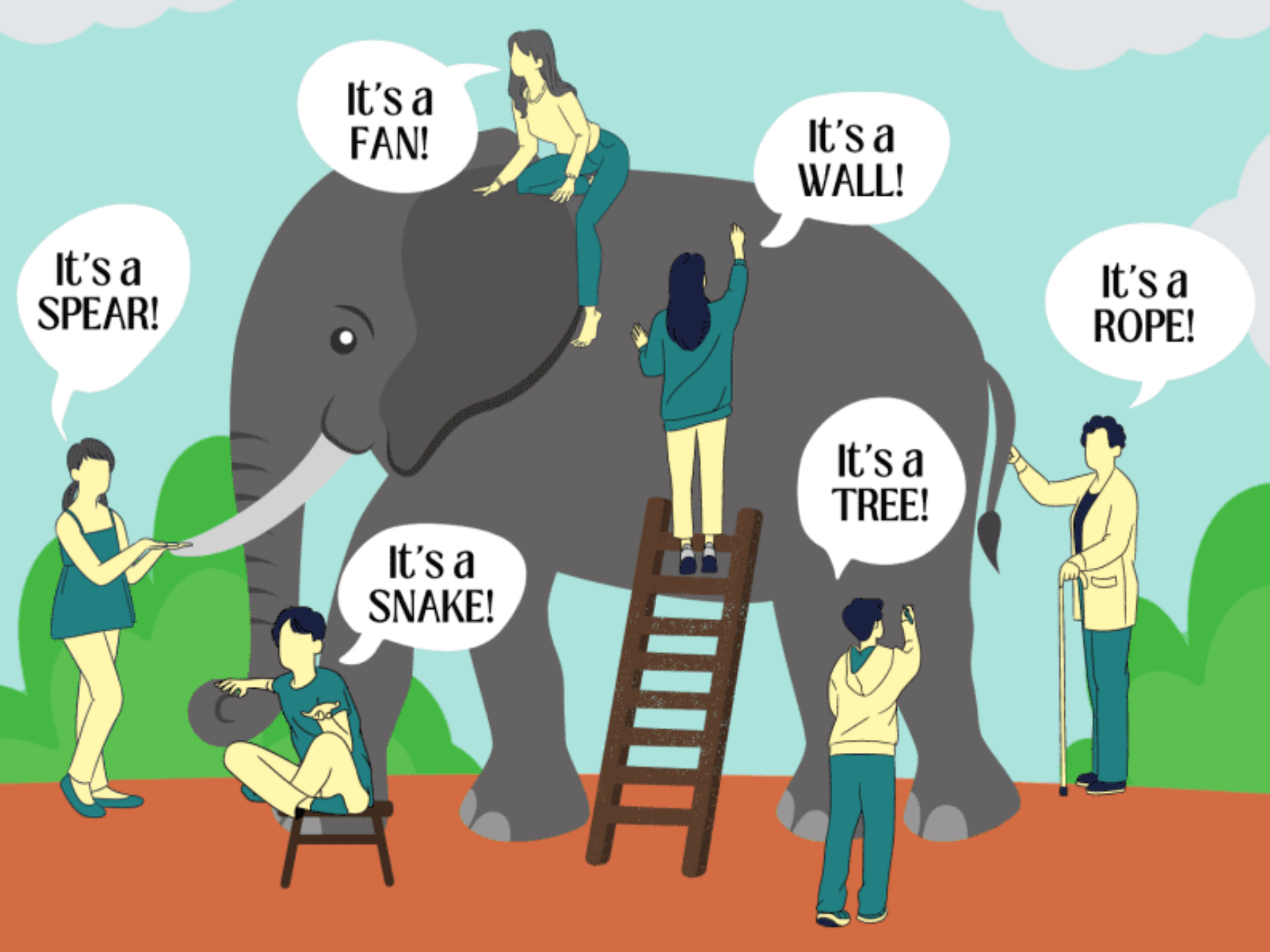


COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

Ignoring Theology





It's a
FAN!

It's a
WALL!

It's a
ROPE!

It's a
TREE!

It's a
SNAKE!

It's a
SPEAR!

COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- (#1) *IGNORING THE GENRE*
- (#2) *IGNORING LINGUISTICS*
- (#3) *IGNORING TRANSLATIONS*
- (#4) *IGNORING CONTEXT*
- (#5) *IGNORING FIGURES OF SPEECH*
- (#6) *IGNORING HISTORY*
- (#7) *IGNORING CULTURE*
- (#8) *IGNORING THEOLOGY (SCRIPTURE)*



THE INTERPRETER
MAKES THE
SCRIPTURE
SAYS **WHAT HE**
WANTS IT TO SAY.

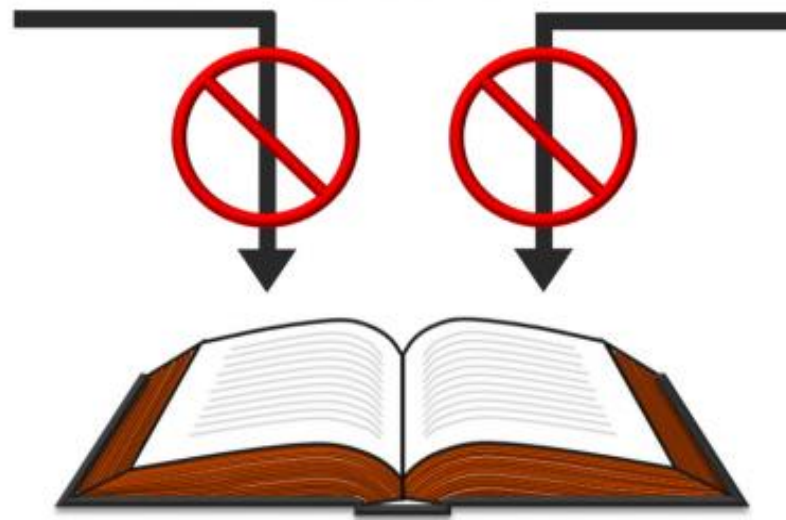
www.jrcdm.com



THE INTERPRETER
MAKES THE
SCRIPTURE
SAYS **WHAT GOD**
HAS TO SAY.

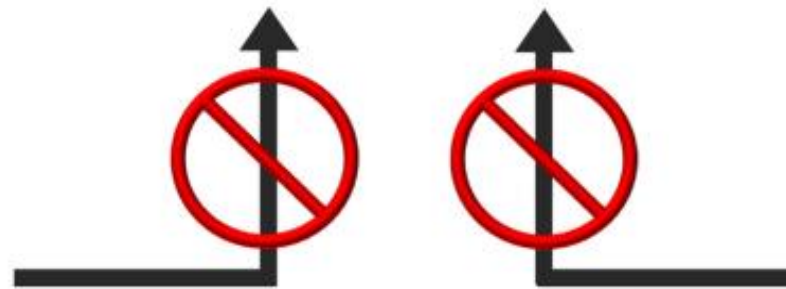
Injecting
personal
opinion

Injecting a
figurative
meaning



Adding or
subtracting
words,
phrases,
books, etc.

Taking a
passage
out of
context



Scripture Interprets Scripture

One main story to tell!



SCRIPTURE EXPLAINS SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



Romans 4:5

But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.



Biblical Interpretation

Immediate
Context



What is
happening in
this portion of
the book?

+



Historical
Context

Five questions to
ask to determine
the historical
context of a
passage:

+



Scriptural
Context

What does the rest
of Scripture have
to say about the
subject?



*Who is
speaking?*



*To
whom?*



*From
where?*



When?



Why?

*"Beloved, let us **love** one another, for **love** is of God; and everyone who **loves** is born of God and knows God. He who does not **love** does not know God, for God is **love**."*

1 John 4:7-8

**HOW DOES OTHER SCRIPTURES
HELP US INTERPRET THIS PASSAGE?**

*"A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have **loved** you, so you must **love** one another."*

John 13:34

*"My command is this: **Love** each other as I have **loved** you. Greater **love** has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friend. **John 15:12-13***

**HOW DOES OTHER SCRIPTURES
HELP US INTERPRET THIS PASSAGE?**

*"You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*

Deuteronomy 6:4

*"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall **love** your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."*

Leviticus 19:18

**HOW DOES OTHER SCRIPTURES
HELP US INTERPRET THIS PASSAGE?**



NEW TESTAMENT USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

OT quotes and allusions appear in every NT book except Philemon, 2 and 3 John

Such an extensive use of the OT clearly indicates that the two testaments are organically related. This is to be expected because of the single divine Author. It also indicates that in interpreting the NT, one cannot neglect the OT. (Zuck)

NEW TESTAMENT USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

QUOTATIONS

The NT quote the OT 295 times

224 times are direct OT citations

Direct OT quotes occupy 10 percent of NT

94 (Pentateuch) 99 (Prophets) 85 (Writings)

Most quoted OT verse: Psalm 110:1

NEW TESTAMENT USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

ALLUSIONS

The NT alluded the OT 1640 to 4105 times

OT terms, phrases, events, people

Revelation alluded to OT 331 times

**NEW TESTAMENT USE OF
THE OLD TESTAMENT**



THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

To point out the accomplishment or realization of an OT prediction

This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."

Matthew 8:17 quoting Isaiah 53:4

**THE OLD TESTAMENT IN
THE NEW TESTAMENT**

To draw a parallel with an OT incident

*Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE
WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY
LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS
SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

Romans 8:36 quoting Psalm 44:22

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

To use OT terminology

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying ... "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Matthew 27:46 quoting Psalm 22:1

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

To illustrate a NT truth

However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

Romans 10:16 quoting Isaiah 53:1

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

To support point made in NT

*AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE
FLESH; so they are no longer two,
but one flesh.*

Mark 10:8 quoting Genesis 2:24

**THE OLD TESTAMENT IN
THE NEW TESTAMENT**

To apply OT to NT incident or truth

*For it is written in the Law of Moses,
"YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX
WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is
not concerned about oxen, is He?*

1 Corinthians 9:9 quoting Deut 25:4

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- 1. Investigate the NT context**
- 2. Investigate the OT context**
- 3. Note the difference**
- 4. Determine how NT uses the OT**
- 5. Relate conclusion to interpretation**

INTERPRETING OT QUOTATIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



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Ignoring Theology