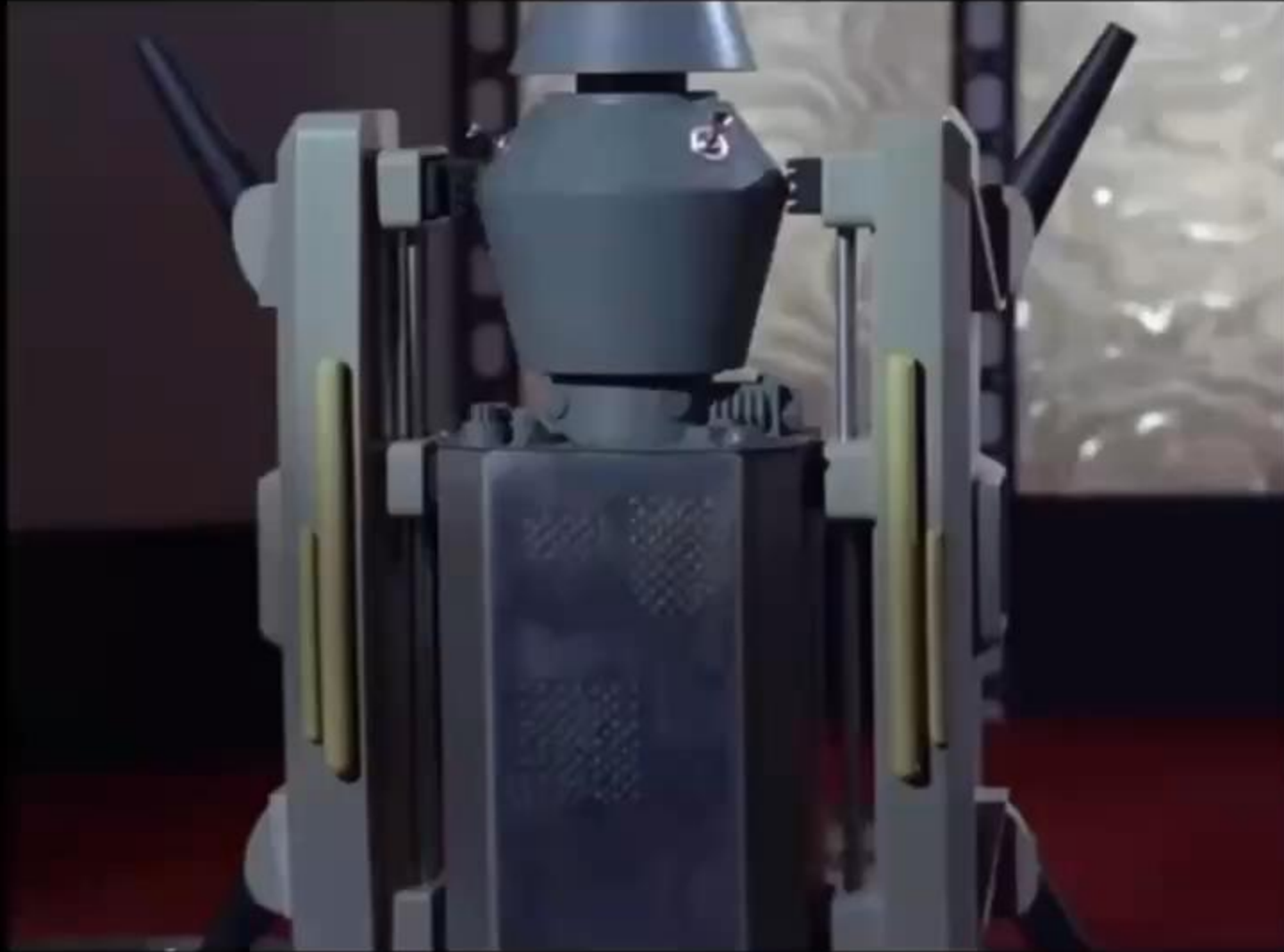



# COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

WHAT DO  
WE DO  
WITH  
ERRORS?



# COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION



errors

# COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

(APRIL 19) HERMENEUTICAL ERRORS

(APRIL 26) IGNORING GENRE

(MAY 3) IGNORING LINGUISTICS

(MAY 10) IGNORING TRANSLATIONS

(MAY 17) IGNORING CONTEXT P1

**(MAY 24) NO CLASS—MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

(MAY 31) IGNORING CONTEXT P2

(JUNE 7) IGNORING FIGURES OF SPEECH

(JUNE 14) IGNORING HISTORY

(JUNE 21) IGNORING CULTURE

(JUNE 28) IGNORING THEOLOGY P1

**(JULY 5) NO CLASS—FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND, 250<sup>TH</sup>**

(JULY 12) IGNORING THEOLOGY P2

(JULY 19) IGNORING APPLICATION P1

(JULY 26) IGNORING APPLICATION P2

**Q: WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

**“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENS ME.”**

**MATTHEW 7:1**

**“DO NOT JUDGE, OR YOU TOO WILL BE JUDGED.”**

**JEREMIAH 29:11**

**“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”**

**II TIMOTHY 6:10**

**“...MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL.”**

WHAT ARE HERMENEUTICAL ERRORS?

WHAT IS HERMENEUTICS ?



# HERMENEUTICS Is the SCIENCE of INTERPRETATION

Tools  
Methods  
Rules



# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

LIKE A

# SEMINARY PROFESSOR

A PRACTICAL *and* ENTERTAINING EXPLORATION  
of the WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BOOK



MARK YARBROUGH

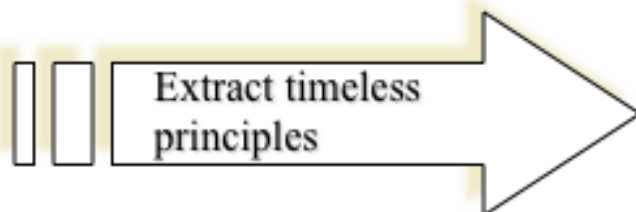


“Shelley, I have a question  
for you...”

## **On Bible interpretation...**

- 1. Meaning registers differently based upon the unique circumstances of the hearer, right? Interpretations do vary, don't they?**
- 2. The reality of the text, especially the biblical text, will mean something different to each one of us because we are all different, right?**
- 3. God has created us with differing perspectives and convictions; so we will think differently about the text, won't we?**

# “TRUTH EXTRACTION”



## 2. Theological Statement

“What is the timeless truth taught?”

Author's Intent

TIMELESS AUDIENCE

TIME BOUND AUDIENCE



## 1. Exegetical Statement

“What did it mean then?”

- Historical interpretation
- Grammatical interpretation
- Contextual interpretation
- Literary Interpretation



author's Intent

ANCIENT AUDIENCE

CONTEMPORARY AUDIENCE

## 3. Homiletical Statement

“How does it apply to us?”

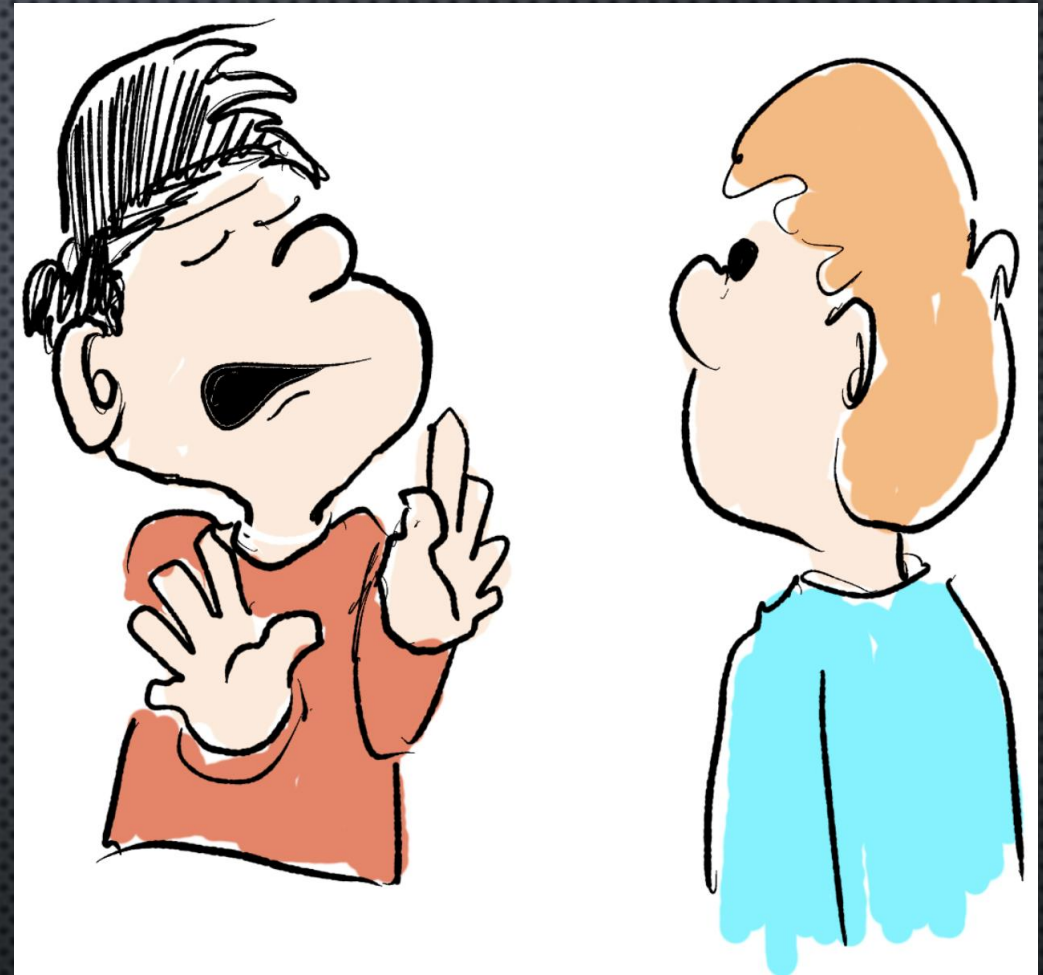
**A skeptic says he doesn't believe  
in the Bible because you can  
make it say anything you want.**

**How can you respond?**

**(Think TACTICS)**

## OPENING CLAIM

- **SKEPTIC: “YOU CAN MAKE THE BIBLE SAY ANYTHING YOU WANT.”**





## CLARIFY THE CLAIM

- **YOU:** “WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?”
- **SKEPTIC:** “PEOPLE INTERPRET IT HOWEVER THEY LIKE.”



# NARROW THE ISSUE

**YOU: “DO YOU MEAN PEOPLE  
MISINTERPRET IT, OR THAT IT CAN’T BE  
UNDERSTOOD AT ALL?”**

## TEST CONSISTENCY

- **YOU: “IS THAT TRUE OF ALL BOOKS, OR JUST THE BIBLE?”**
- **SKEPTIC: “JUST THE BIBLE.”**

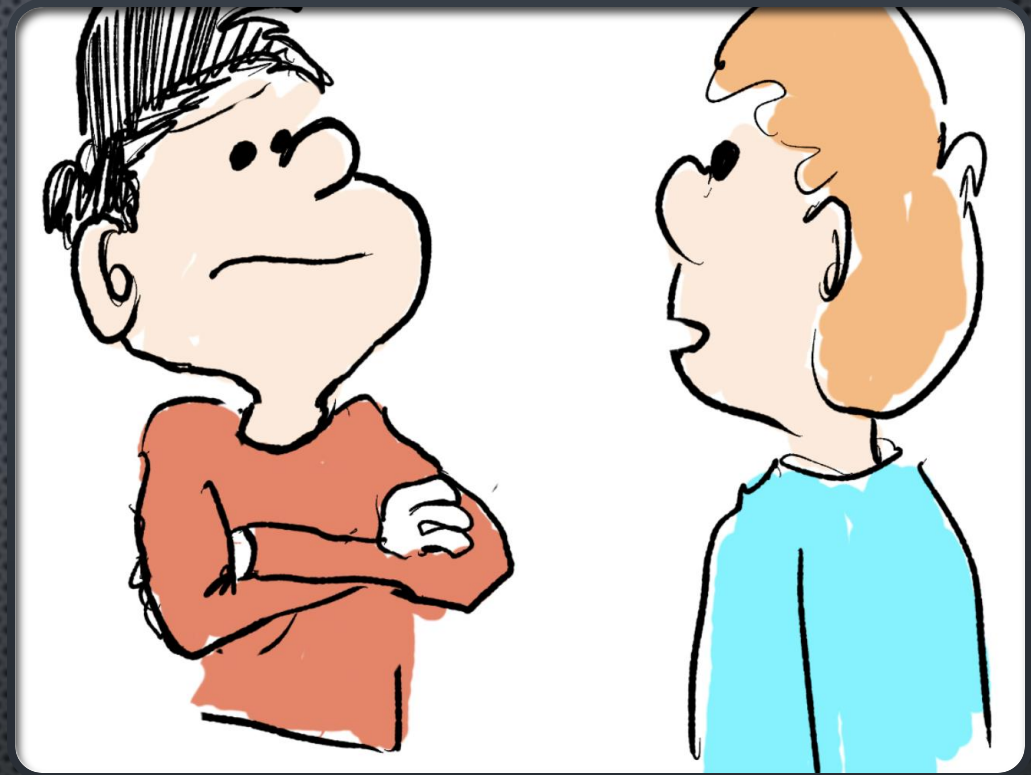


## COMMON GROUND

- **YOU: “PEOPLE DISAGREE ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION TOO—DOES THAT MEAN IT CAN MEAN ANYTHING?”**

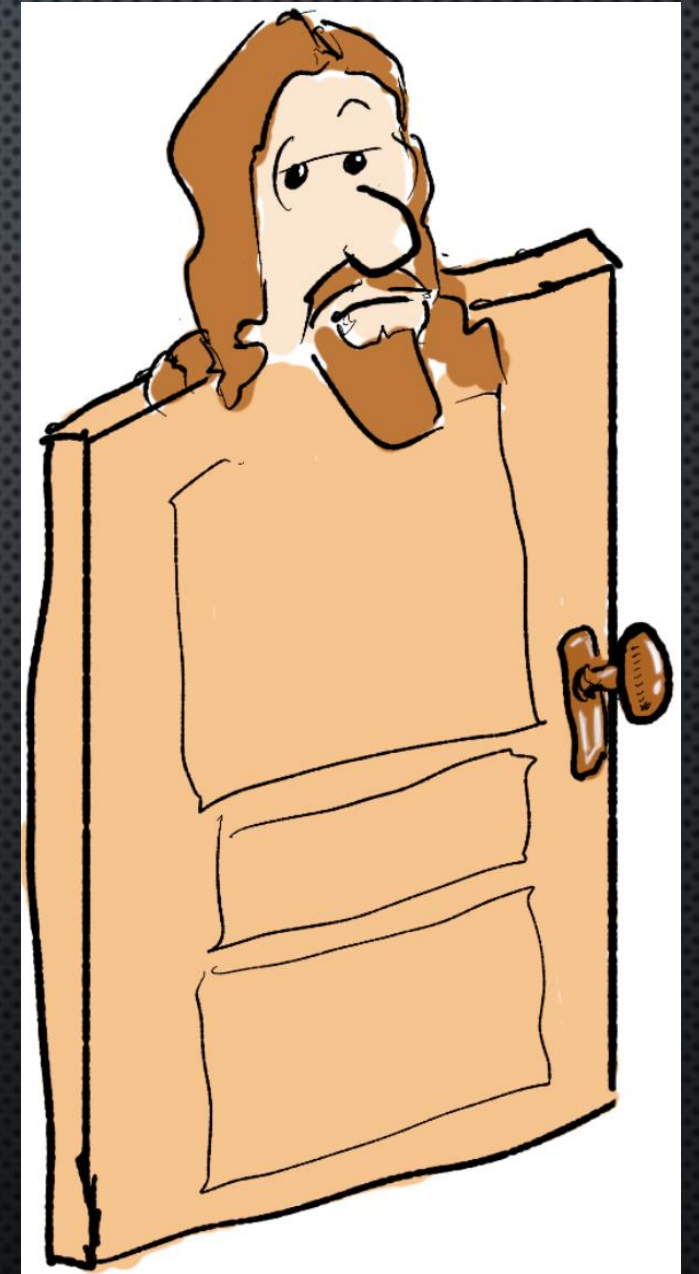
## REFRAME

- **YOU: “MAYBE THE ISSUE ISN’T THE BIBLE, BUT HOW PEOPLE HANDLE IT.”**



## INTERPRETATION EXAMPLE

- YOU: “WHEN JESUS SAYS ‘I AM THE DOOR,’ WE DON’T PICTURE HINGES—IT’S A METAPHOR.”





## TURN THE TABLE

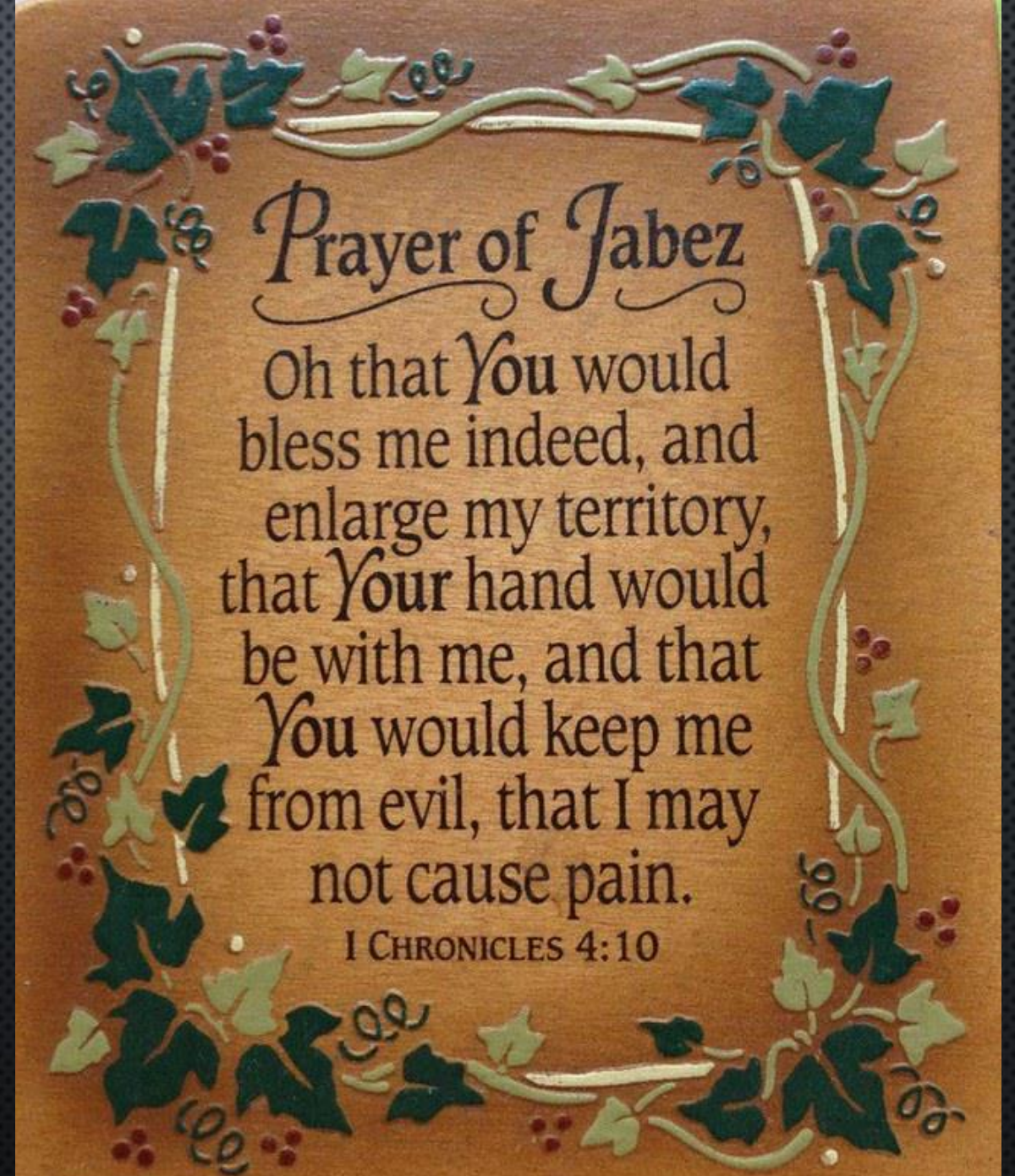
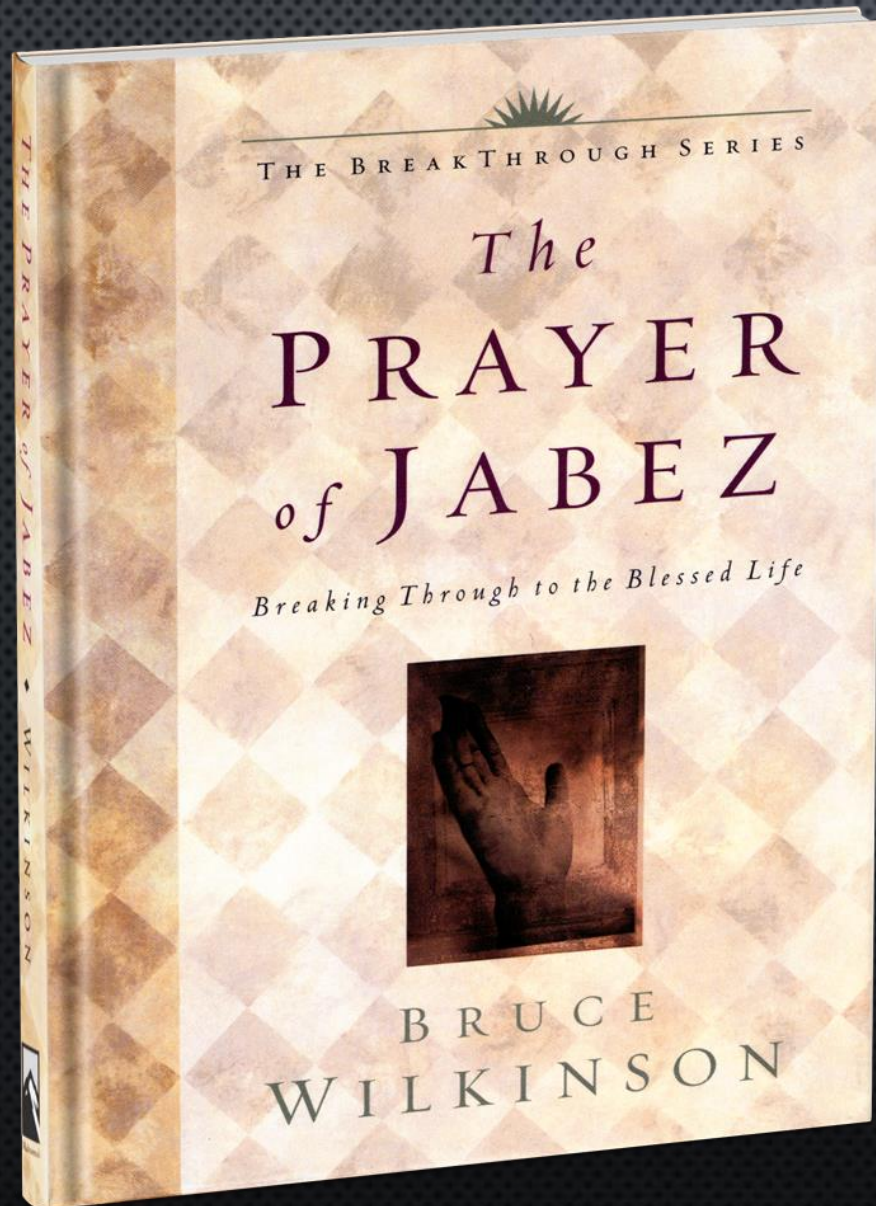
- **YOU: “IF SOMETHING CAN BE TWISTED, DOESN’T THAT IMPLY A CORRECT MEANING EXISTS?”**

## CLOSING THOUGHT

- IF THE BIBLICAL TEXT CAN MEAN WHATEVER WE WANT IT TO MEAN, THEN IT HAS NO MEANING AT ALL.
  
- LEAVE THEM THINKING.

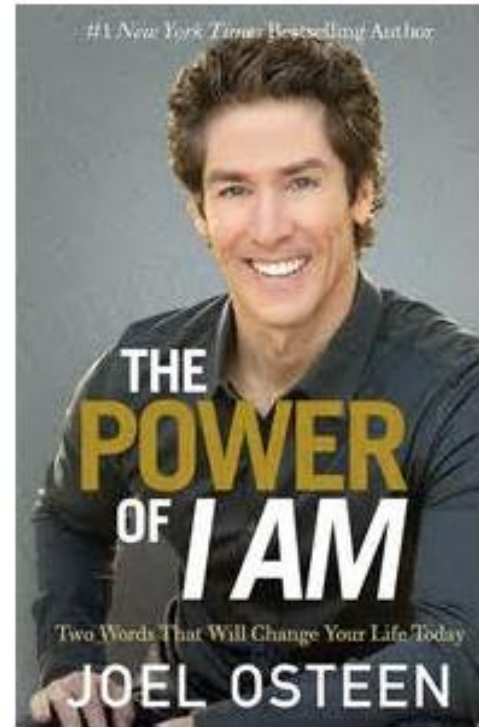


# POPULAR TRENDS



## Prosperity Gospel

- Name it and claim it
- Blab it and Grab it
- Health and Wealth
- Positive Confession Theology
- Word Faith, Word of Faith



LATTER DAY  
SAINTS  
(MORMONS)



# Jehovah's Witnesses



## EXAMPLES OF HERMENEUTIC GUIDELINES:

- 1. WORDS HAVE MEANING, AND THERE ARE BOUNDARIES TO WHAT WORDS CAN MEAN.**
- 2. THE AUTHOR WROTE THE WORDS IN REAL-LIFE CONTEXT.**
- 3. THE AUTHOR EXISTED AT A REAL POINT IN TIME AND WROTE THOSE WORDS FOR A REASON.**
- 4. THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE RECEIVED THOSE REAL WORDS WRITTEN BY A REAL AUTHOR IN A REAL CONTEXT, AND THEY RECEIVED THOSE WORDS IN A PARTICULAR MANNER.**

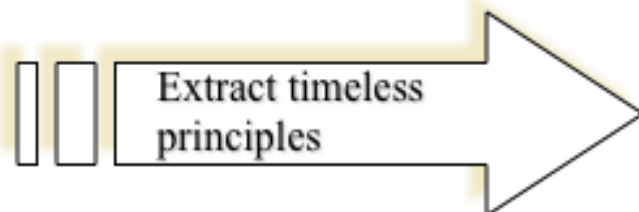
# GOING OFF-TRACK...

- **MISINTERPRETATION — ERRORS**
- **IGNORING THE RULES OF HERMENEUTICS**
- **FAULTY CONCLUSIONS**
- **MISAPPLICATION**

## **DRIVER'S ED ANALOGY.....**

- **MISINTERPRETATION...READING THE MAP WRONG**
- **POOR APPLICATION...MAKING A WRONG TURN**
- **WRONG THEOLOGY...DEAD END**
- **HERESY...DRIVING OFF THE CLIFF**

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