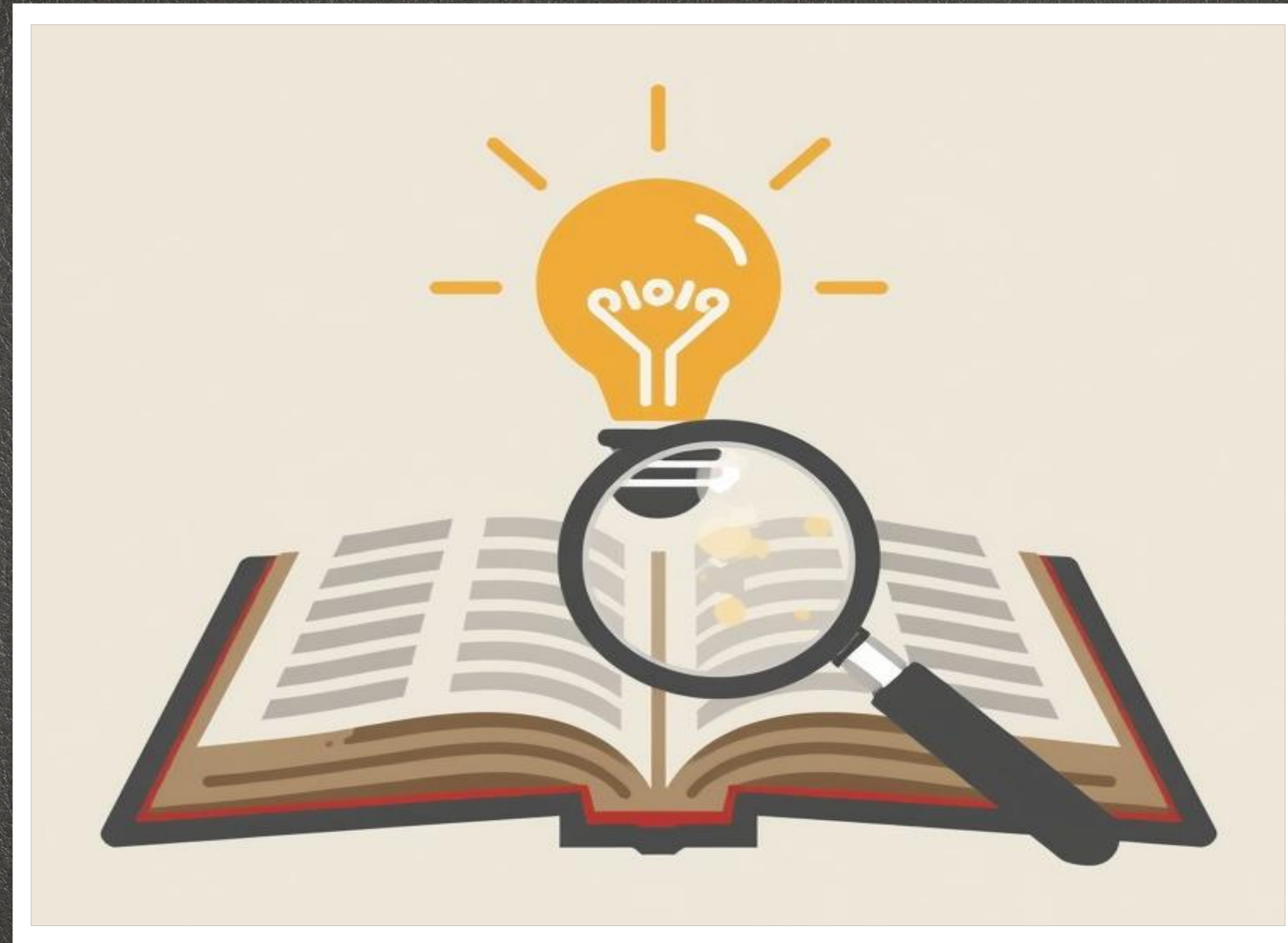


HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S1)

Divine Inspiration
Deeper Understanding
Spiritual Growth



The big word
for this is called
“HERMENEUTICS”

The Inductive Bible Study Method

- Goal- For you to develop your **comprehension, capabilities, and confidence** in reading and understand the Bible.

What we will be covering?

I. **PREPARATION** FOR THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY
METHOD AND HERMENEUTICS (Approx. 3-4 weeks)

II. **PRINCIPLES** FOR THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY
METHOD AND HERMENEUTICS (Approx. 3-4 weeks)

III. **PRACTICING** THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY
METHOD AND PROPER HERMENEUTICS (Approx. 3-4 weeks)

Why should YOU read, study, apply, and memorize the Bible?

- Psa 119:9-16 (focus on v. 9-11)
- Matt 4:1-4 (focus on v. 4)
- John 17:1, 14-19 (focus on v. 17)
- 2 Tim 3:10-17 (focus on v. 16-17)
- 1 Peter 1:22-2:5 (focus on v. 2:2)

What are some things that make reading and understanding the Bible hard to do?

- 1. Historical Background/ Time
- 2. Culture and Setting
- 3. Geographical Location/ Places of Events
- 4. Literature Types- Genre of Writing
- 5. Being Spiritual and Supernatural
- 6. Original Languages of the Bible
- 7. Understanding the big picture Redemptive History
- 8. Spiritual Maturity
- 9. Overall Bible Knowledge
- 10. Translations & Translators

What are some helpful books and tools we can use in our study and reading of the Bible to help with some of these difficulties?

- 1. Bible Encyclopedias/ Dictionaries
- 2. Bible Background Reference Books
- 3. Commentaries
- 4. Word Study Books/Tools-English-Greek-Hebrew
- 5. Understanding the Bible in 30 Days
- 6. What thru the Bible/ Bible Survey Books
- 7. Bible Handbooks,
- 8. Concordances
- 9. Bible Atlas/ Maps
- 10. Bible Difficulty books

The “Why” This Is Important To Know

2 Timothy 2:15 (14-19)

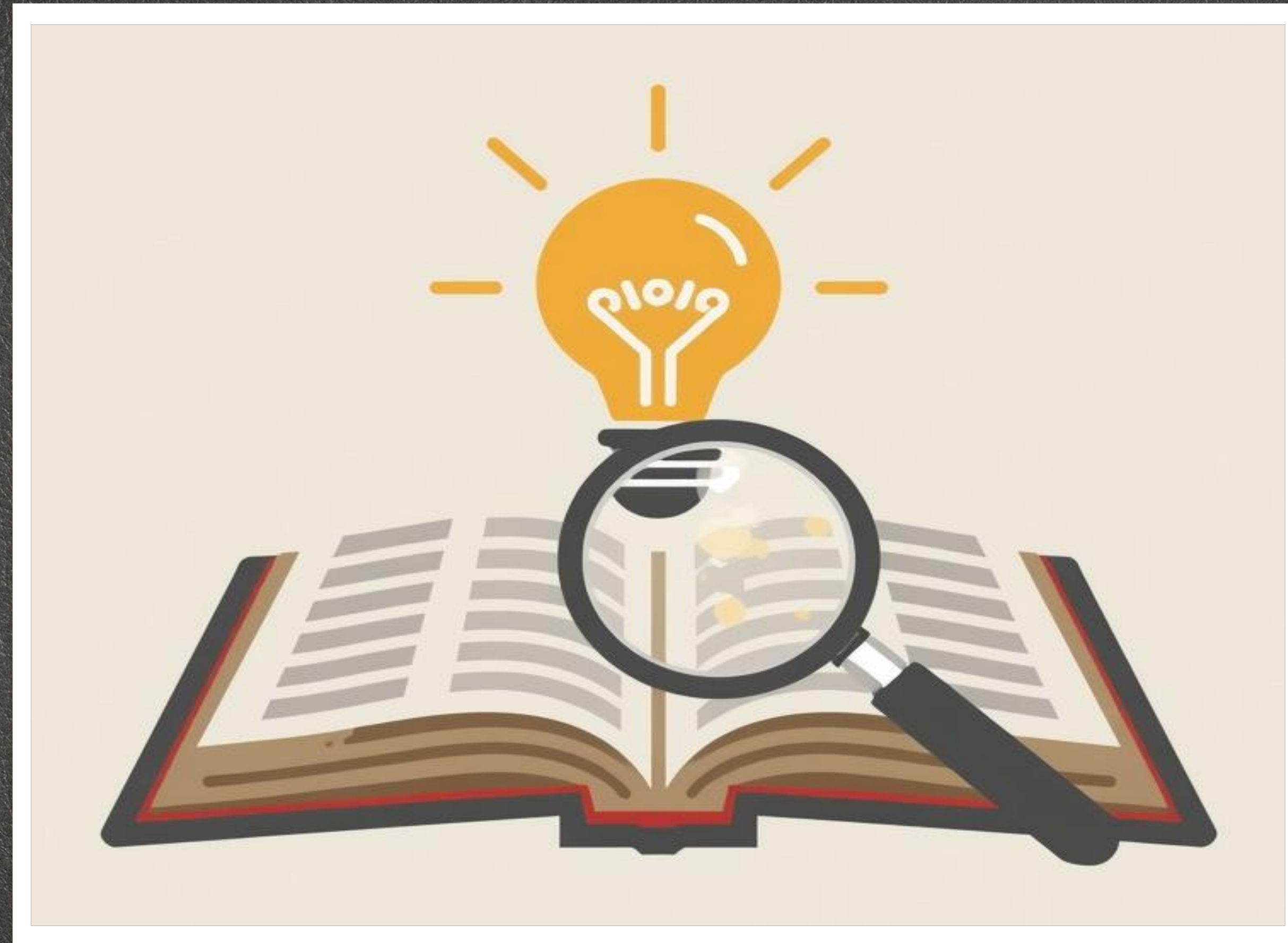
What is the charge in this passage?

What are the two warning warnings given?

2 Timothy 2:15 (14-19): Correct Handling Is Required

HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S2)

Divine Inspiration
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I.B.S.: DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

1. HERMENEUTICS:

IS “THE ART AND SCIENCE OF BIBLICAL
INTERPRETATION.”

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

2. EXEGESIS:

is the process of drawing out the meaning of a word or passage directly from the biblical text itself (“ex” means “to lead out”).

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

3. EISEGESIS:

is the practice of reading a person's own ideas or meaning into a passage of Scripture rather than drawing the meaning from the text itself ("eis" means "to lead into").

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

4. **PRESUPPOSITIONS:**

are the ideas, beliefs, cultural influences, and personal experiences we bring with us when reading and interpreting the Bible.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

5. **INTERPRETATION:**

is the process of determining the original meaning of a passage of Scripture as intended by biblical author for the original audience.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

NORMAL LANGUAGE (LITERAL) INTERPRETATION:

This aspect of sound interpretation seeks to understand the meaning of words, sentences, and paragraphs according to their ordinary and normal use in everyday language.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

LITERARY:

This aspect of sound interpretation considers the different types of literature and figures of speech found in the Bible.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

GRAMMATICAL:

This aspect of sound interpretation pays close attention to the meaning and structure of words, sentences, clauses, and paragraphs.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

HISTORICAL:

This aspect of sound interpretation seeks to understand the culture and historical setting in which the biblical author wrote to the original audience.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

CONTEXTUAL:

This aspect of sound interpretation holds that a passage of Scripture must be understood within its full context.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

AUTHORIAL INTENT:

The focus of sound interpretation seeks to determine and explain the original meaning the biblical author intended to communicate.

TWO KEY PHRASES

to keep in mind when reading, studying, & interpreting the Bible.

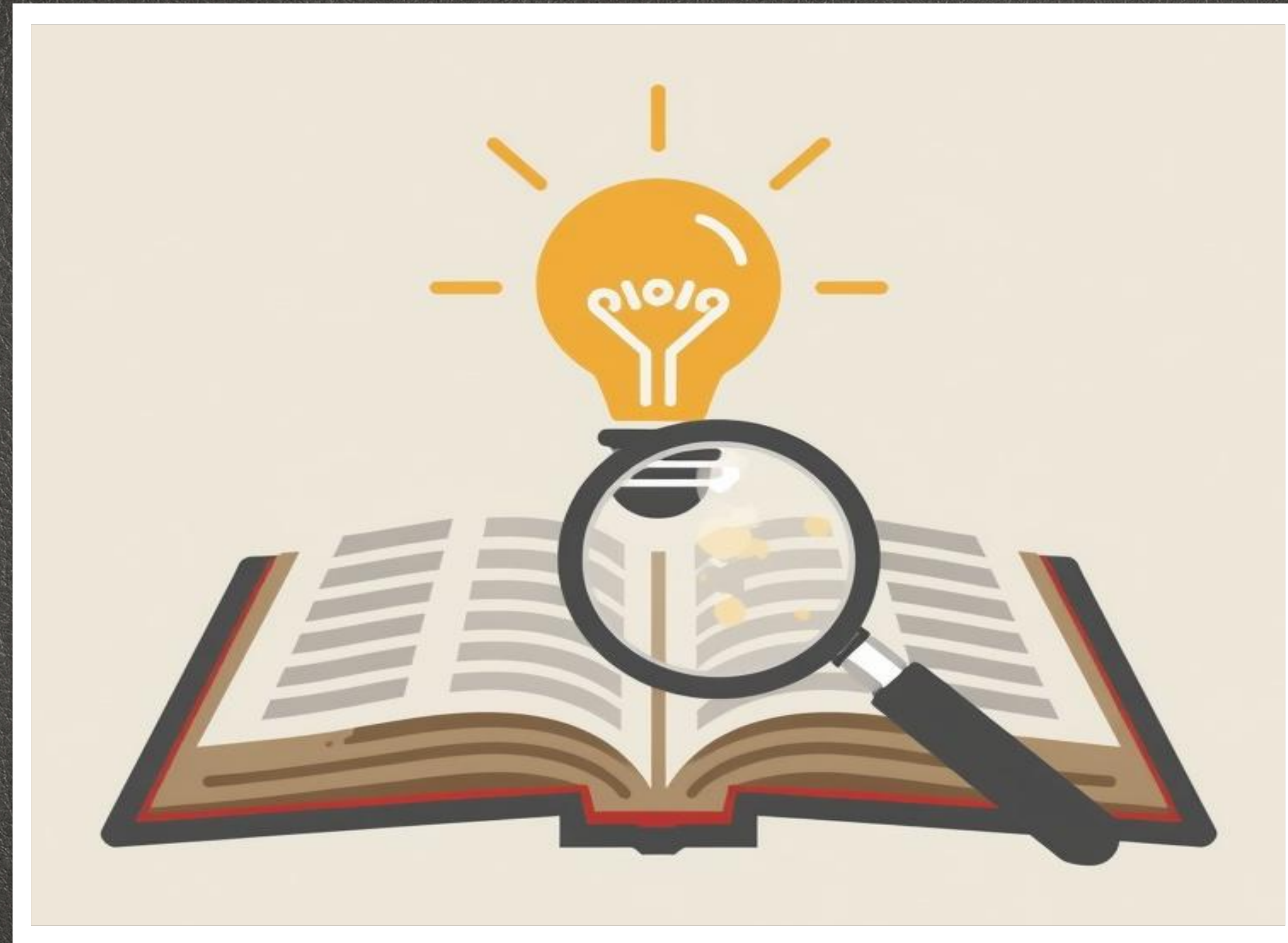
1. **CONTEXT IS KING!**
2. **IF THE COMMON SENSE MAKES SENSE;
THEN SEEK NO OTHER SENSE.**

Biblical Examples of Reading, Observing, Interpreting, Applying, and Communicating Scripture

- **Ezra 7:10 & Nehemiah 8:1-8**
- **Acts 8:25-39**
- **Acts 17:10-12**

HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S3)

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I.B.S.: BIBLIOLOGY KEY TERMS

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

1. GENERAL REVELATION:

Truths God has made known about Himself to all of people at all times through creation, providence, and conscience.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

2. SPECIAL REVELATION:

Truths God has made known about His Person and purposes to mankind through various means primarily through the Scriptures and Jesus Christ.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

3. PROGRESSIVE REVELATION:

Truths God has made know about His Person and purposes disclosing more and more over a long period of time until the completion of the Bible.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

4. INSPIRATION:

The supernatural work of God where He used numerous men to write the Scriptures (The Bible) who were carried along (superintended) by God the Holy Spirit writing in their own personalities, backgrounds, and styles without error, trustworthy, and authoritatively.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

5. INERRANCY:

Every aspect of the Bible is completely true, accurate, and trustworthy without error in all that it contains and teaches.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

6. INFALLIBILITY:

God's Word is completely trustworthy and free from error. It never misleads or deceives and always accomplishes the purposes God intends.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

7. ILLUMINATION:

The ministry of God the Holy Spirit to help believers know, understand, and embrace what God has said to us in the Bible and its implications for our lives

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

8. INTERPRETATION:

To determine the meaning of a word, verse, and/or passage of the Bible.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

9. THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES:

The Bible is the ultimate authority over the church, believers, and everybody as it has been given to us by God our Creator and King.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

10. THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURES:

The Scriptures contain all that is necessary that has been revealed to us for knowing God, understanding salvation through Jesus Christ, and living in faithful obedience before God and in relationship with others.

DEFINITIONS

Key Terms to Know for Hermeneutics (I.B.S.)

11. THE CANON OF THE SCRIPTURES:

The term means “rule or standard” referring to the 66 books of the Old and New Testament that passed the high standards of testing set to confirm and recognize these books as God’s Holy Word for Christians as the authority for faith and practice.



2 TIMOTHY 2:15

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION



HERMENEUTICS

The overarching principles and theory of interpretation, providing the framework and rules for understanding the biblical text.

EXEGESIS

The critical explanation and analysis of the text to discover the original intended meaning of the author. Drawing meaning OUT from the text.



EISEGESIS

The incorrect practice of reading one's own meaning INTO the text, often imposing personal beliefs, biases, or preconceived notions onto the passage.

PRESUPPOSITIONS

The assumptions, beliefs, and prior understandings we bring to the text that influence our interpretation. Acknowledging and examining our "baggage" is crucial.



INTERPRETATION



The process of explaining the meaning of the Biblical text about the original authorial intent for the original audience.

REVIEW

Bibliology: The Study of the Bible



Inspiration

The Holy Spirit superintended the human authors to record God's Word.



Revelation

God's disclosure of Himself through Creation, Providence, Conscience, and Scripture.



Authority

The Bible is the supreme and final standard of truth for faith and practice.



Canonicity

The process of recognizing which books belong in the Bible.



Inerrancy

The Bible is without error in its original manuscripts.



Preservation

God has kept His Word intact and accurate through the ages.



Illumination

The Holy Spirit enables understanding and application of Scripture.



Interpretation (Hermeneutics)

The principles and methods of understanding the biblical text.

Jesus: A Hermeneutics and Theology Case Study from Matthew 22:23-45

(See Mark 12, Luke 20)

- **Matthew 22:23-33:**
How does Jesus use hermeneutical principles in His answer? Which ones?
- **Matthew 22:34-40:**
How does Jesus use hermeneutical principles in His answer? Which ones?
- **Matthew 22:41-45:**
How does Jesus use hermeneutical principles in His answer? Which ones?

•

EDIFICATION

EXPOSITION
(With exhortation)

HOMILETICS OR PEDAGOGY
(Principles for
communicating the content)

**THEOLOGICAL
CORRELATION**

**PERSONAL
APPLICATION**

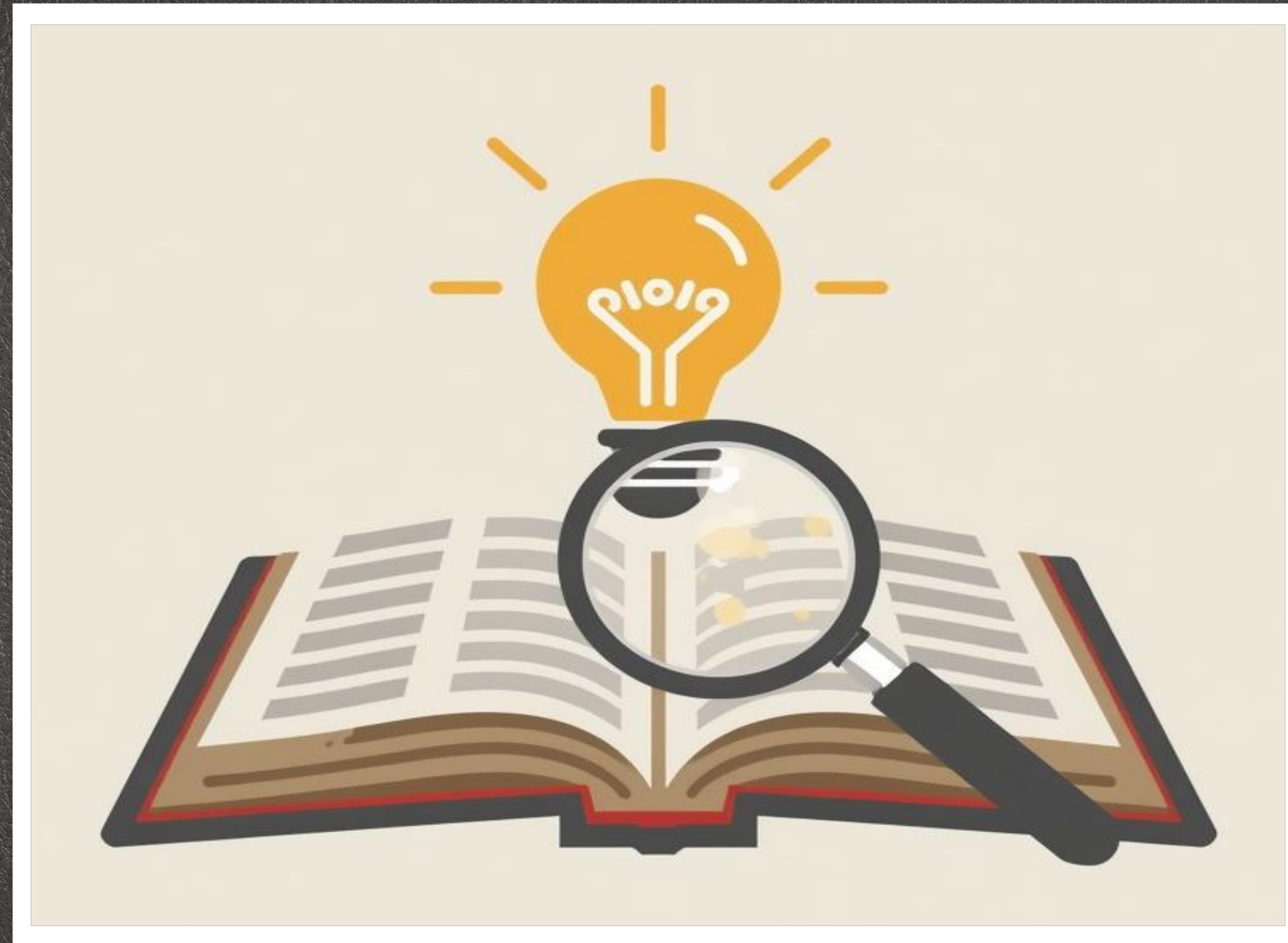
EXEGESIS
(Comprehending the content)

OBSERVATION
(Seeing the content)

HERMENEUTICS
(Principles for
comprehending the content)

HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S4)

Divine Inspiration
Deeper Understanding
Spiritual Growth



The big word
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I.B.S.: OVERVIEW THE
INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Three Steps in the Inductive Bible Study Method

- 1. **OBSERVATION** (Examine)
 - What does the text say? -What are the facts? -What do you see?
- 2. **INTERPRETATION** (Explain)
 - What does the text mean? -What did it mean when written?
- 3. **APPLICATION** (Edify)
 - How does the meaning of the text apply to life? -What should I do?
 - Where does the truth(s) or principle(s) involve change, growth, and maturity in my walk?
- Bonus: **COMMUNICATION** (Education)
 - Sharing what you learned with others -Sharing how it has impacted your life

INDUCTIVE

Bible Study Method



Discover truth for yourself by letting the Bible speak.

1



OBSERVATION *(What does it say?)*

- Read the passage carefully and prayerfully.
- Look for key words, phrases, and details.
- Ask the basic questions:

WHO?

WHAT?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WHY?

HOW?

2



INTERPRETATION *(What does it mean?)*

- Determine the original meaning of the passage.
- Consider the context: literary, historical, cultural, and grammatical.
- Ask what the author intended to communicate to the original audience.

3



APPLICATION *(How does it apply to me?)*

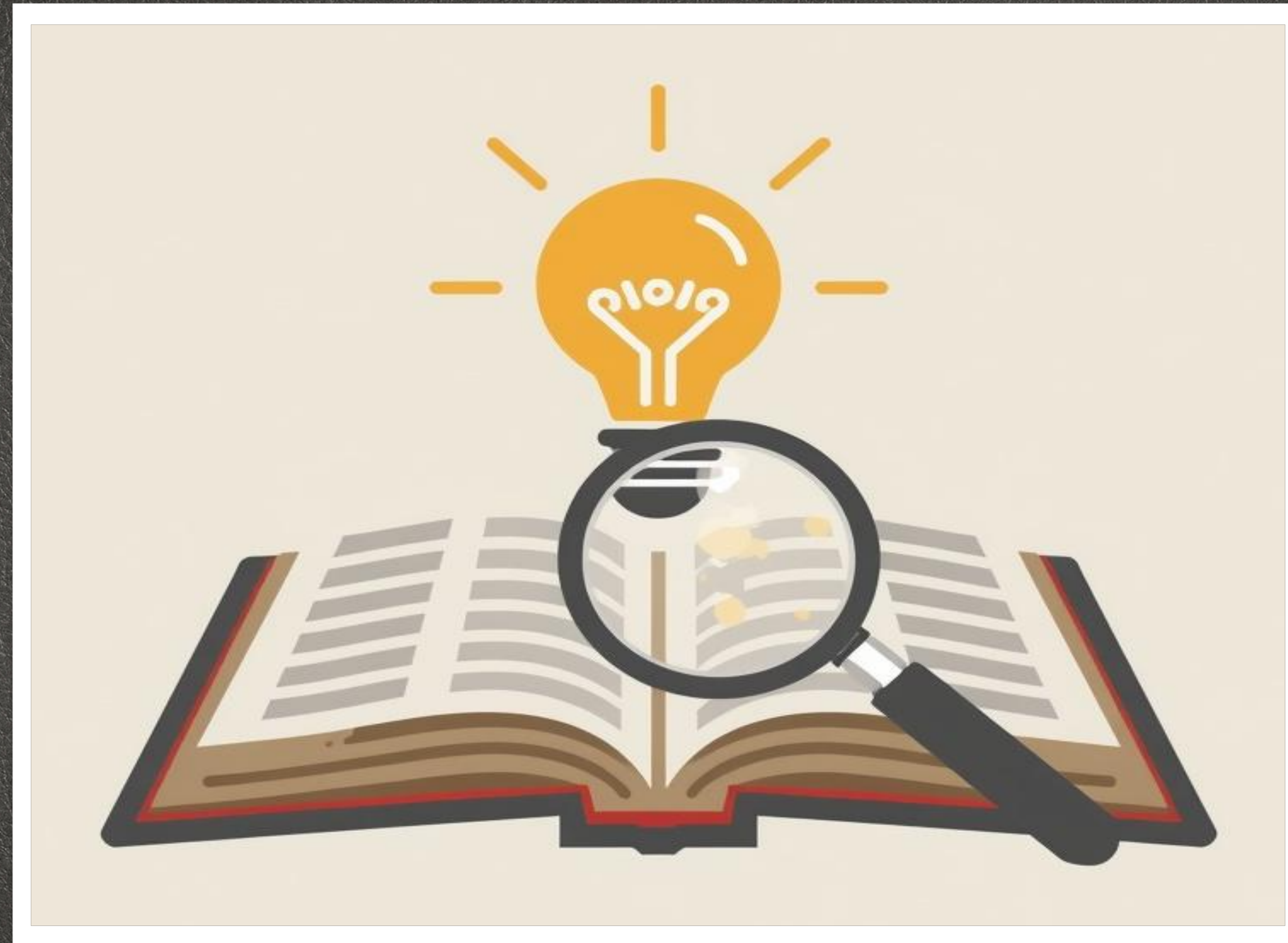
- Identify timeless principles and truths.
- Reflect on how the passage applies to your life today.
- Make it personal and practical—respond in faith and obedience.



Observe carefully. Interpret accurately. Apply intentionally. Grow spiritually.

HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S4)

Divine Inspiration
Deeper Understanding
Spiritual Growth



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“HERMENEUTICS”

I.B.S.: **OBSERVATION**

OBSERVATION

Biblical SCI (Careful Scripture Investigators): Collecting all the details and information

WHO?

- Who are the main characters? Who are the minor characters?
- Who is being acted upon? Who is doing the action?
- Who is the writer? Who is the audience?
- Who is God? Who is David? Who are the key people? Who are they?
- _____? _____?

OBSERVATION

Biblical SCI (Careful Scripture Investigators): Collecting all the details and information

WHAT?

- What is said? What has been done?
- What does this word mean? What are the commands given?
- What are the (main) verbs and nouns? What is the tenses used?
- What is the historical background of the book? What is the context?
- _____? _____?

OBSERVATION

Biblical SCI (Careful Scripture Investigators): Collecting all the details and information

WHEN?

- When was it written? When did the event(s) happen?
- When was it told? When was it commanded?
- When is this taking place in the Biblical history?
- When is the conflict happen? When was there resolution?
- _____? _____?

OBSERVATION

Biblical SCI (Careful Scripture Investigators): Collecting all the details and information

WHERE?

- Where did it take place? Where was it written?
- Where is the writer from? Where are the characters from?
- Where is it placed in the book? Where is the audience (P/S) from?
- Where is the action supposed to take place? Where is the conflict?
- _____? _____?

OBSERVATION

Biblical SCI (Careful Scripture Investigators): Collecting all the details and information

WHY?

- Why was the action done? Why was it written?
- Why are the commands given? Why did this happen?
- Why are the warnings given? Why is there conflict?
- Why was this comment made? Why is this word(s) used?
- _____? _____?

OBSERVATION

Biblical SCI (Careful Scripture Investigators): Collecting all the details and information

HOW?

- How did the action happen? How did the issue get resolved?
- How did things work out? How did the problem or conflict start?
- How many people are involved? How does this affect others?
- _____? _____?



How would one look at or observe a diamond?

- a everyday person
- a everyday person but likes diamond
- a gemologist

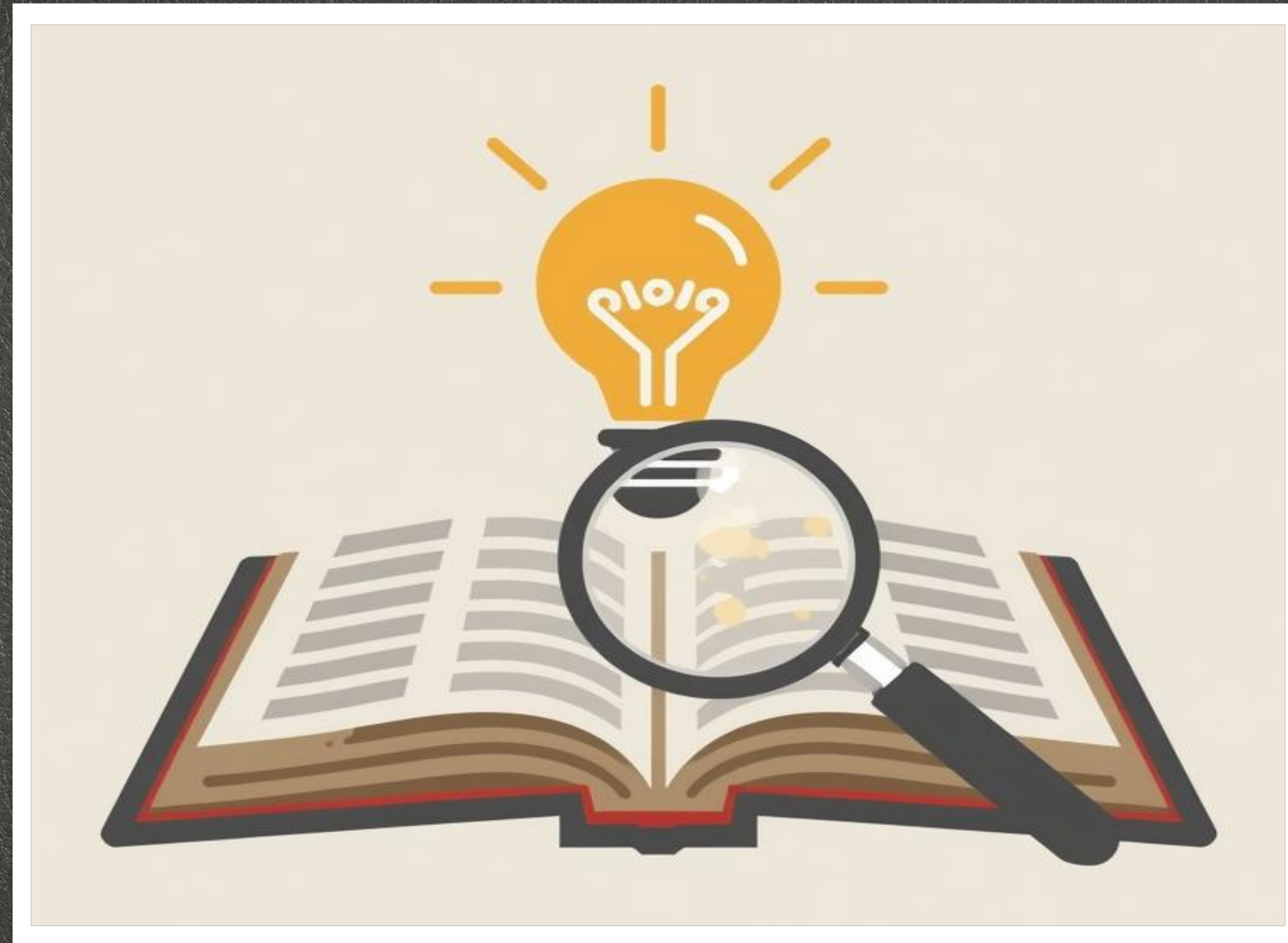
Let us consider how one would observe a valuable diamond to that of observing Scripture.

Now, Let us Practice Observation

Turn to page 19

HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S4)

Divine Inspiration
Deeper Understanding
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I.B.S.: **INTERPRETATION**

INTERPRETATION

- Analyze the Information to Determine the Meaning that God through the Human Author Intended

**Principles to
Remember
and to Follow
When
Interpreting
the Bible**



Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

1. “**Context is king!**” Proper interpretation of Scripture depends on understanding the context of a passage. Interpretation begins with a word or verse and expands outward to include the sentence, paragraph, chapter, book, Testament, and ultimately the Bible as a whole.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

2. **Let the Bible speak for itself** through exegesis. Be careful not to bring your own ideas, experiences, or the opinions of others into a passage in a way that changes its original meaning (eisegesis). Personal experiences may help deepen our understanding of Scripture, but they should never determine its meaning.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

3. Interpret Scripture according to the **normal language** meaning of words and phrases, using the grammatical and historical context within the sentence, paragraph, and passage. *If the common sense makes sense, then seek no other sense.*

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

4. Seek to understand the original **intent** of the **author** as written to the original audience. God is the ultimate Author of Scripture, working through human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

5. **Never read a Bible verse by itself.** Never interpret a single verse of Scripture in isolation. Always read it within its immediate context, at a minimum including the surrounding paragraph. .

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

6. **Identify the literary form** of the passage and apply the appropriate interpretive principles. Different genres—such as poetry, narrative, parables, letters (epistles), and figures of speech—follow different reading conventions and should be interpreted accordingly.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

7. Understand the **historical and cultural background**, along with the setting and context, of the book, passage, and verse in order to interpret it accurately.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

8. Remember that the original biblical writings did not **include chapter or verse divisions**; these were added later to help with navigation. Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to read across chapter and verse breaks in order to understand the full flow and meaning of a passage.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

9. **Determine whether a passage is descriptive or prescriptive**. Basically, is it describing what happened, or is it instructing what should be done? Narrative passages are generally descriptive, not automatically normative.

Examples like church discipline with Ananias and Saphira or a reluctant missionary's discipline in Jonah and the great fish.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

10. Remember **progressive revelation** in which God has revealed His truth gradually over time throughout biblical history, from Genesis to Revelation. When studying a book of the Bible, it is important to consider where it fits within this unfolding timeline of Scripture. God has revealed more over time.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

11. **Unity of Scripture** principle: Scripture does not contradict itself because it is a unified revelation from God. Therefore, clearer passages of Scripture should be used to help interpret and understand less clear passages.

Caution: Some Christians change this idea to suggest that the New Testament can override or reinterpret the Old Testament in ways that disregard its original meaning. (See #13)

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

12. **Ignorance**: There will be passages in Scripture **we do not immediately understand**. In these cases, we should focus on what is clear and known, rather than forcing an interpretation of what is unclear. Difficult passages can be revisited later as we grow in understanding and seek help from study tools and others.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

13. **Passage Priority**. The interpretation and meaning of a passage of Scripture is found in that passage. The Old and New Testaments are equally God breathed and one does not override the meaning of the other.

Principles to Remember and to Follow When Interpreting the Bible

14. **Ask** God to help you develop these skills and understand these principles. Ask the Holy Spirit to **help** illuminate and interpret the truths of Scripture and embrace them. This take time and effort. Give yourself grace.

Now, Let us Practice Interpretation

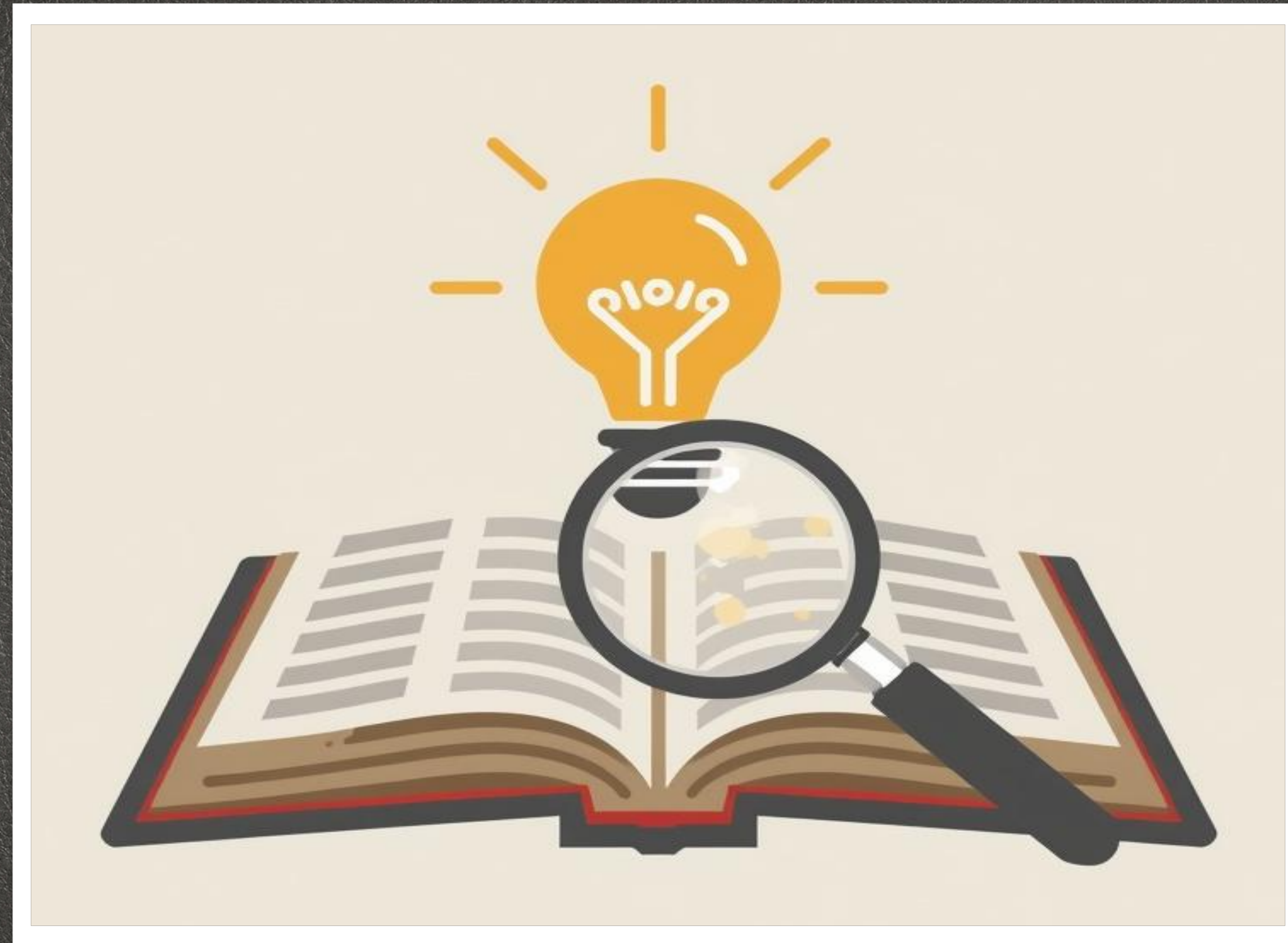
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**Now, Let us Practice both
Observation and Interpretation**

Turn to page 20

HOW DO I READ, STUDY, AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? (S4)

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I.B.S.: APPLICATION

APPLICATION

- Putting Biblical Truths to Practice

APPLICATION

A. This is where **the concept of principles** becomes important. A principle is a universal and timeless truth for living biblically that applies to all people in every generation.

APPLICATION

B. There are three general types of application questions you can ask when studying Scripture:

HEAD — Is there something I need to know, learn, remember, or renew in my thinking?

HEART — Is there an attitude, desire, emotion, or area of self-control that needs to change?

HANDS — Is there an action I need to take, avoid, continue, or grow in more faithfully?

Application is the final step in the I.B.S. method and is essential for spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God. We are called to have a childlike faith that trusts and obeys God's Word, not a childish faith that is immature and unwilling to trust or follow the Lord.

