

# Rightly Dividing the Word of God

## Keys to Effective Bible Study

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling (dividing) the word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, and equipped for every good work. –  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
– Hebrews 4:12

From the Bible?

## From the Bible?

Whoever brings a good deed, he shall have ten like it, and whoever brings an evil deed, he shall be recompensed only with the like of it, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly.

Say, surely, as for me, my Lord has guided me to the right path; to a most right religion, the faith of Ibrahim the upright one, and he was not of the polytheists.

Qur'an, Surah VII, vs. 160-161

## From the Bible?

Then up came a common beggar, who was wont to beg through the town of Ithaca, one that was known among all men for ravening greed, for his endless eating and drinking, yet he had no force or might, though he was bulky enough to look on.

Odyssey, Book XVIII, by Homer

# From the Bible?

And Nephi, the son of Helaman, had departed out of the land of Zarahemla, giving charge unto his son Nephi, who was his eldest son, concerning the plates of brass, and all the records which had been kept, and all those things which had been kept sacred from the departure of Lehi out of Jerusalem.

Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi, 1:2

# From the Bible?

Sin of self-love possesseth all mine eye,  
And all my soul, and all my every part;  
And for this sin there is no remedy,  
It is so grounded inward in my heart.

Sonnet LXII, William Shakespeare

# From the Bible?

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

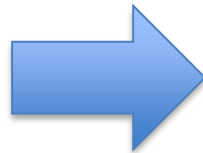
Psalm 32:1-2, Bible, English Standard Version



# How to understand this Book?

- Find a translation that makes sense to you.
- Learn which type of literature each Book contains.
- Learn the historical and cultural meanings within.

Exegesis: What was the original intent of the words in the Bible?



Hermeneutics: How do I apply the original meaning to my own life and understanding of God?

# How to understand this Book?

## **Context in the Text: High Places**

**Good:** God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. Habakkuk 3:19

High Places speaks of triumph through the Lord's power and blessing for His people in Deuteronomy and Isaiah.

**Bad:** Yet the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. – 1 Kings 22:43

High places were the pagan sacrifice locations for polytheistic peoples in the region. See Deut. 12:2 Israel too often tolerated this infection in its midst.

# How to understand this Book?

## **Cultural / Historical Meaning: Feast of Tabernacle**

Matthew 17:1-4 – Jesus was transfigured, then Moses and Eliajah appeared and spoke to him.

Peter said, “Lord, it is good you are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

The Feast of Booths / Tabernacle / Ingathering, see Deut. 16:13-17 and Lev. 23:33-43 – “You shall dwell in shelters for seven days...that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in shelters when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

# How to understand this Book?

## **Cultural / Historical Meaning: Feast of Tabernacle**

5 days after the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

At the end of summer when harvest is complete.

Psalm 118 sung at this feast.

- Vs. 22: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- Vs. 25: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Lev. 23:40 “You shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees...you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.”

# How to understand this Book?

## **Cultural / Historical Meaning: Feast of Tabernacle**

John 7:37 On the last day of the Feast of Booths, Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

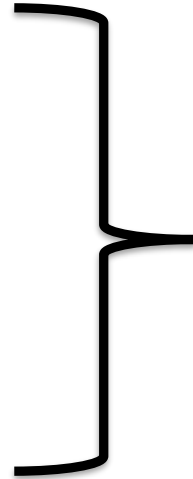
Isaiah 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Ezekiel Ch. 47 Living water flowing from the Temple.

Priest draws water from the Pool of Siloam on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the Feast, then poured out water and wine to the Lord.

# It's a lot to cover

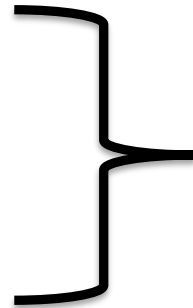
Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy



## **Pentateuch / Torah**

Creation, Abraham,  
Egypt, Deliverance,  
Wandering, the Law

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth

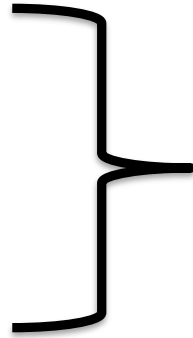


## **History**

Conquest of Promised  
Land, Rule by Judges,  
Pre-History of David's  
Family

# It's a lot to cover

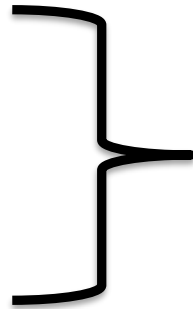
1-2 Samuel  
1-2 Kings  
1-2 Chronicles



## **Kingdom of Israel**

End of the Judges,  
Saul, David, Solomon,  
Subsequent Kings,  
Split of Israel & Judah,  
Defeat

Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther



## **Exile**

God's provision despite  
conquest and exile:  
rebuilding the Temple,  
Jerusalem, saving the  
Jews from genocide

# It's a lot to cover

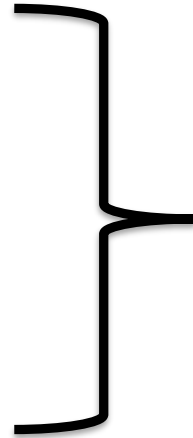
Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon



## **Wisdom**

Suffering

Worship

Wise Sayings

Love

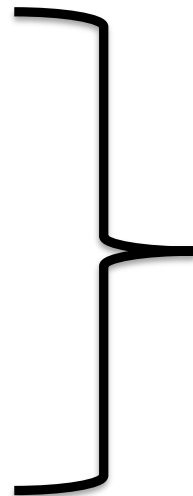
Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations (Jer.)

Ezekiel

Daniel



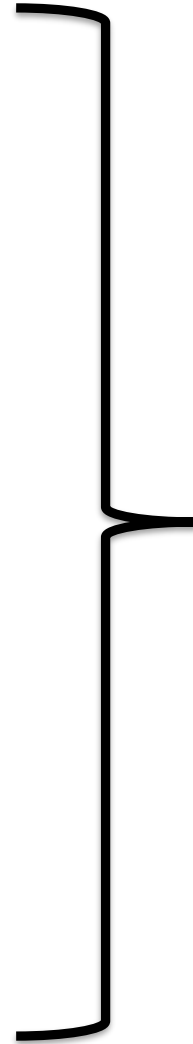
## **Major Prophets**

Written during conquest & exile, message of God's judgment and returning to God, prophecies of Messiah, Daniel linked to Revelation



# It's a lot to cover

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi



## **Minor Prophets**

Written during  
conquest & exile,  
message of God's  
judgment and returning  
to God, prophecies of  
Messiah, the promise  
of Redemption

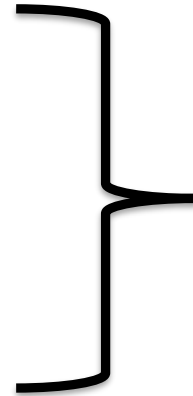
# It's a lot to cover

Matthew

Mark

Luke

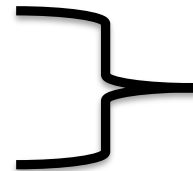
John



## **Gospels**

Birth, life, ministry, death,  
resurrection of Jesus  
4 different authors  
Different emphases

Acts

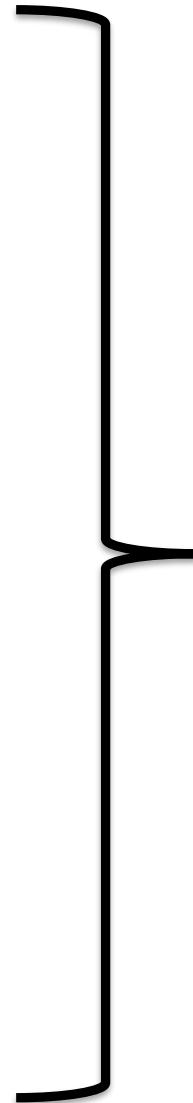


## **Acts**

Written by Luke,  
Ministry of the Apostles  
after Jesus departs,  
foundation of the Church

# It's a lot to cover

Romans  
1-2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1-2 Thessalonians  
1-2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
1-2 Peter  
1-3 John  
Jude



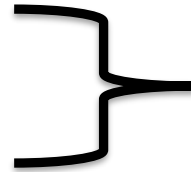
## **Epistles**

Letters from the Apostles  
to churches, groups of  
people, or individuals  
(Timothy)

Most written by Paul  
Doctrine of our belief

# It's a lot to cover

Revelation



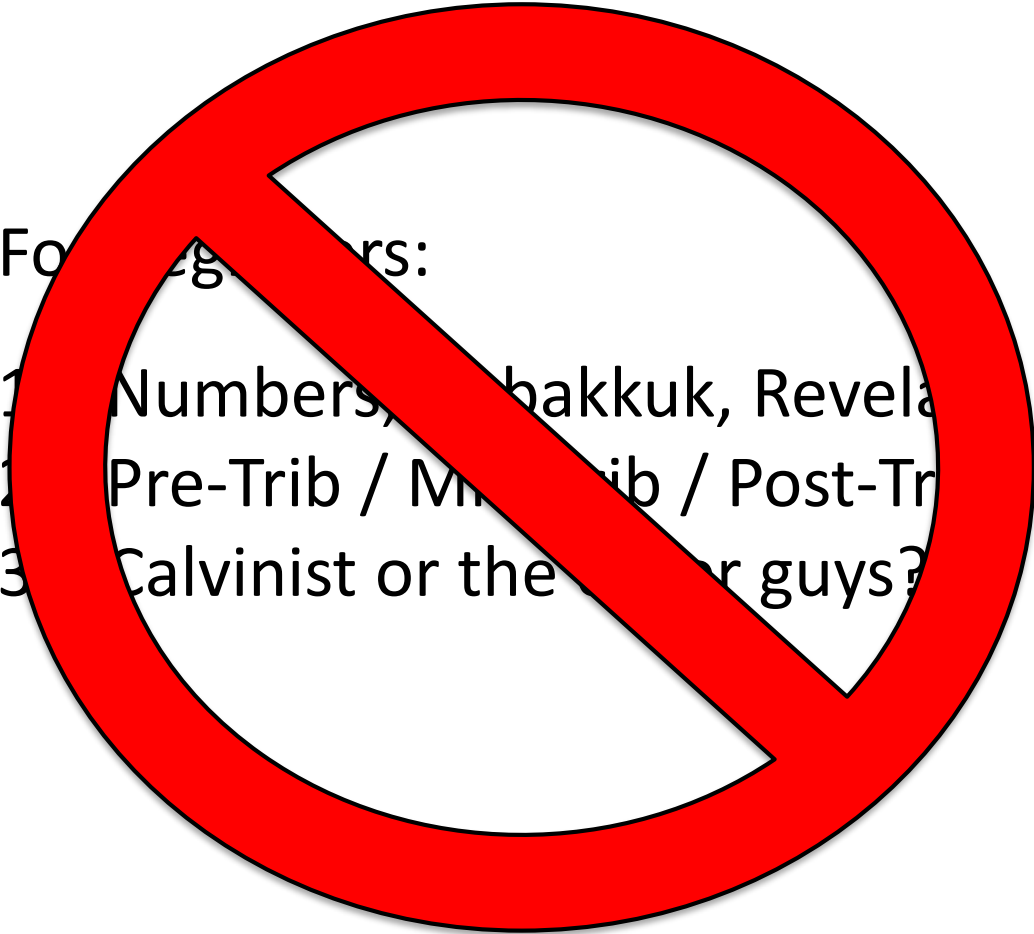
## **Revelation**

Written by John,  
revelation God showed  
him of the end of the  
World and God's final  
victory and Judgment

# Where do I begin?

For beginners:

- 1 Numbers, Habakkuk, Revelation
- 2 Pre-Trib / Mid-Trib / Post-Trib
- 3 Calvinist or the other guys?



# Where do I begin?

## For Beginners:

1. Get to know Jesus: Matthew or John
2. Understand Salvation: Romans
3. Pray and Worship Him by Yourself: Psalms
4. Dig Deep Into a Human Story: Ruth, David, Esther
5. Follow Your Interest: Proverbs, History?

## Helpful Tips:

1. Get an overview of a Book before you start.
2. Partner with an experienced Christian.
3. Pray for understanding, eliminate distractions.
4. Skip the boring stuff.

# Where do I begin?

The Bible is the God's story of love and redemption for human kind through Jesus the Messiah!

- Genesis 3:14-15 the first prophecy of the Messiah
- God's Covenant with Abraham
- Passover, Escape from Egypt, the Law, Entry into the Promised Land
- Covenant with David – a King on the throne forever
- Prophecies throughout Old Testament
- Jesus: Word became Flesh
- Hebrews: Jesus fulfills the Law
- Revelation 19:6-21 triumph of Jesus, Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Rider on a White Horse

# How do I continue?

1. Read the entire New Testament
2. Study the Pentateuch with Luke/Matthew with Hebrews.
3. Develop topic studies that go deep across Old and New Testament

## Helpful Tips:

1. Get a chain reference study Bible with a good concordance, Hebrew and Greek dictionary.
2. Journal, meditate and pray
3. Get into a Bible study group
4. Do not turn it into work. It is discovery!

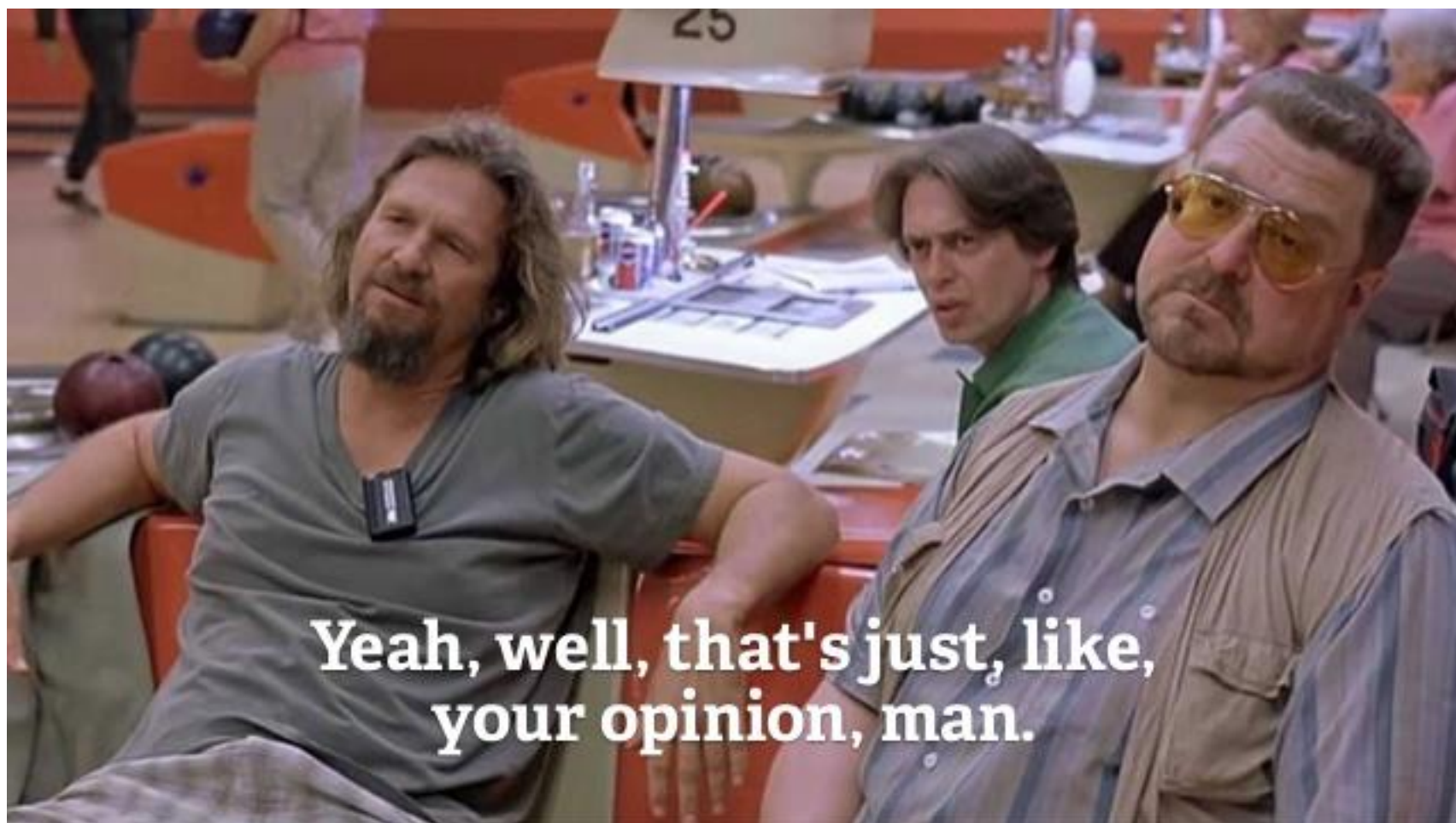


# Time to eat meat!

1. Read the entire Bible repeatedly
2. Memorize
3. Dig deep into topical studies.
4. Learn how it all fits together.

## Helpful Tips:

1. It's time for you to be a teacher.
2. Seek God's revelation through his Word and the Spirit: 1 Cor. 2:10 – These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
3. Commentaries and study materials helpful.



**Yeah, well, that's just, like,  
your opinion, man.**

## It's Grow Up Time In The Kingdom of God!

You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. – Hebrews 5:12-14

# Back to Basics

Therefore, let us leave the **elementary doctrine** of Christ and **go on to maturity**, not laying again the foundation of:

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith toward God
3. Doctrine of baptisms
4. Laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal judgment

Hebrews 6:1-2

If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples. You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free. – John 8:31