

✠ FRONTLINE



CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS

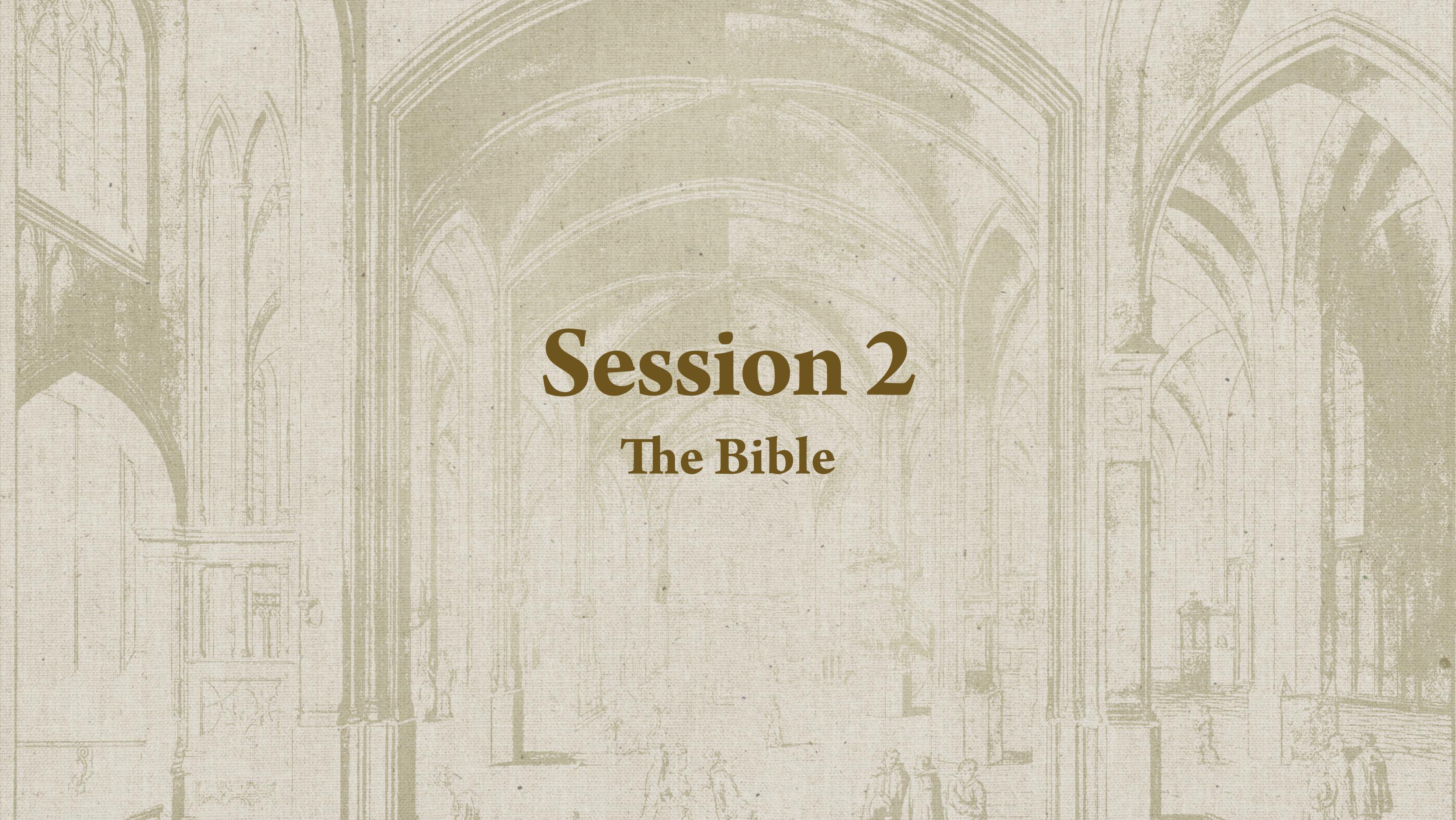


DISCUSSION

Discussion

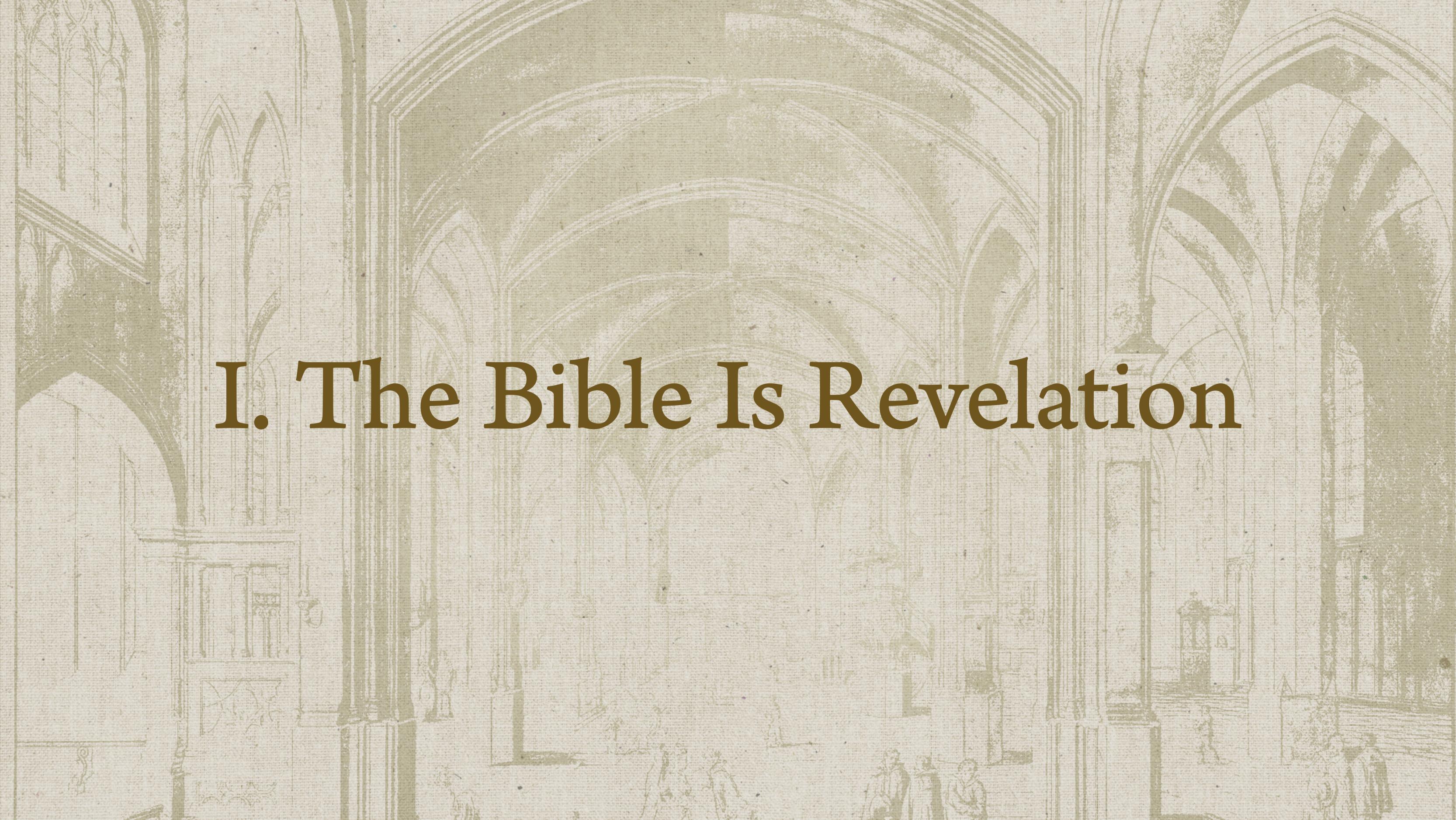
1. What was your experience like with the A.C.T.S. prayer method?
2. Which step was the most difficult to stay in? Which was easiest?
3. How would you describe the Bible to someone who has never heard of it?





Session 2

The Bible



I. The Bible Is Revelation

[Christianity] is a religion that rests on revelation: nobody would know the truth about God, or be able to relate to him in a personal way, had not God first acted to make himself known.

- J. I. Packer, Concise Theology

I. The Bible Is Revelation

- General Revelation.



“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”

Romans 1:20

“They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them...”

Romans 2:15

I. The Bible Is Revelation

- General Revelation.
- Special Revelation.



“The only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”

John 1:18

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29



II. The Bible Is Inspired

“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, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16

“... men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:21



III. The Bible Has Authority

“What the Lord had spoken by the prophet...”

Matthew 1:22

“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

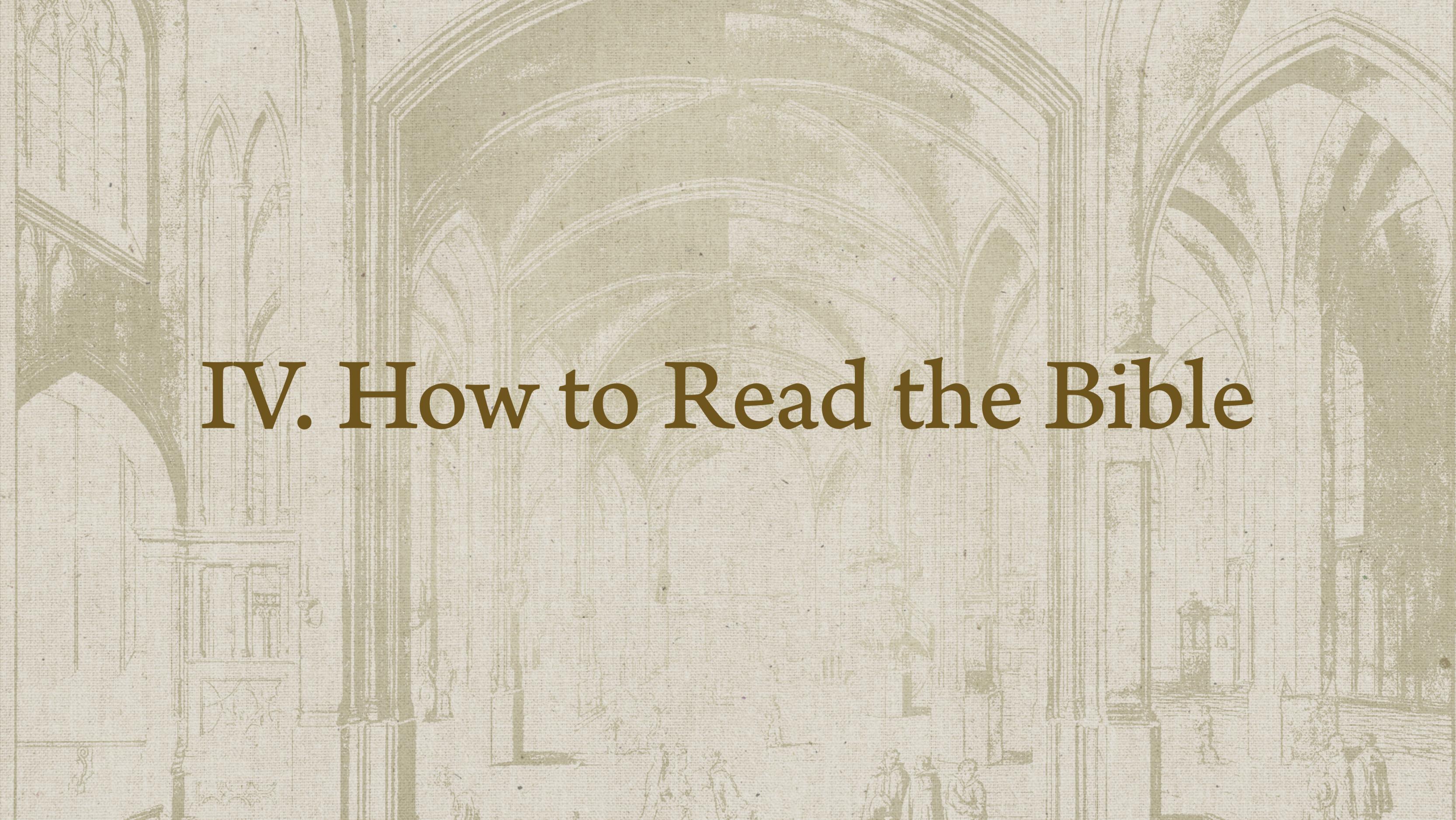
Matthew 5:18-19

“But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

Matthew 22:29

“ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!...” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Luke 24:25-27



IV. How to Read the Bible

IV. How to Read the Bible

- Literary Sense

- Context

- Genre: Law, Narrative, Poetry, Prophecy, Epistle

- Spiritual Sense



“Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake?”

1 Corinthians 9:8-10

IV. How to Read the Bible

- Literary Sense

- Context

- Genre: Law, Narrative, Poetry, Prophecy, Epistle

- Spiritual Sense

- Christ-centered



“You search the scriptures... it is they that bear witness about me.”

John 5:39

IV. How to Read the Bible

- Literary Sense

- Context

- Genre: Law, Narrative, Poetry, Prophecy, Epistle

- Spiritual Sense

- Christ-centered

- Redemptive History



IV. How to Read the Bible

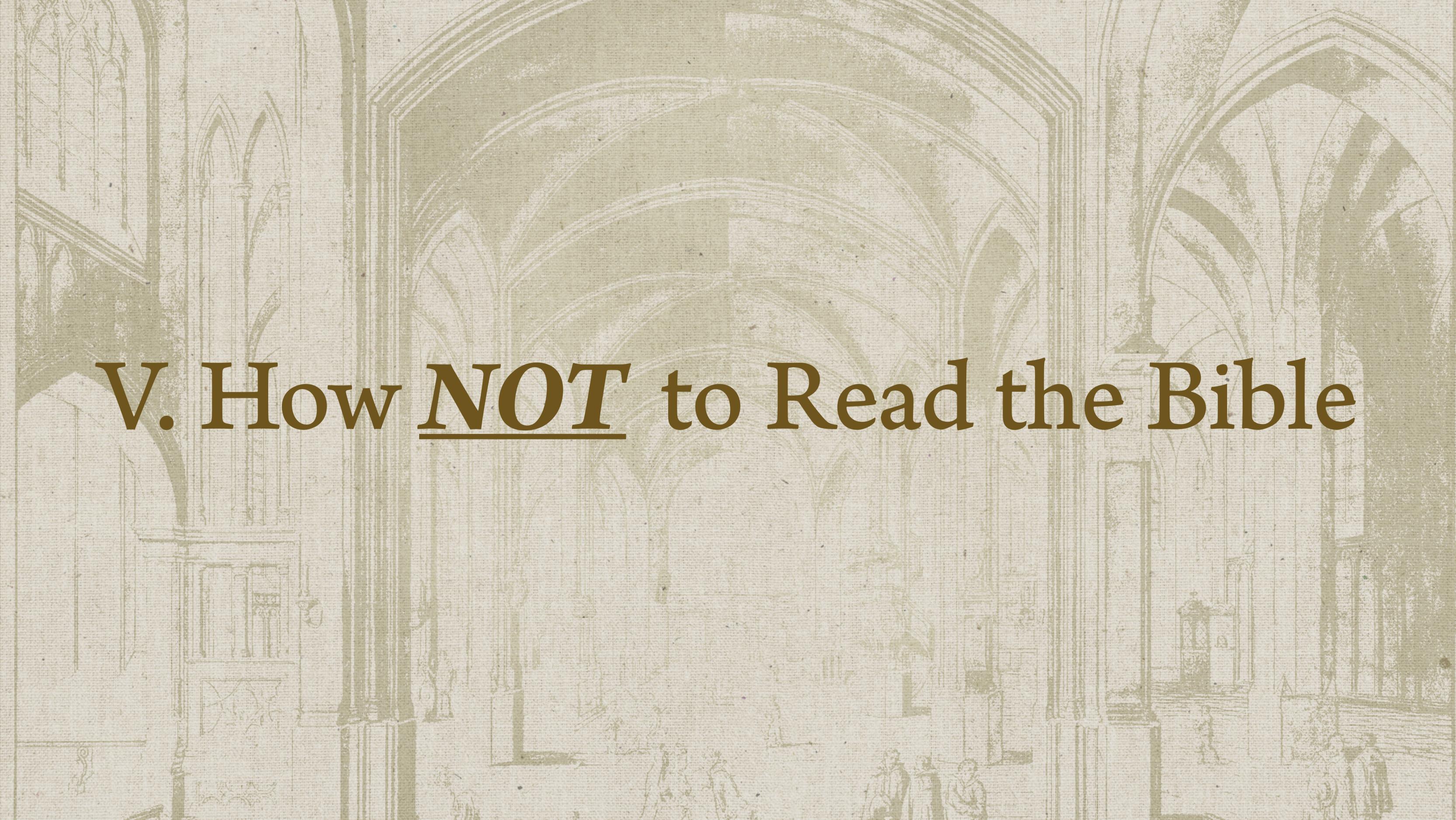
- Two major sections: Old Testament and New Testament.
- Old Testament:
 - Pentateuch
 - Historical Books
 - Wisdom Books
 - Prophetic Books



IV. How to Read the Bible

- New Testament:
 - Gospels
 - NT History
 - Epistles
 - Apocalyptic



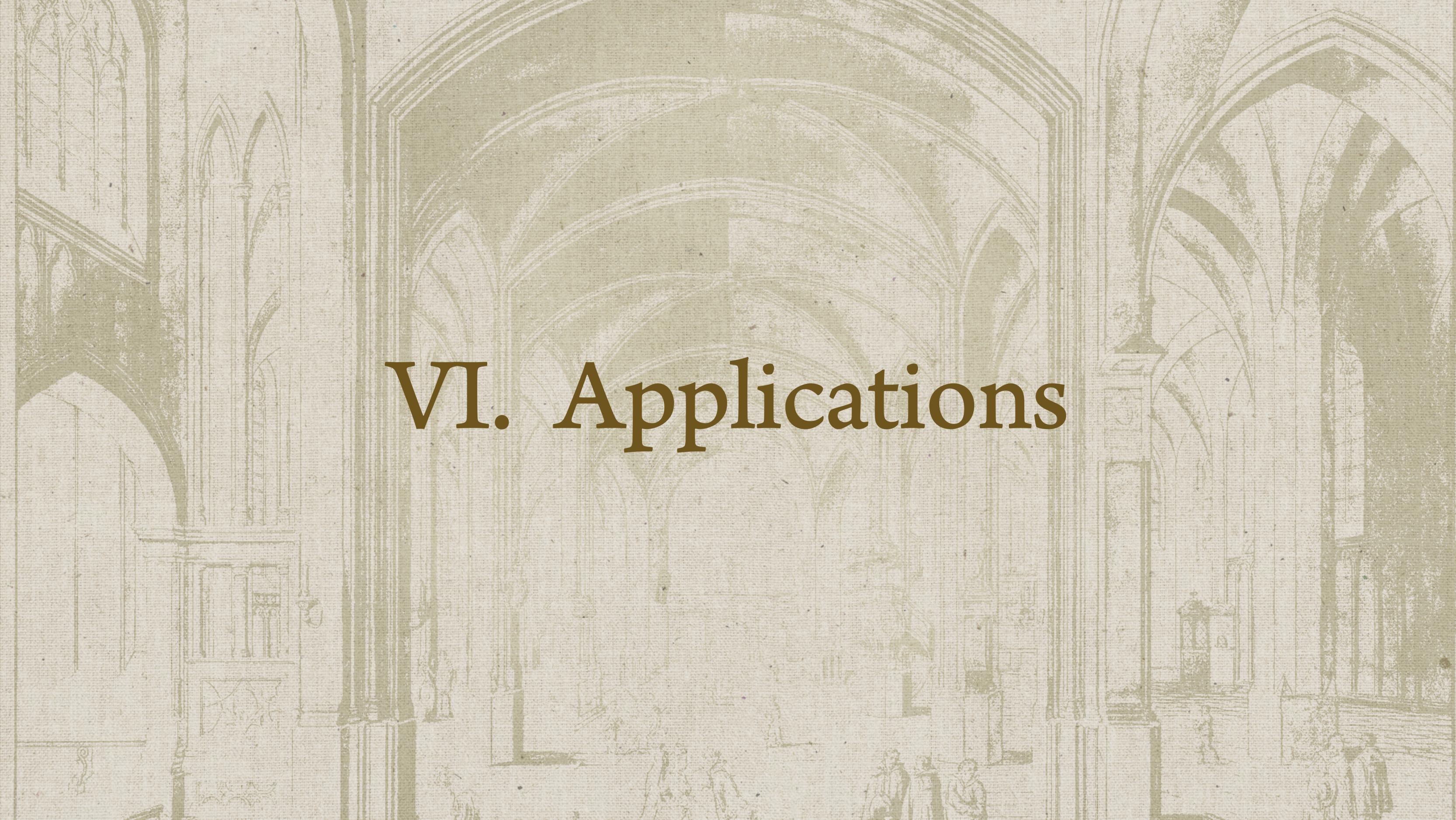


V. How *NOT* to Read the Bible

V. How NOT to Read the Bible

- Inspirational (Popcorn Approach)
- Therapeutic (Xanax Approach)
- Mystical (Magic 8-Ball Approach)
- Jesus Only (Red Letters Approach)
- NT Only (Picky Eater Approach)



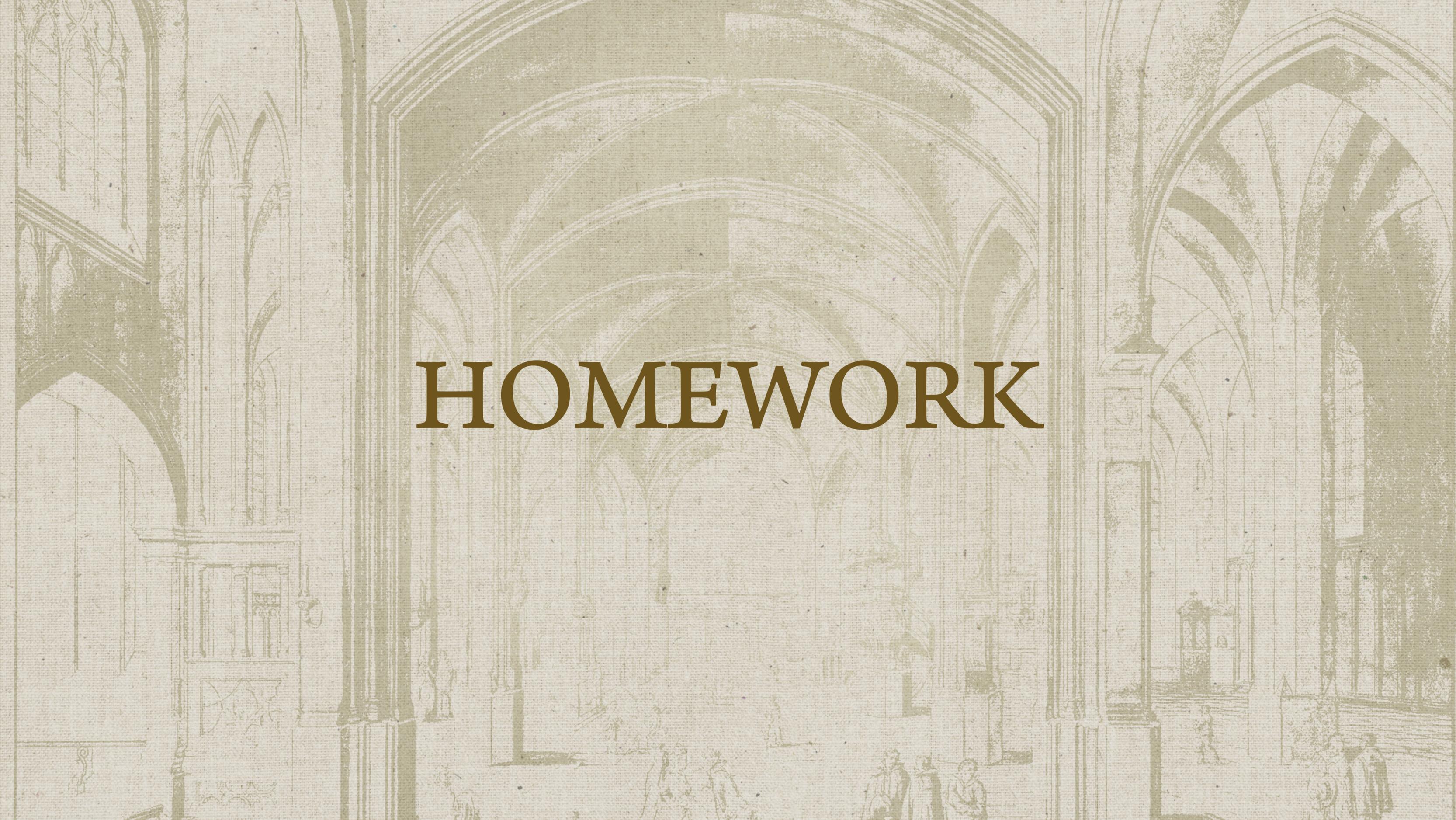


VI. Applications

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- Read the Bible to commune with God.
- Read the Bible consistently.
- Read the Bible in community.





HOMework

Homework

1. Read Hebrews 1 using the One-to-One Bible Reading method. Come prepared to share about your experience.
2. Read the Nicene and Athanasian creeds this week with an eye to the idea of the doctrine of the Trinity, and be prepared to discuss the content of the creeds when you arrive next week.



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