

# Guidelines on how to study & understand your Bible

The first is to open in prayer. Here is an example.

{ ADONAI, as I open the pages of Your written Word, I appeal and cry out for understanding and wisdom in my study. I ask for wisdom from You, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly. From You, ADONAI, comes wisdom and knowledge. Please grant me the knowledge of You, O God. Give your servant an understanding mind. Help me not to twist Your sacred Scriptures. Help me to understand Your will. Open my mind to comprehend the Scriptures. Give me the ability of discernment. I do trust in You with all my heart and I do not rely on my own insight. I boast in nothing of myself; I boast only in Your understanding, wisdom and might. I acknowledge You in every way and ask You to guide me in the straight path. May Your Word direct my steps and help me to avoid sin.

I have tasted the goodness of Your Word. Your Word proves true, sure, right and trustworthy. Your Word is perfect, reviving the soul and rejoicing the heart. Your Word can make wise the simple. It enlightens my eyes. Your Word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. The sacred Scriptures are the very breath of Your mouth. Your Word endures forever. I desire it more than silver and gold. It is sweeter than honey. I will be judged by your Word, therefore I tremble before it.

May I be taught by your Word as well as warned and corrected by it. Only by giving heed to your Word can I keep my life pure. I pray that the Scriptures will train me in righteousness and equip me for every good work. I search the Scriptures, because they have eternal life in them. Please continue to give me life through Your living and enduring Word. I know that I cannot live by bread alone, but only by the Word from Your mouth. Your Word is my hope. Happy and blessed are those who keep Your Word. Amen. }

## Insightful Scriptures for studying God's Word

**John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

**Rom. 15:4** For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

**2 Tim. 3:14-17** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Messiah Yeshua. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Isa. 28:9-10** Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.

**Josh. 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make

your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

## **The principles to understanding & studying Scripture.**

The Bible is multi-layered; therefore we must look at Scripture from different angles to start comprehending the full meaning.

### **Language & Grammatical**

Understanding the meaning of a word or phrase in the original language can be the key to properly interpreting a passage of scripture. Understanding the structure of the verses is also important. What is being wrote in the previous & preceding passages? What is the theme or topic of those chapters? As well as the quotes or similar passages throughout the Bible that are being referenced.

### **Historical & Cultural**

We must realize that Scripture must be viewed first in the context of the time & culture in which it was written. As well as the regional context from where it was written. Biblical maps can also help you comprehend the geography of these lands.

### **Typology**

Can either be the type or antitype of a person, thing, or event. It is often Messianic centered. Ultimately ADONAI explains many things; including the divine, from these earthly types so we can better understand the intent.

### **Prophetical**

Must be viewed from other similar Scriptures within the Bible. Many times it is figurative in its definition, but can also be literal. These mysteries can also be hidden until its full revelation.

## **These are also four basic Hebraic modes to understanding scripture.**

### **P'shat (simple)**

The plain, literal sense of the text, more or less what modern scholars mean by "*grammatical-historical exegesis*," which looks to the grammar of the language and the historical setting as background for deciding what a passage means. Modern scholars often consider exegesis the only valid way to read the text. Rabbinically there are three other modes of understanding scripture that are implied.

### **Remez (hint)**

A word, phrase or other element in the text which hints at a truth not conveyed by the *p'shat*.

### **Drash / Midrash (search)**

An allegorical or figurative application of the text. This a type of *eisegesis*; which is reading one's own thoughts into the text, and its practical application. As opposed to exegesis which is the literal sense.

### **Sod (secret)**

A hidden meaning revealed by numerical values of the Hebrew letters, unusual spellings, transposing letters, etc. The understanding is that God even invests meaning even in the smallest details of Scripture.

Lastly, there are many different versions of the Bible because of differing views of interpretation, and the only way to properly interpret the Bible's truest intent is to look at its original language. Also, Biblical commentaries are very helpful, but need to be filtered through the Word of God. If they do not line up with the whole Word of God, then they are incorrect.

## **Helpful Resources**

### **Bibles**

Interlinear Greek-Hebrew, concordance, Nave's word study/topical Bible index, Complete Jewish Bible & Stern's commentary, NKJV Thompson chain reference, NKJV MacArthur study Bible, ESV study Bible

### **Online**

biblestudytools.com (MANY helpful tools; including different Bible versions, commentaries, concordances, etc.), gotquestions.org, perfect-word.org, levitt.com