

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

1. **FIRST**, realize the **King James Bible** is God's **perfect words** to mankind; it **IS NOT** just another book that men wrote with some good ideas in it. - Ps. 12:6-7, 119:89, 140, 152, 160; Prov. 30:5-6; Matt. 24:35; Luke 4:4; John 17:17; 1 Pet. 1:25
2. You **must approach** Bible Study with a reverent, humble, believing, and obedient heart, and be **willing to change your beliefs** to conform to what the scriptures actually say **RATHER THAN** misusing Bible verses to prop up your own opinions/beliefs. - Deut. 30:14; James 1:22; 1 Kings 17:17-24 (This passage also refutes the JW false doctrine of "soul sleep". Cf. Gen. 35:16-19)
3. You must **prioritize** Bible Study and have a "**willing to learn**" attitude, i.e. **be teachable**. - Job 6:24; Ps. 25:4-5, 86:11, 119:12, 33, 64-68, 124, 135, 143:10
4. You must be willing to **search for truth** like digging for **hidden treasure**, i.e. no laziness allowed. - Prov. 2:1-7, 18:9, 21:25, 24:30-34; Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13
5. God commands all of us to read, study, and meditate on the Bible daily. - Josh. 1:8 ("success" 1X in KJB); Ps. 19:14; Isa. 34:16; Acts 17:11; Rev. 1:3
6. You must **SPEND QUALITY TIME** seeking God 1) early in the morning and 2) early in life. - Ps. 1:2, 63:1,6, 119:15-18,97-108; Prov. 8:17; Isa. 26:9
7. You **must obey** God's command to STUDY and RIGHTLY DIVIDE. - 2 Tim. 2:15
 - A. Every verse in the Bible has **three applications**: 1) **Historical**
2) **Doctrinal** (which is sometimes Prophetic) and 3) **Practical** (aka the Spiritual / Inspirational / or Devotional Application)
 - B. **CONTEXT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL**: - Always understand **WHO** is speaking; **TO WHOM** is being spoken, **WHEN** the speaking takes place, and **WHAT** is actually being said. - Example: Gen. 3:1-6
 - C. Every passage in the Bible must be interpreted in light of its **dispensational context**. Examples: Acts 2:38; Matt. 19:16-21; James 1:1 cf. James 2:14, 17-18, 20-22, 24-26, 5:14-15 The book of James is written **FOR** our edification and learning, but is **NOT** doctrinally written **TO** us today, but "**to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad**" → Jews!
 - D. Quote from Miles Coverdale (1488-1569): "**It shall greatly help ye to understand Scripture if thou mark not only what is spoken or written, but of whom and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstances, considering what goeth before and what followeth after.**"
 - E. There is but **one correct interpretation** → **GOD'S**, but there are often **many relevant applications**, but don't confuse the two (God's meaning versus how it applies). - 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Gen. 40:5-8; Dan. 2:19-23, 45-47

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- F. Even to properly understand the doctrine of salvation for today, we must rightly divide God's righteousness from man's righteousness, by understanding: **Position** vs. **Practice** (aka **Salvation** vs. **Service** or **Standing** vs. **State**). - Rom. 10:3-4; Ps. 24:5; Isa. 64:6; Jer. 23:6; 2 Cor. 5:21
8. **Compare & Contrast** verses with the same or similar words/phrases. God's method of Bible study revealed, **CROSS-REFERENCING**. - 1 Cor. 2:13
Sometimes you have to look for the "root word" to locate a cross-reference.
- A. **DO NOT** rely on man's definitions of terms or man's dictionaries, **use KJB**. The KJB is **God's dictionary** that defines its own terms. Some examples:
"churlish"- 1 Sam. 25:3 cf. Isa. 32:5-7; "prating"- Prov. 10:8,10 cf. 3 John 1:10
Cf. 1 Tim. 2:7 "ordained" 2 Tim. 1:11 "appointed", Acts 13:1-2 "called"
Cf. Matt. 13:20 "anon" defined in Mark 4:16 as "immediately"
- B. The KJB is **self-interpreting**, e.g. Ex. 20:13 says "**Thou shalt not kill.**"
Jesus Christ interprets this verse in Matt. 19:18 as "**Thou shalt do no murder**"
Therefore, the proper **scriptural interpretation** is that killing someone 1) in self-defense or 2) in time of war is **not condemned by the Scriptures**, since in these cases killing is **not murder**.
9. Interpret the words in the normal, plain, express, and literal sense **unless** the context shows the words cannot be taken literally. - Neh. 8:8; Mark 12:37b; 2 Cor. 3:12; 1 Tim. 4:1a Figurative Examples: John 6:35, 47-58 Cf. Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:10, 19:26; Deut. 12:16, 23-24, 15:23; Acts 15:20, 29 (In the Bible, in **ALL DISPENSATIONS**, the drinking of blood is **FORBIDDEN!**); John 10:9; 15:1-5
10. Principle of First Mention (FM) - Check the FM of the word because it often (but not always) provides an understanding of how that word is typically used. Example: "**repent**" - Gen. 6:5-7 - God repents more than anybody else in the Bible (37 out of 112 uses → **1/3 of the time**); therefore, "repent" **cannot mean** "turn from your sins" but rather it means a "**change of mind/heart**".
11. Consider words in the same verse, surrounding verses, and the context of the chapter where the word is found. - Example: Gen. 8:1-14 - "asswaged" (2X in KJB) is defined as "abated," "decreased," "dried up." Cf. Job 16:6 - Here "asswaged" is defined as "eased". Example: "fellowship" 2 Cor. 6:14-16 defined as "communion," "concord," "part," and "agreement." - Acts 2:42,46; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 8:4-5; Eph. 3:9, 5:11; Phil. 1:5, 2:1, 3:10; 1 John 1:6-7
12. Use a journal or a notebook to **write down** what the Holy Spirit shows you, answers to prayer, and any other spiritual lessons and insights. - Isa. 30:8; Rev. 1:19
13. Mark and cross-reference your Bible as God reveals truth to you. - Jer. 23:18