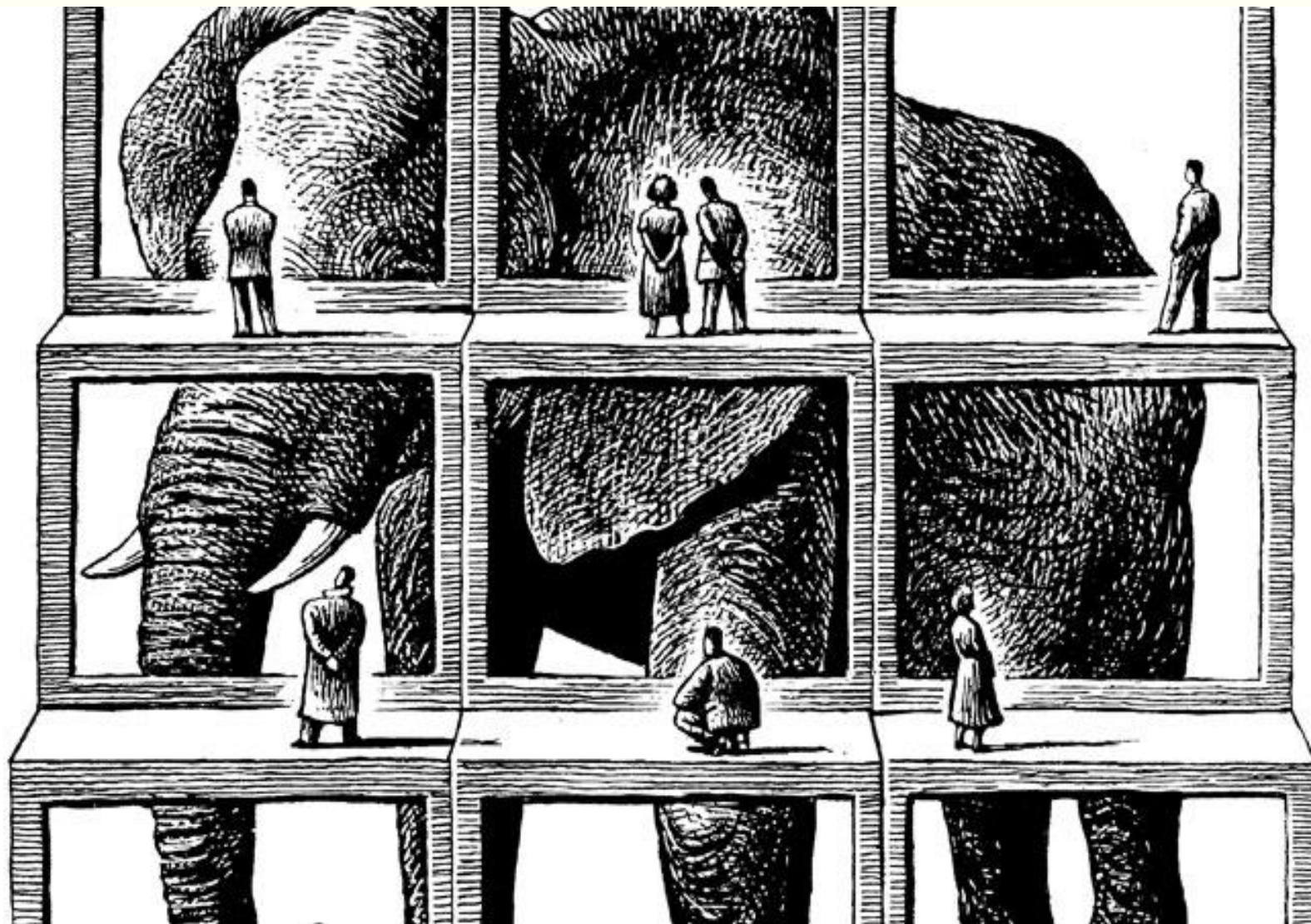
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- It surrounds and gives meaning to something else.
- It is information that can be used to characterize the situation
- It is typically the location, identity and state of people, groups, or objects.



# What You See Depends on Where You Stand

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# Any Questions

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Caption







# CLASSIFICATION

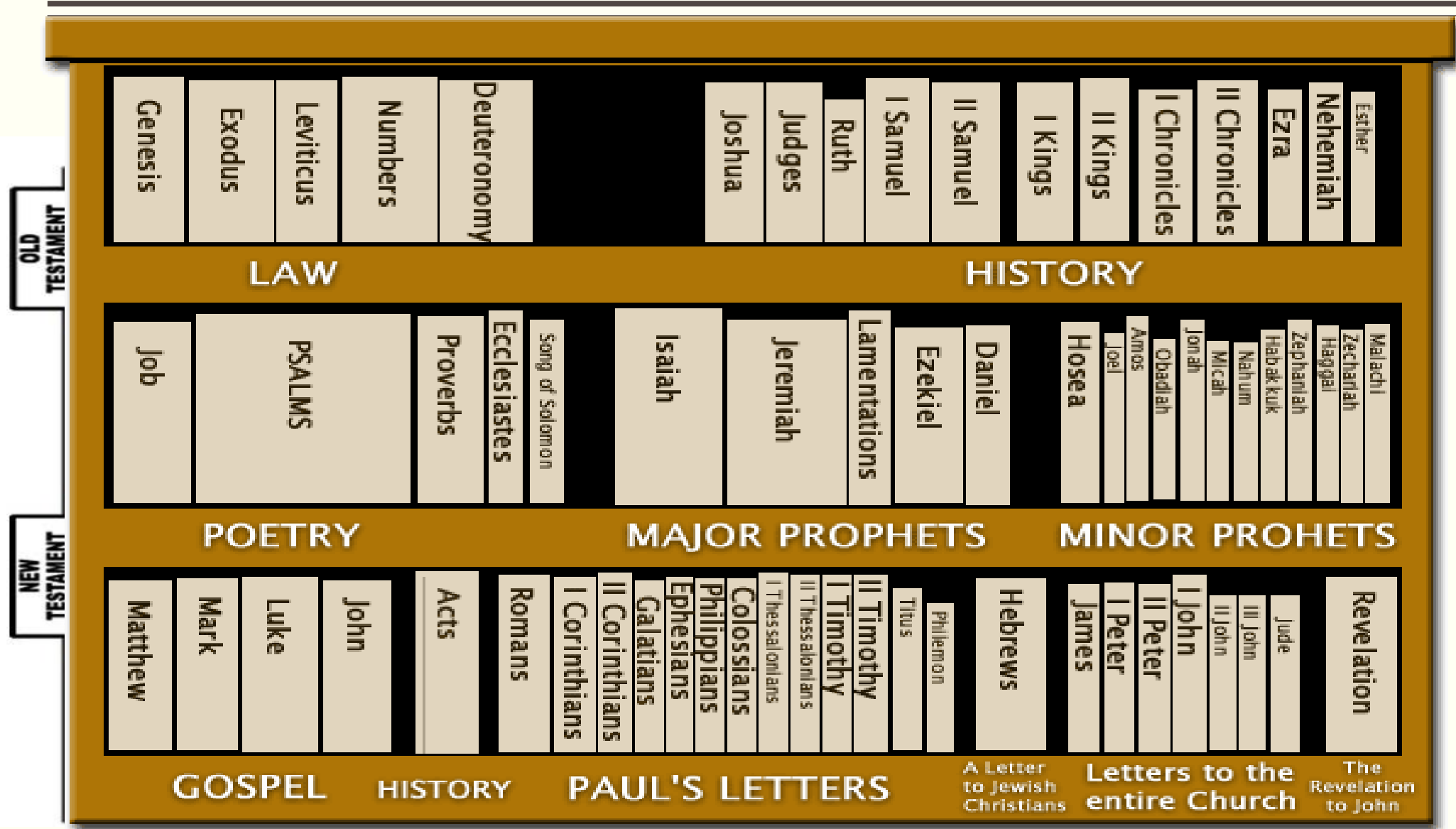


# The Canon Of Scripture

- **The canon is the list of books accepted as Scripture, the books inspired by God. Jesus and the apostles accepted the Hebrew Scriptures, our Old Testament, as the Word of God. After the founding of the church on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostles and their associates to write our New Testament. It is apparent that the early church accepted these writings as inspired as soon as they were written.**



# Classifying the Books of the Bible





# COLLABORATION





# Revelation Comes Through Corporate Study

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MOTIVATION/  
TRANSFORMATION

*"but be*  
**DOERS**

*of the*  
**WORD**

*and not hearers only,  
"deceiving yourselves"*

**-JAMES 1:22-**



# Aren't You Glad You Came to Churchwide Bible Study?

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*Worship 9:30 am*

# Dayspring

[dayspringcommunitychurch.org](http://dayspringcommunitychurch.org)





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REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN I WILL SAY,  
REJOICE. LET ALL MEN KNOW YOUR FORBEARANCE.  
THE LORD IS AT HAND. BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING  
BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION  
WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE  
MADE KNOWN TO GOD. AND THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH

TRUST in the LORD with all your heart  
Proverbs 3:5

and LEAN not on your own UNDERSTANDING

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU... TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE. SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM DO NOT BE AFRAID THE LORD IS NEAR

DO NOT BE AFRAID. BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING. TRUST IN ME. I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME. IT IS I THE LORD YOUR GOD WHO WILL LEAD YOU TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. DELIGHT IN THE LORD

For I, the LORD your GOD, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "FEAR not, I will help you." - Isaiah 41:13

FEAR not I will help you. WAIT FOR THE LORD BE STRONG DONT LOOSE HEART ENTRUST YOUR PLANS TO HIM