

# PRACTICAL PRINCIPALS OF INTERPRETATION

## Read the Bible like every other book

We read the Bible literally by recognizing genre. This means we read historical narrative differently from poetry.

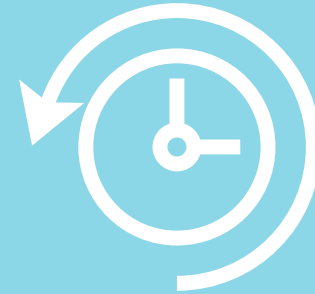


## Scripture interprets Scripture

The Bible itself helps us to understand what it means.

## Interpret the Narrative by the Teaching

The teaching passages of scripture help us to understand the other passages



## Read it as if you were there

Understanding the purpose of the author and the reading of the first readers is very important.



## Interpret the implicit by the explicit

The clear teaching of Scripture should help us to understand the mysterious.



# SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE



The Bible itself helps us to understand what it means.

~~"To me, the verse means..."~~

No text of Scripture can have many different, mutually contradictory meanings, either one or both are wrong.

“  
We want always to interpret the Bible in such a way as to not violate the basic principle of Scripture's unity and integrity.  
R.C. Sproul  
”

# READ THE BIBLE LIKE EVERY OTHER BOOK

We read the Bible literally by recognizing genre. This means we read historical narrative differently from poetry.



“ We must interpret the Bible in the sense in which it is written. Parables are interpreted as parables, symbols as symbols, poetry as poetry, didactic literature as didactic literature, historical narrative as historical narrative, occasional letters as occasional letters. That principle of literal interpretation is the same principle we use to interpret any written source responsibly.

R.C. Sproul

Nouns are still nouns, verbs are still verbs... that doesn't change because its the Bible.

# READ AS IF YOU WERE THERE

CONTEXT... CONTEXT... CONTEXT!!!

Immediate Context  
Historical Context  
Authorial Intent

**REWIND AND READ MORE!**

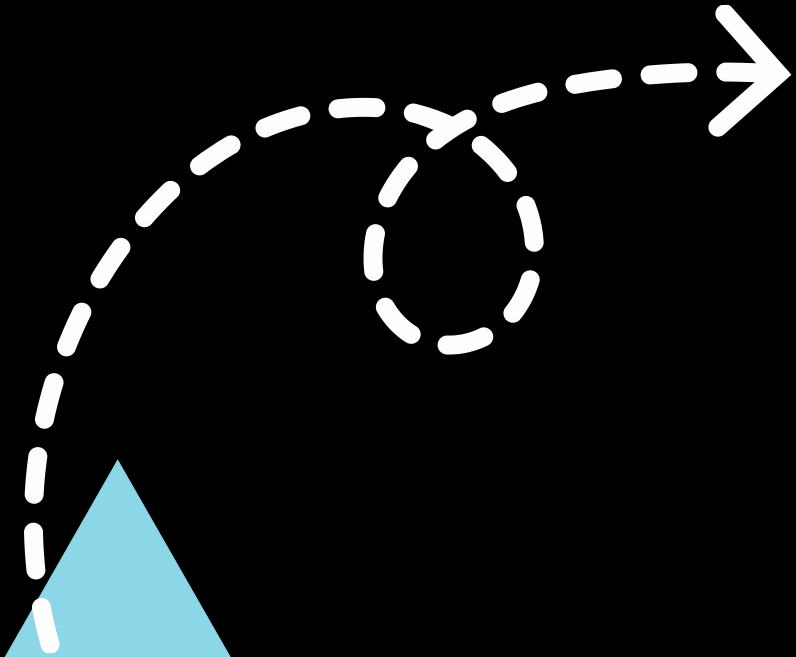
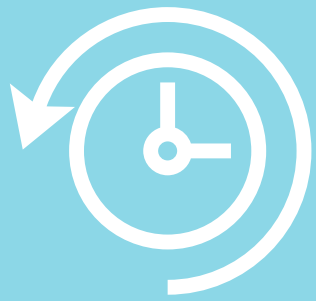


There are many questions to ask when trying to learn the context of a passage, and often times it is on that journey of questions that meaning can be found. The use of a good study Bible in most cases will fill in the details needed for reading a passage in proper context.

My favorites are:

ESV Student Study Bible and the Reformation Study Bible Student Edition

Understanding the purpose of the author and the reading of the first readers is very important.



# INTERPRET THE NARRATIVE BY THE TEACHING

The teaching passages  
of scripture help us to  
understand the other  
passages

Paul helps understand Abraham:  
Genesis 15:6 & Galatians 3:1-9

Narrative passages do not usually determine  
doctrine. They instead can stand as illustrations  
of the clear teaching of scripture in other  
places.

Descriptive vs. Prescriptive



# INTERPRET THE IMPLICIT BY THE EXPLICIT

## *An Example of letting the implicit run the show, Open Theism edition*

Open Theists... Exodus 32:14 "14 And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people."

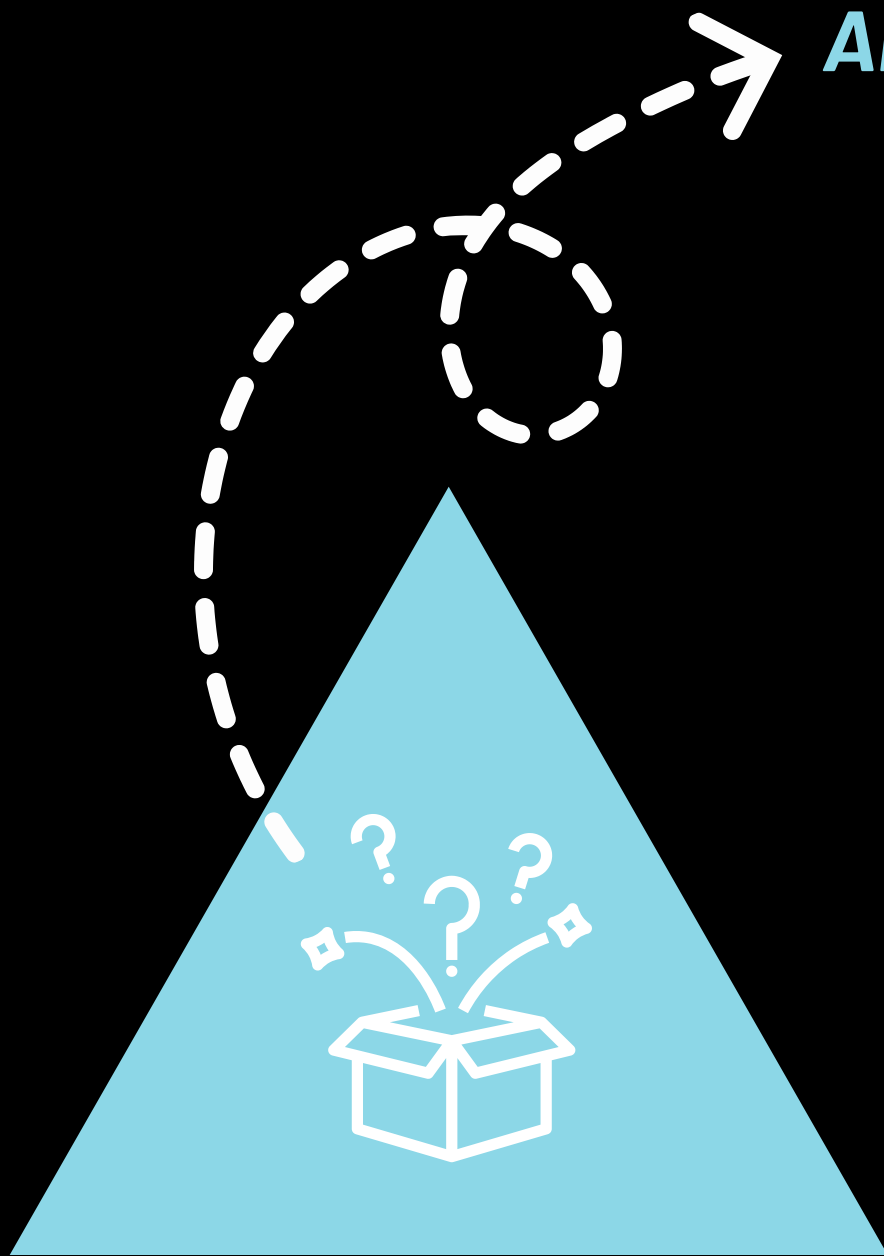
God changed his mind because he didnt know the future

This assumes God is like man, we change our mind when we are give more information we were not aware of. Are there any explicit teachings that give insight here?

Numbers 23:19 "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man that he should change his mind."

(Isa. 42:9; 44:7; Jer. 1:5; Matt. 26:34)

God knows the future exhaustively, and thus any change of mind of which the Bible speaks must be a change that God knew He would make in advance.



The clear teaching of Scripture should help is to understand the mysterious.