

We believe discipleship is a direction  
not a destination.



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**Living by The Book**  
**Learn to Read & Study the Bible**

# Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **OBSERVATION**

- ~~Week 5 Six Things To Look For (CH 18-23)~~

- ~~Week 6 What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)~~

- **INTERPRETATION**

- ~~Week 7 Interpretation Intro (CH 27-29)~~

- **Week 8 Five Keys to Interpretation (CH 30-34)**

- **Week 9 Don't Stop (CH 35-38)**



# Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- **Week 11** Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



# Homework

- Read Jonah
  - List all the characters
    - Do you like/dislike them? Why?
    - What roles do they play
    - What decisions do they make
    - How do they relate to each other
    - Do they fail? Why?



Character	Do you like/dislike them? Why?	What roles do they play	What decisions do they make	How do they relate to each other	Do they fail? Why?
Jonah					
Sailors					
King					
People of Nineveh					
???					
???					



# Understanding

- “Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all my heart” Psalm 119:34
- We desire to be changed into the image of Christ
  - This is the goal of Bible study
    - The application of what we have read and learned
  - But we need to understand what we are reading
  - This is the key to application, understanding or
    - Interpretation



# Five Keys To Interpretation

- Content
- Context
- Comparison
- Culture
- Consultation



# Content

Chapter 30





# The First Key “Content”

- Content is the first half of this book
  - Observation – What do I see
- We have gathered the facts
  - Who, What, Where, When, Wherefore
  - Structure, Literary Form, Atmosphere
  - Things, emphasized, repeated, related, alike, unlike, and true to life



# You Have Answered

- What do I see
- The BIG question is...
  - How well did you observe
- How well you observe will determine
  - How well you will interpret



# Context

Chapter 31



# What Context Can Do

- For I know the plans I have for you”—this is the LORD’s declaration—“plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11
  - This is a beautiful promise from God to us, right?



# What Context Can Do

- For this is what the LORD says: “When seventy years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm my promise concerning you to restore you to this place. Jeremiah 29:10
  - This was a promise to the Israelites of the time
  - It shows us Gods love and character
  - But it is not a promise to us



# What Context Can Do

- Wives, submit, to your husbands as to the Lord,  
Ephesians 5:22
- Clear here, right?
  - Women submit, Man in charge
- submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.  
Ephesians 5:21
- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her  
Ephesians 5:25



# When Out of Context

- When we read our Bible out of context
  - Trouble follows
  - Future misunderstandings come
  - Bad interpretation is done



# Kinds of Context

- Literary Context
- Historical Context
- Cultural Context
- Geographic Context
- Theological Context





# Literary Context

- This is taking a verse out of a paragraph
  - We must place the verse
    - In the paragraph
    - In the chapter
    - In the book
    - In the Bible



# Historical Context

- When is this taking place?
- Where does this passage fit in history?
  - What else was taking place in the world at this time?
  - What were some of the:
    - Social, Political, and Technological influences
    - On the writer
    - And those he was writing to/about



# Cultural Context

- Culture plays a huge role on how things are
  - Communicated
  - Read
  - Felt
- We will cover this in depth in chapter 33



# Geographic Context

- What was the terrain like?
- What was the weather like?
- How far was this town from other places?
- What were the transportation routes for these people?
- What size city was this?
- What was the layout of this town?
- What was this location known for?



# Theological Context

- What did this author know about God?
  - What did Noah know of God compared to Paul?
  - Does it make a difference?
- What was the relationship of his readers to God?
- How did people worship Him at that point?
  - Temple, wilderness, freeform?



# Theological Context

- How much Scripture did the writer and his audience have access to?
  - Remember the Bible took thousands of years to write
  - During that time only some or none was available
- What other religions and worldviews were competing for influence?



# Comparison

Chapter 32



# Sola Scriptura

- Sola Scriptura— Scripture alone is our final authority for faith and practice
  - This was a rallying cry during the Protestant Reformation
  - This put the scriptures back in the hands of normal people





# Warning!

- Private interpretation never meant that individuals have the right to distort the Scriptures. With the right of private interpretation comes the sober responsibility of accurate interpretation. Private interpretation gives us license to interpret, not to distort.



# Avoiding Distortion

- So how do I avoid distorting the scriptures?
  - First method was Content and Context
- Now is Comparison
  - We must always compare Scripture to Scripture
  - What does the Bible have to say about itself
- How to do I compare the Bible?
  - A good Concordance



# What is a Concordance

- An alphabetical list of the words (especially the important ones) present in a text, usually with citations of the passages in which they are found.
- With a concordance you can put together things that appear isolated or alone
  - You can compare a words usage in multiple places to better understand that words meaning



# Example

- Believe is a word we use a lot in Christianese
  - Where is Believe used in the Bible?
  - Does it mean the same thing everywhere?
  - To the Concordance



# Belief in a Concordance

- John 1:50 Jesus responded to him, “Do you **believe** because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.”
- John 2:11 Jesus **did this**, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples **believed** in him.
- John 2:22 So when **he was** raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they **believed** the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.
- John 2:23 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many **believed** in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.
- John 2:24 Jesus, however, would not **entrust** himself to them, since he knew them all
- **John 3:12** If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you **believe** if I tell you about heavenly things?
- John 3:15 so that everyone who **believes** in him may have eternal life.



# John 2:23–25

<sup>23</sup> While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many **believed** in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. <sup>24</sup> Jesus, however, would not **entrust** himself to them, since he knew them all <sup>25</sup> and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.

John 2:23–25



# John 2:23–25

<sup>23</sup> While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. <sup>24</sup> Jesus, however, would not ~~entrust himself to~~ [believe in] them, since he knew them all <sup>25</sup> and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.

John 2:23–25



# That's Weird

- That's weird, why are those words translated different?
  - To make it easier for us to understand what is happening
- There is word play happening here
  - The people believed in Jesus' power to heal
  - But they did not "believe" in Christ as their savior
- Jesus did not believe in their belief, it was not real





# Another Form of Comparative Study

- Biographical
  - We can look at a person in scriptures
  - Are they just in one place? Multiple?
    - Where are they found? What are they doing?
- Take Moses
  - Where all is Moses in the Bible?
    - Everywhere, almost 3,000 times



# Moses Highlighted Sections

- Ex 2:1–22 Now a man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son; when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with...
- Ex 3:1–22 Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. As Moses...
- Ex 7:1–13 The Lord answered Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet. You must say whatever I command you; then Aaron your brother must declare it to Pharaoh so that he will let the Israelites go from his land. But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart and multiply...
- Ex 34:29–35 As Moses descended from Mount Sinai—with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands as he descended the mountain—he did not realize that the skin of his face shone as a result of his speaking with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of...
- Le 8:1–13 The Lord spoke to Moses: “Take Aaron, his sons with him, the garments, the anointing oil, the bull of the sin offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread, and assemble the whole community at the entrance to the tent of meeting.” So...
- Nu 11:16–30 The Lord answered Moses, “Bring me seventy men from Israel known to you as elders and officers of the people. Take them to the tent of meeting and have them stand there with you. Then I will come down and speak with you there. I will take some of the Spirit who is on you...
- Nu 12:3–8 Moses was a very humble man, more so than anyone on the face of the earth. Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “You three come out to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them went out. Then the Lord descended in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the tent, and summoned...
- Dt 34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which faces Jericho, and the Lord showed him all the land: Gilead as far as Dan, all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev,...
- Lk 9:30–33 Suddenly, two men were talking with him—Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were in a deep sleep, and when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who...
- Ac 7:22–25 So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his speech and actions. “When he was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. When he saw one of them being mistreated, he came to his rescue and avenged the oppressed man by striking...



# Notice

- Moses is focused mainly in Exodus
  - This would be a good place to focus our time
- But also notice Moses is in the new testament
  - But he has been dead a LONG time, why is he there
    - Maybe we should spend some time there to



# Culture

Chapter 33



# Why is Culture So Important?

- It provides context to what you see and read
- Think about smoking in the past
  - Smoking in the house, at work, in the car was normal
- What do people say about this now?
  - It is bad and hurts those around you
  - When we see pictures of this behavior in movies what do we think?
    - Why did they do that?



# Examples

- The Last Supper
  - When we picture a meal, we see a table and chairs
  - But is that how it is described in the Bible?
  - Is what we imagine what really happened?



# 1 Corinthians 8

- Eating meat offered to idols
  - Have you ever run into an issue of whether to eat a steak or not because of where it was killed?
  - That was a cultural issue of the time that doesn't apply anymore, right?
- This is why we should look at this from the cultural perspective of the time



# Paul Is Clear

- About eating food sacrificed to idols, then, we know that “an idol is nothing in the world,” and that “there is no God but one.” 1 Corinthians 8:4
  - There are no other gods so sacrificing to them means nothing
- However, not everyone has this knowledge. Some have been so used to idolatry up until now that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 1 Corinthians 8:7





# Where's The Beef

- The issue
  - Where do you go to get meat
  - Down at the temple, they have a ton of meat that was just “sacrificed”
  - BUT
    - That place is right next to where I use to worship
      - You know, that other god
      - I know it's not a real god but...



# To What Purpose?

- By eating this idol meat, it brings that person back to their old sinful life, their old sinful places
  - It causes them to stumble
  - To remember the “good old days”
  - To be tempted
- Food will not bring us close to God. We are not worse off if we don't eat, and we are not better if we do eat.

1 Corinthians 8:8



# On Second Hand

- Given that cultural perspective, does 1 Corinthians 8 have anything to say to us today?
  - Are there grey areas in modern life?
    - Movies? Music? Drinking? Smoking? Jokes?
- Maybe 1 Corinthians 8 has more to teach us in our modern day than we think
- Understanding the cultural helps us understand the Biblical



# Personal Example

- In my travels I have experienced many different cultures
  - It has prepared me to not assume how things will be
- This is a picture of a celebration dinner in Saudi Arabia after the completion of a big job I lead
- We are sitting on the floor eating, without utensils



# Consultation

Chapter 34



# Secondary Tools

- What is your primary tool in Bible Study?
  - THE BIBLE!
- But there are other resources that can aide you
  - Concordance
  - Bible Dictionary
  - Bible Handbook
  - Atlas
  - Bible Commentaries



# Caution: Never forget the order:

- First the text of Scripture
- Then secondary sources



# Concordance

- What is a concordance
  - It lists all the words of the text alphabetically
  - References for where they appear
  - And a few of the surrounding words to give some context
- Of all the secondary sources this is the first you should get





# Concordance

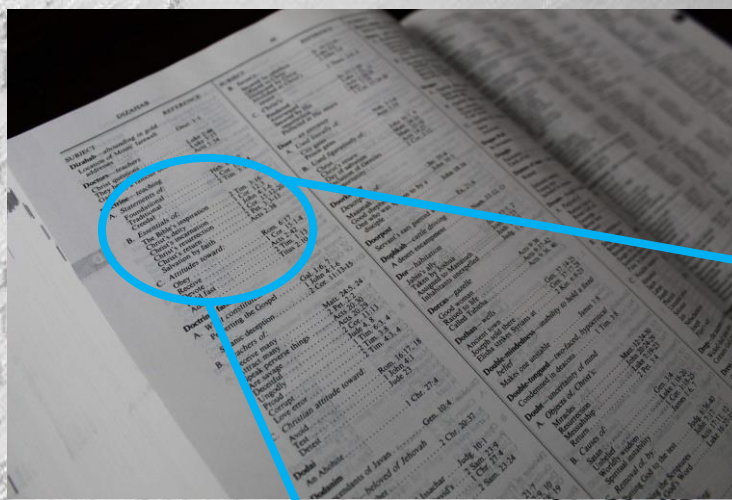
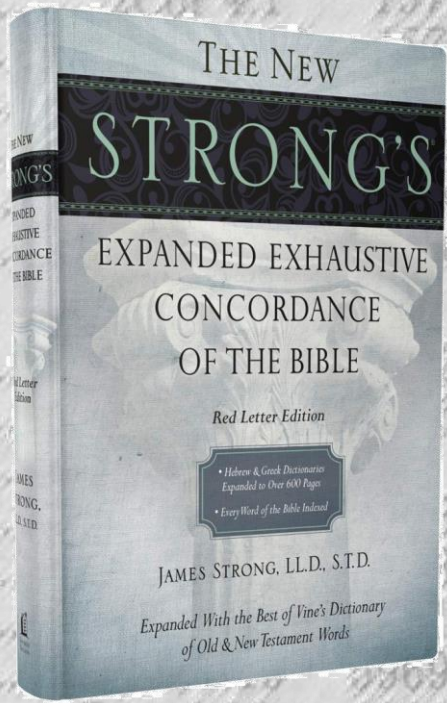
- What is the use of a concordance
  - To do word studies
  - To locate Bible passages you can't remember
- What kind of concordance to get
  - An exhaustive concordance, not abridged
    - This lists everyplace a word is used



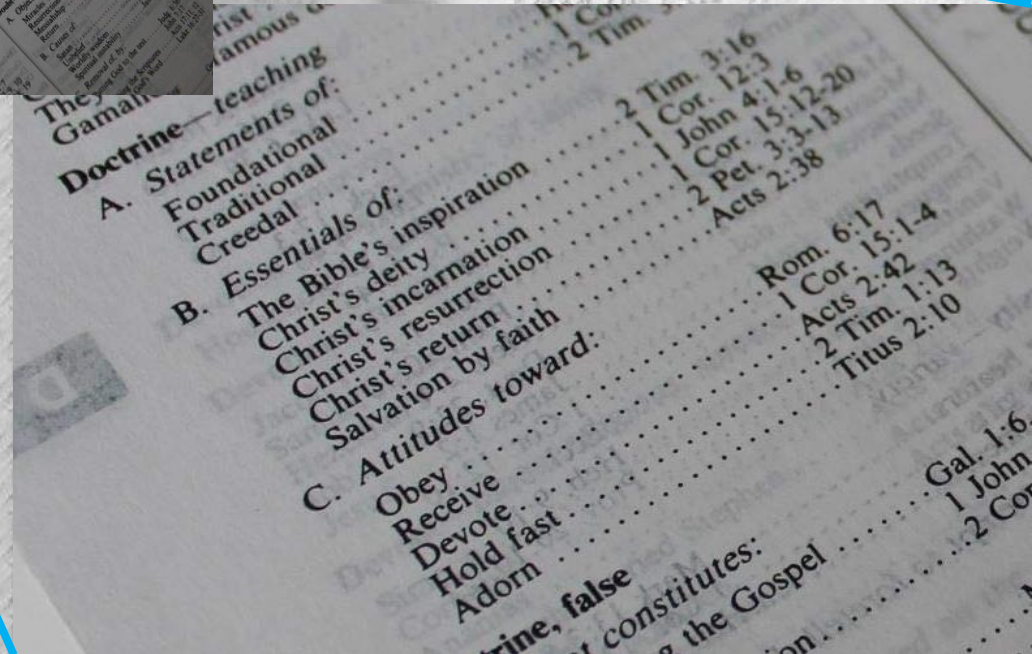
# Concordance Suggestions

- Which one should I get?
  - Strongs exhaustive concordance
  - Youngs exhaustive concordance
- Most Bibles have a concordance specifically made for that translation
  - This is helpful as words may differ slightly based on translation





FAITH {247}	
children in whom is no f.....	Deut 32:20 529
but the just shall live by his f.....	Hab 2:4 530
more clothe you, O ye of little f.....	Mt 6:30 3640
you, I have not found so great f.....	Mt 8:10 4102
are ye fearful, O ye of little f.....	Mt 8:26 3640
Jesus seeing their f said unto.....	Mt 9:2 4102
thy f hath made thee whole.....	Mt 9:22 4102
to your f be it unto you.....	Mt 9:29 4102
said unto him, O thou of little f.....	Mt 14:31 3640
unto her, O woman, great is thy f.....	Mt 15:28 4102
said unto them, O ye of little f.....	Mt 16:8 3640
If ye have f as a grain of.....	Mt 17:20 4102
I say unto you, If ye have f.....	Mt 21:21 4102
of the law, judgment, mercy, and f.....	Mt 23:23 4102
When Jesus saw their f, he said.....	Mk 2:5 4102
how is it that ye have no f.....	Mk 4:40 4102
thy f hath made thee whole.....	Mk 5:34 4102
thy f hath made thee whole.....	Mk 10:52 4102



# Bible Dictionary

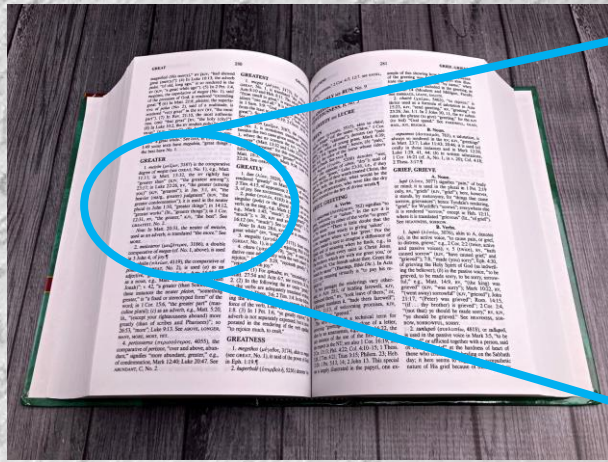
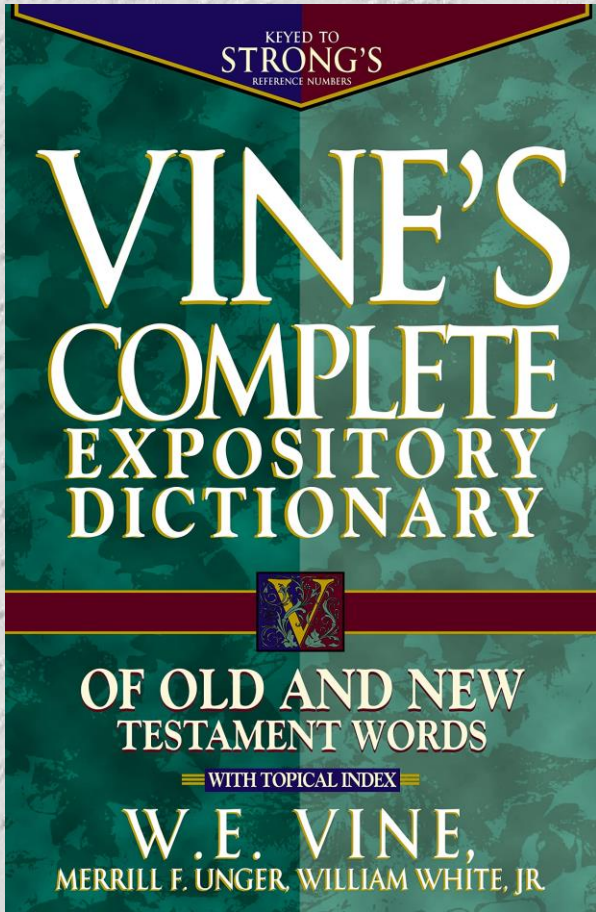
- Why can't I just use good old Websters Dictionary?
  - Bible dictionaries provided information on
    - The subject as related to the Bible
      - Not related to current usage in today's society
    - As it relates to the language it is translated from



# Bible Dictionary Suggestions

- Suggestions
  - An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words by W. E. Vine.
  - The New Bible Dictionary, edited by Dr. J. D. Douglas.



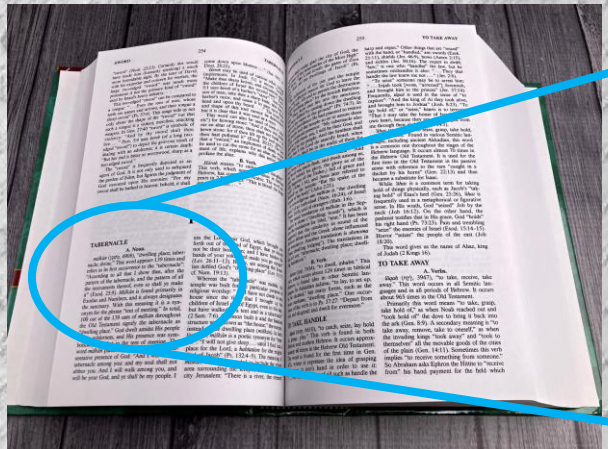


**GREATER**

1. *meizōn* (μεῖζων, 3187) is the comparative degree of *meγas* (see GREAT, No. 1), e.g., Matt. 11:11; in Matt. 13:32, the RV rightly has "greater than" (KJV, "the greatest among"); 23:17; in Luke 22:26, RV, "the greater (among you)" (KJV, "greatest"); in Jas. 3:1, RV, "the heavier (marginally, greater) judgment" (KJV, "the greater condemnation"); it is used in the neuter plural in John 1:50, "greater things"; in 14:12, "greater works" (lit., "greater things"); in 1 Cor. 12:31, RV, "the greater," KJV, "the best". See GREATEST, No. 2.

*Note:* In Matt. 20:31, the neuter of *meizōn*, used as an adverb, is translated "the more." See MORE.

2. *meizoteros* (μεῖζότερος, 3186), a double comparative of *meγas* (cf. No. 1, above), is used



**TABERNACLE**

**A. Noun.**

*miškān* (מִשְׁכָּן, 4908), "dwelling place; tabernacle; shrine." This word appears 139 times and refers in its first occurrence to the "tabernacle": "According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it" (Exod. 25:9). *Miškān* is found primarily in Exodus and Numbers, and it always designates the sanctuary. With this meaning it is a synonym for the phrase "tent of meeting." In total,



# Bible Handbooks

- A Bible handbook is like a one volume encyclopedia
- There are many books covering different aspects of
  - Life, Culture, Food, Travel, Ceremonies
  - Do you want to know what the food was like
  - Or how people dressed
- Each of these books can help you understand the different facets of life in biblical times



# Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible

- An example is
  - Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible
    - This book covers over 300 important biblical events
    - For example, the book explains what a denarius is
      - It is a coin
      - A picture of it is shown
      - And its current value is given







### SILVER DENARIUS

The denarius was considered a fair day's pay for a common laborer in the first century. Jesus asked to see this coin when asked if it were lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (Matt 22:18).

#### What one coin could buy:

15 lbs. of wheat  
(in a basket).

**Translation of coin text:** "Tiberius  
Caesar, son of the divine [Augustus],  
[himself now] Augustus"



# A Silver Denarius

When the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, Jesus asked to see a coin for the tax. They gave Him a denarius like this. The motto on this coin proclaims Tiberius to be the son of the divine Caesar who preceded him. Jesus, the true Son of God, would have recognized the irony of Tiberius' claim (Matt 22:17–22; Mark 12:14–17; Luke 20:21–26).

Size  
comparison

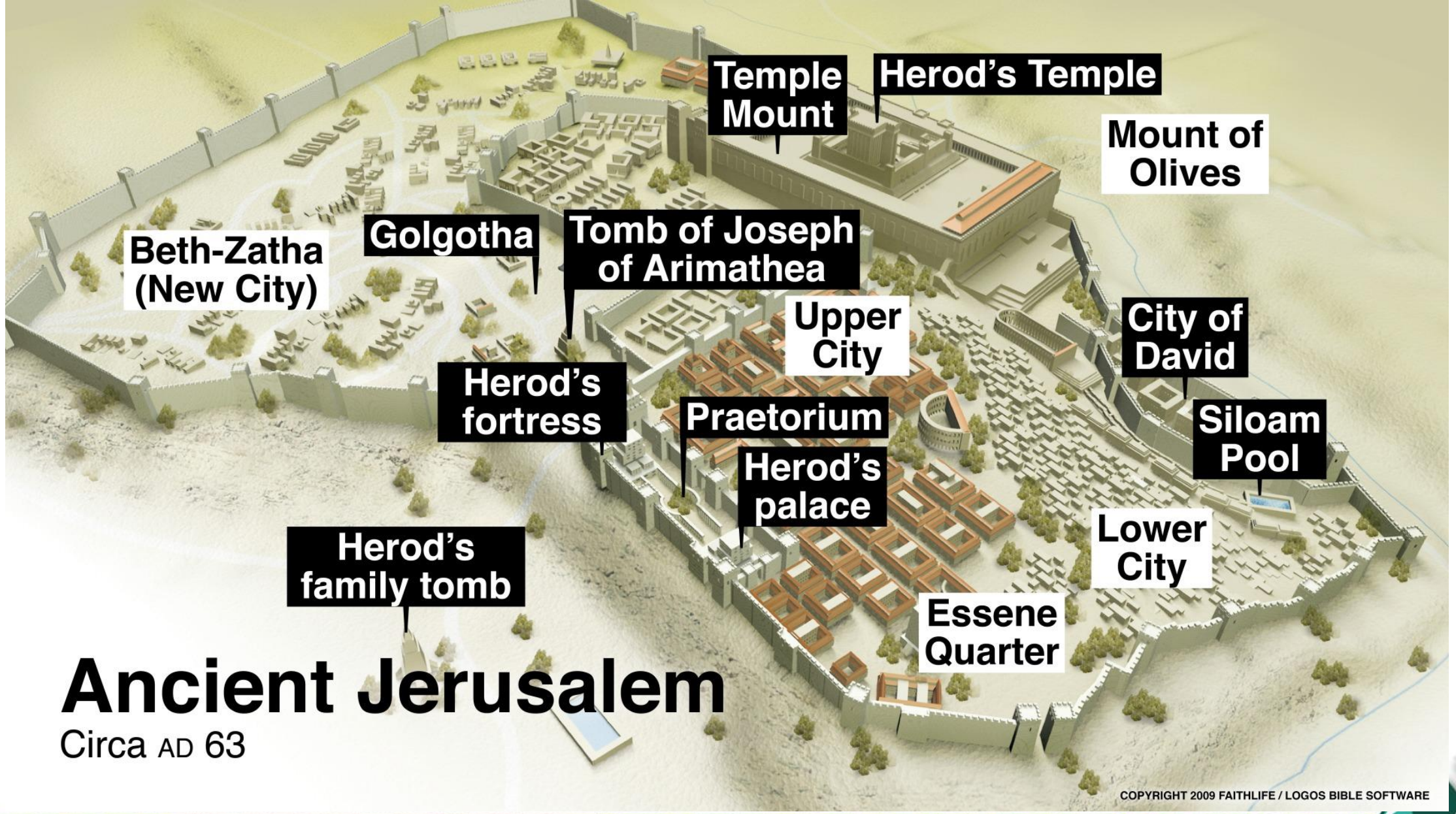


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# Atlas

- We have discussed and used atlas' in other chapters in this class
- To reiterate
  - An atlas provides a map of, cities, terrain, landmarks
  - Atlases also will show large city layouts
    - And biblically referenced locations like wells and gates
- A good example is the Moody Atlas of Bible Lands





Beth-Zatha  
(New City)

Golgotha

Tomb of Joseph  
of Arimathea

Temple  
Mount

Herod's Temple

Mount of  
Olives

Upper  
City

City of  
David

Herod's  
fortress

Praetorium

Siloam  
Pool

Herod's  
palace

Lower  
City

Herod's  
family tomb

Essene  
Quarter

# Ancient Jerusalem

Circa AD 63

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**Ancient Jerusalem**  
Circa 63 AD

# Jerusalem

By 34 BC, under King Herod's rule, ancient Jerusalem went through major redevelopment, crowned with the rebuilding of the Second Temple and a bigger Temple Mount. In 66 AD, the Great Jewish Revolt challenged Roman rule over Jerusalem, resulting in the destruction of the temple and the fall of Jerusalem by 70 AD.

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### Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

- Paul and Barnabas' route from Derbe to Lystra where they appointed elders
- Paul and Barnabas' route from Lystra to Iconium where they appointed elders
- Paul and Barnabas' route from Iconium to Pisidian Antioch where they appointed elders
- Paul and Barnabas' route from Pisidian Antioch to Perga
- Paul and Barnabas' route from Perga to Antioch
- Event(s) with location
- Event(s) with uncertain location
- City



# Bible Commentaries

- Have you ever sat under the teaching of someone who has mastered a portion of the Word and thought
  - Wouldn't you like to have him sitting beside you the next time you study the Scriptures
  - Well, a commentary does essentially that
  - It offers you the insights of someone who has perhaps spent his whole life studying the text



# Bible Commentaries

- A commentary can't do your study for you, but it certainly is an excellent means of evaluating your own study
- Now there are A LOT of commentaries out there
  - Some are book specific, Psalms, Romans, etc
  - Some are general commentaries that cover the whole Bible
    - But not in the detail a dedicated commentary on a single book does



# Bible Commentaries Suggestions

- Bible Knowledge Commentary
  - Produced by several members of the faculty at Dallas Theological Seminary, where professor Hendricks teaches
    - It covers every book of the Bible
    - The background in terms of the author and purpose
    - An outline
    - Discussion of the text, particularly the difficult stuff





# Getting Started

- There is a TON of valuable resources in print and online
  - So where do you start?
    - Get a good Study Bible with a concordance first
    - Then gather
      - Bible dictionary
      - Bible handbook
      - Atlas
      - Simple commentary



# Some Online Resources

- Free
  - Bible Hub <https://biblehub.com/>
  - Blue Letter Bible <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- Paid
  - Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

I do not necessarily agree with every theological position presented in each of the study materials on these sites



# Some Digital Resources

- Olive Tree Bible Software <https://www.olivetree.com/>
  - Free to download, some free resources, can purchase specific books/Bibles/Maps/Dictionary \$
- Logos <https://www.logos.com/>
  - Free version but the free package is limited in material
  - The paid versions have LOTS of resources and packages

I do not necessarily agree with every theological position presented in each application



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- ~~Week 6 What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)~~

- **INTERPRETATION**

- ~~Week 7 Interpretation Intro (CH 27-29)~~

- ~~Week 8 Five Keys to Interpretation (CH 30-34)~~

- **Week 9 Don't Stop (CH 35-38)**



**Observation: What do I see?**

**Interpretation: What does it mean?**

**Application: How does it work?**

