

WHY IS THE BIBLE SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

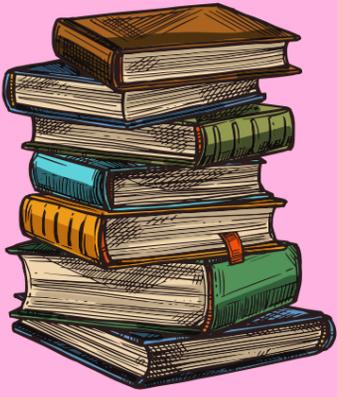
How To study The Bible series



TIME AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCE

Context! Context! Context!

It is estimated the earliest books of scripture were written more than 3400 years ago. Most of us haven't the clue what life was like in Israel, Rome or Mesopotamia centuries ago. That's why we need context and cultural knowledge for the scripture we study.



VARIOUS TYPES OF LITERATURE

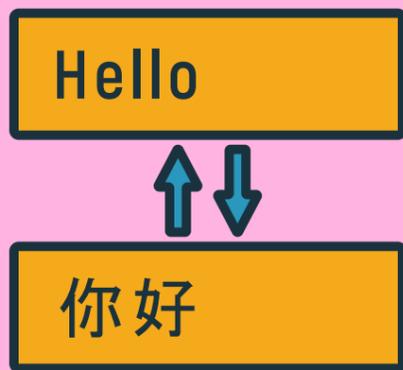
Not all scripture is the same

History, Law, Poetry, Letters, Prophecy, and so many other types of literature are included in The Bible. Some of us respond better to one genre than another. You may have a hard time understanding poetry, but the law is very clear to you. Or vice versa. We all learn differently and respond better to some books than others.

TRANSLATION

Some are harder to read than others

We have over 2500 translations of scripture. That's a lot of words. And some are harder to read than others. The King James Version was translated into an English many don't speak today. While the Amplified Bible was a revised translation aimed to provide a clearer meaning to the text. Each translation offers better understanding of God's word. If you have a hard time with one, try another.



PERSONAL SIN BIAS

How are you viewing what is written?



We all have baggage. We all have sins. Those sins and that baggage follow us into our Bible Study. Most of the time you won't notice it, but it's always present in your study. You may not want to see the clear meaning of scripture because it hits a hard spot in your life that you're not ready to tackle yet.

SEEKING ANSWERS ONLY

The Bible is NOT a Q & A session with Jesus

The Bible is a collection of divine writings put together to tell us a story about God and his creation. While we can find answers, advice, and comfort in scripture the Bible is not an answer book. If you're opening up scripture to find an answer on certain topics, you're probably going to be very confused. The Bible is not a Q&A session with God, it's a story. The answers we seek are found in the story.

