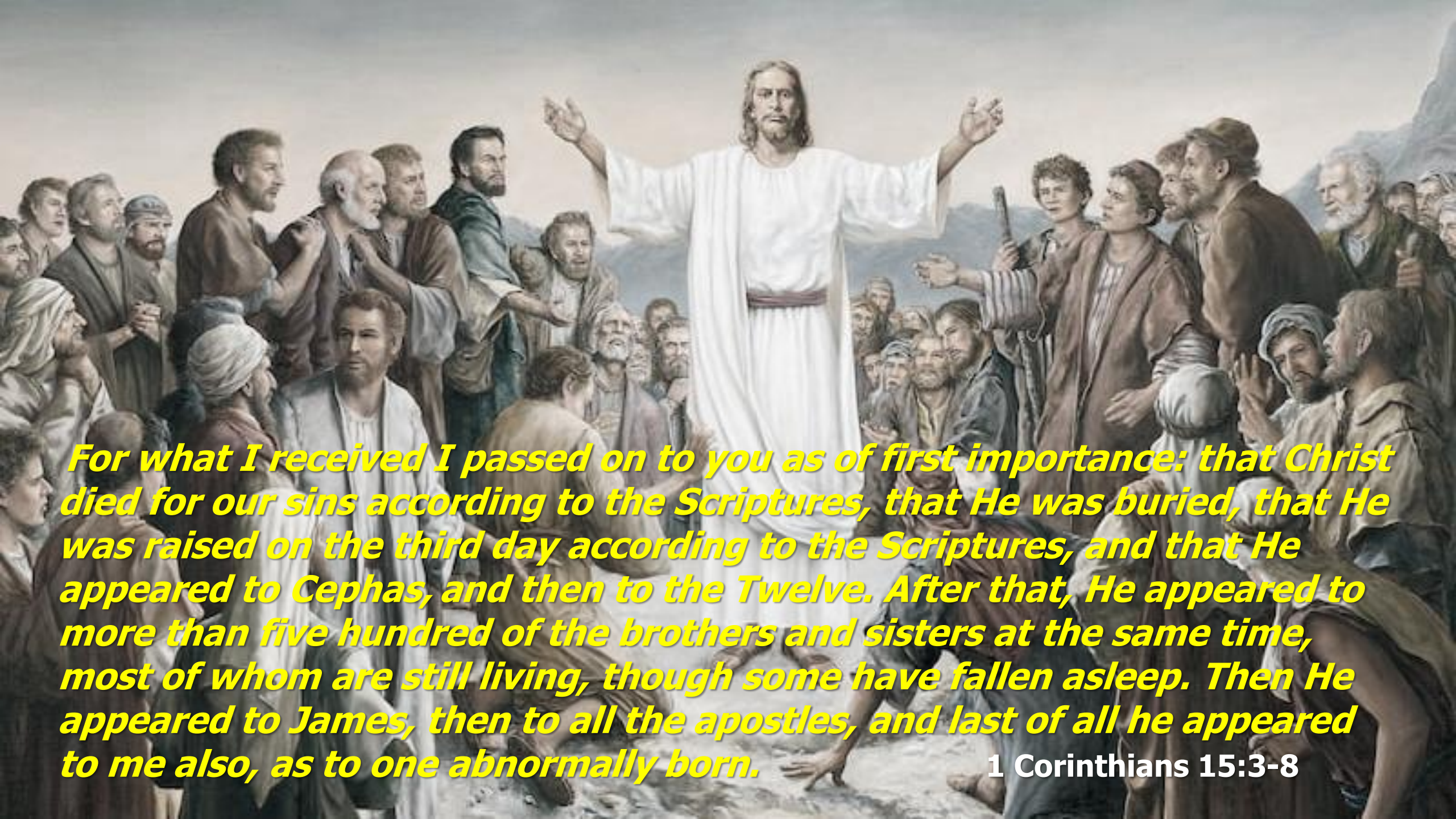


COMMON INTERPRETATION ERRORS



- 1.** What is so unusual about Samuel calling on the Lord for rain at the time of the wheat harvest in 1 Samuel 12:17?
- 2.** Why did King Belshazzar offer the third position in the Babylonian government to Daniel and not the second position?
- 3.** Why did James say to anoint a sick person with oil?
- 4.** Why did Jesus speak of going "down" from Jerusalem to Jericho when Jericho is located northeast of Jerusalem?
- 5.** Why did Paul say in 2 Cor 2:14 that God "always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ"?



For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

COMMON ERRORS IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION

(#1) *IGNORING THE GENRE*

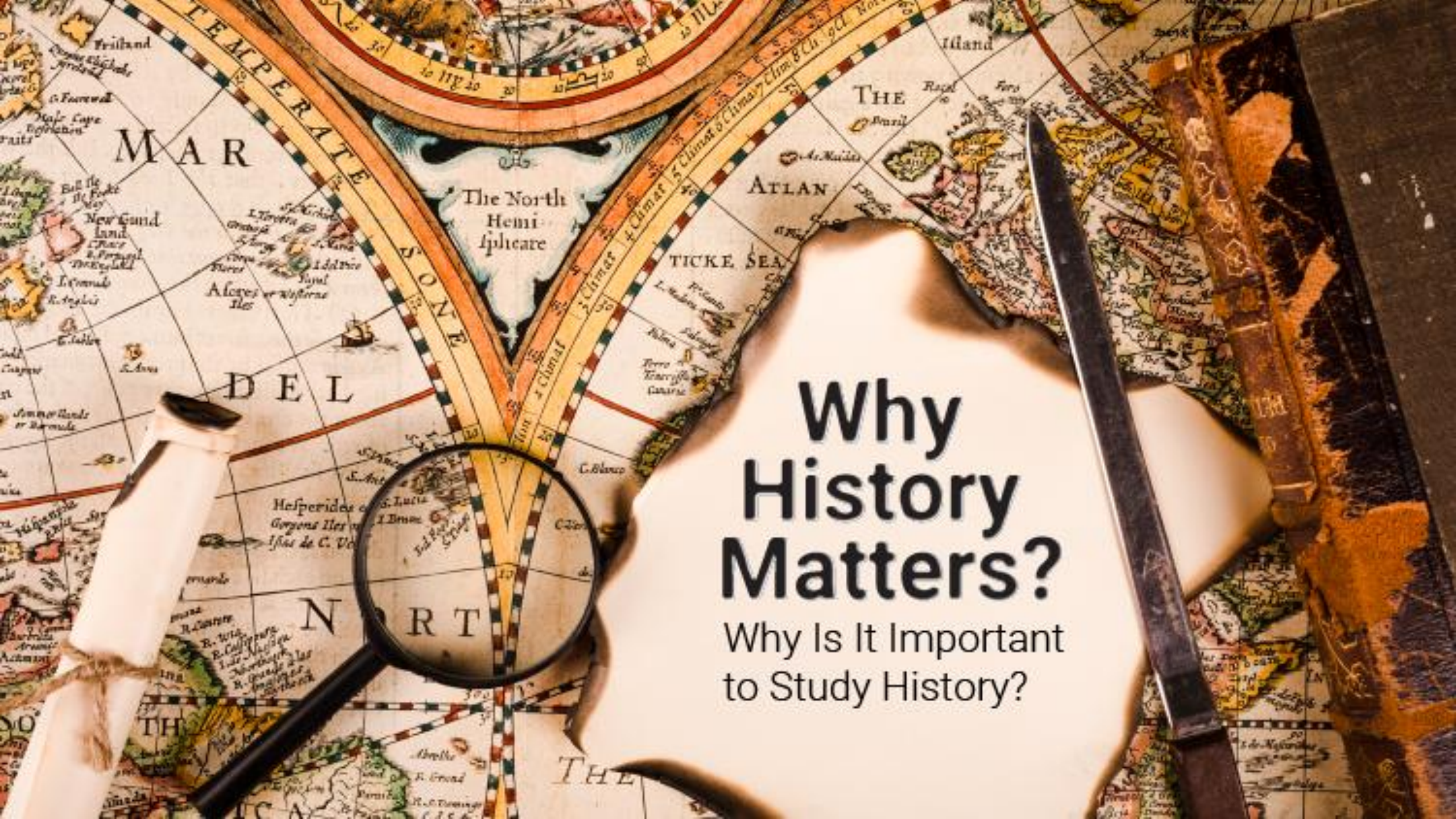
(#2) *IGNORING LINGUISTICS*

(#3) *IGNORING TRANSLATIONS*

(#4) *IGNORING CONTEXT*

(#5) *IGNORING FIGURES OF SPEECH*

(#6) *IGNORING HISTORY*

A historical map of the North Atlantic Ocean, showing the North Hemisphere and the Atlantic Ocean. The map features a grid of latitude and longitude lines, with various geographical labels such as "The North Hemisphere", "ATLAN", "TICKE SEA", "Hesperides", "Gorgons Iles", and "Iles de C. V.". A large, irregularly shaped piece of torn paper is placed over the map, containing the text "Why History Matters?". A magnifying glass is positioned over the map, focusing on the "Hesperides" area. A rolled-up scroll is visible in the bottom left corner, and a sword or dagger is visible in the bottom right corner.

Why History Matters?

Why Is It Important to Study History?

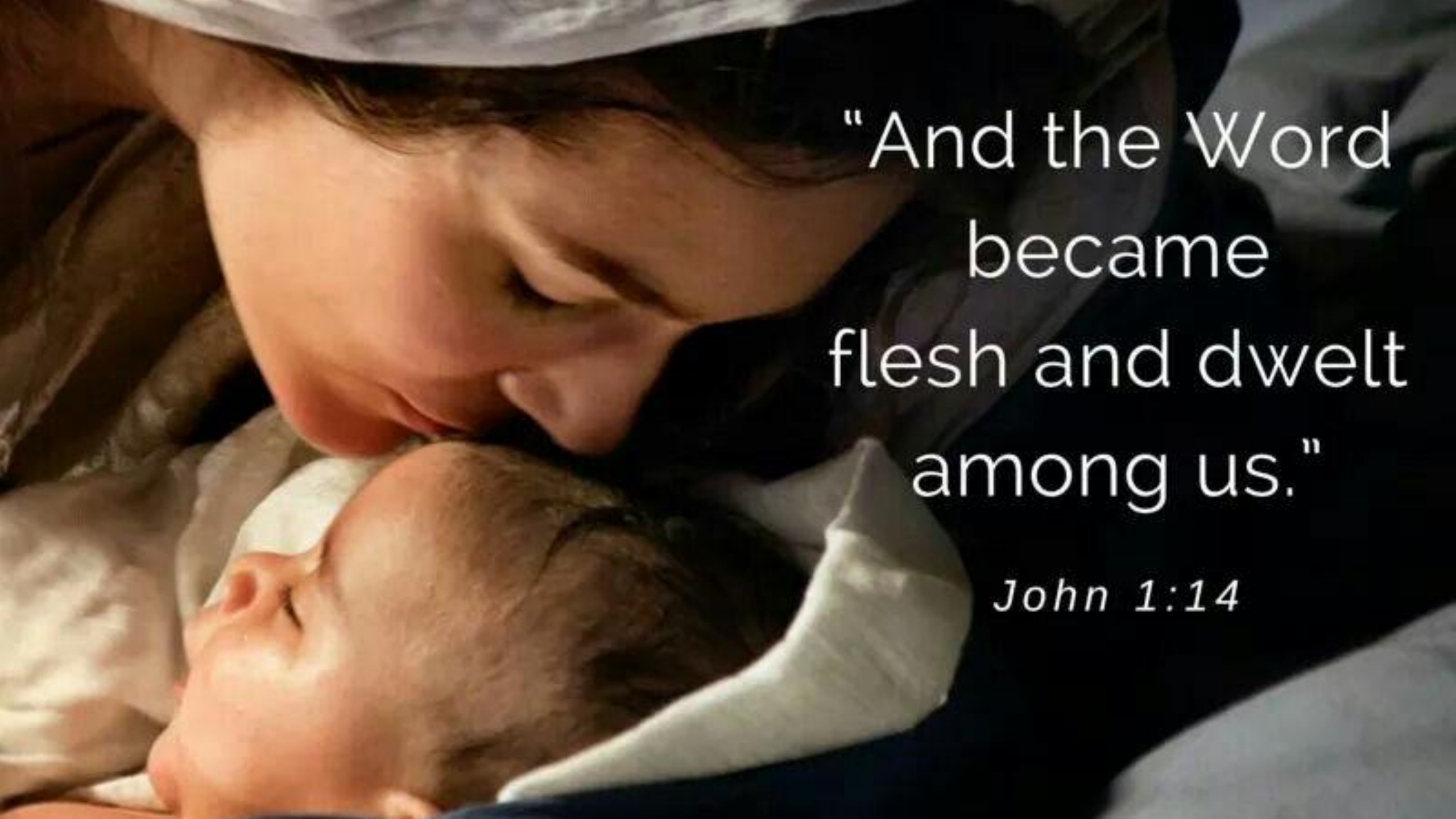
Why bother with the Historical Context?

The events represented in the Bible [are] more often fictional than historical ... the Bible may need to be read contrary to its literal and historical significance ... For its own sake as much as for ours, the Bible needs a demotion.

Gregory Jenks

The moment Genesis is taken as a historical record is the moment that it can be dismissed. And unfortunately, that means that whatever resources can be found in Genesis will likewise be dismissed.

Dwight Welch



"And the Word
became
flesh and dwelt
among us."

John 1:14

Why bother with the Historical Context?

*For our interpretation of any biblical
text to be valid, it must be
consistent with the historical context
of that text.*

Why bother with the Historical Context?

God did not say, "Because I'm God I will speak directly to everybody in all times and cultures."

God spoke through the human writers to address the real-life needs of people at a particular time in a particular culture.

Craig Keener

The truth of the matter is that each passage of Scripture was "God's Word to other people before it became God's Word to us."

William Klein



What is the Historical Context?



1. The Biblical Writer

What is the author's background?

When did the author write?

What type of ministry did the author have?

What type of relationship did the author have with his audience?

Why is the author writing?

What is the Historical Context?



2. The Biblical Audience

What circumstances did the audience face?

What is the Historical Context?



3. Other Elements

Political

Economic

Agricultural

Clothing

Military

Religious

Legal

Architectural

Domestic Life

Geographical

WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE ASK OF THE PAST?

THINKING LIKE A HISTORIAN



CAUSE AND EFFECT

What were the causes of past events?

What were the effects?

- Who or what made change happen?
- Who supported change?
- Who did not support change?
- Which effects were intended?
- Which effects were accidental?
- How did events affect people's lives, community, and the world?



CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

What has changed?

What has remained the same?

- Who has benefited from this change?
- Who has not benefited? And why?



TURNING POINTS

How did past decisions or actions affect future choices?

- How did decisions or actions narrow or eliminate choices for people?
- How did decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?



USING THE PAST

How does the past help us make sense of the present?

- How is the past similar to the present?
- How is the past different from the present?
- What can we learn from the past?



THROUGH THEIR EYES

How did people in the past view their world?

- How did their worldview affect their choices and actions?
- What values, skills and forms of knowledge did people need to succeed?

BENEFITS: Studying History



BENEFITS: Studying History

Unlocks Original Context: The Bible was written *for* us, but not *to* us. Knowing the customs, political climates, and geography of the time helps us understand what a passage meant to its original audience.

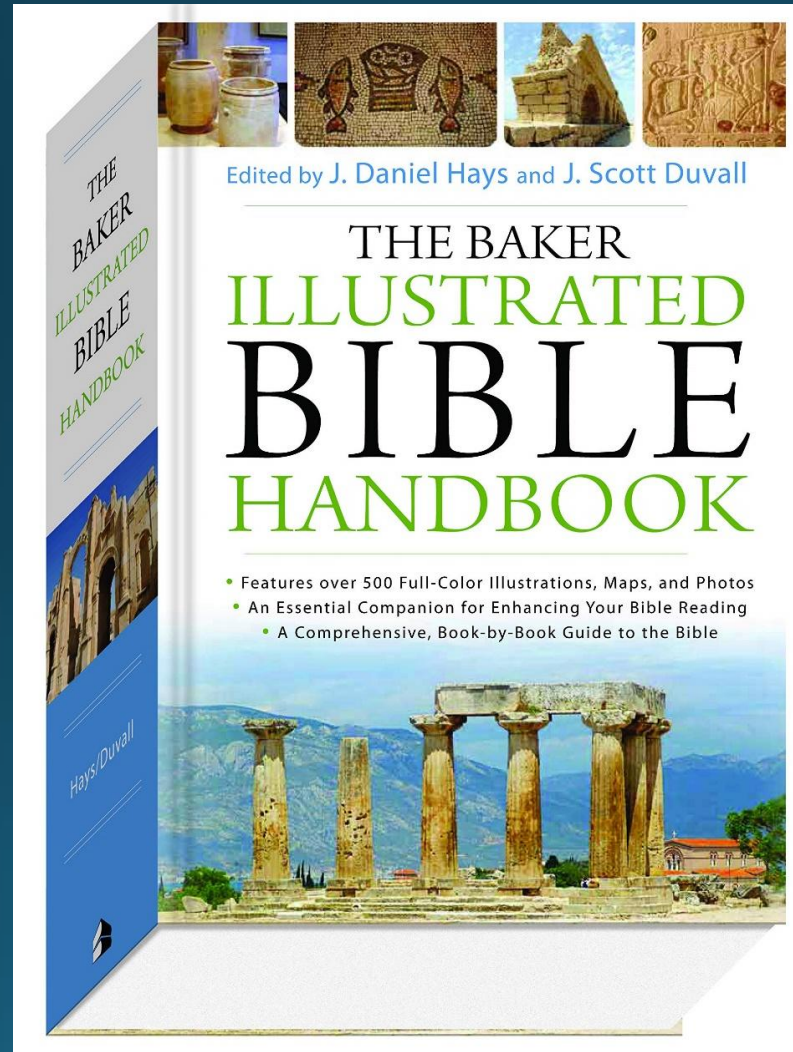
Prevents Misinterpretation: When we ignore history, we risk projecting 21st-century values onto ancient texts. Historical context anchors the text to reality, helping you distinguish between timeless moral principles and culturally specific instructions.

BENEFITS: Studying History

Reveals Divine Providence: The Bible is a collection of real events tied to actual empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome). Studying this verifies the reliability of Scripture and shows how God sovereignly works through human history to fulfill His promises.

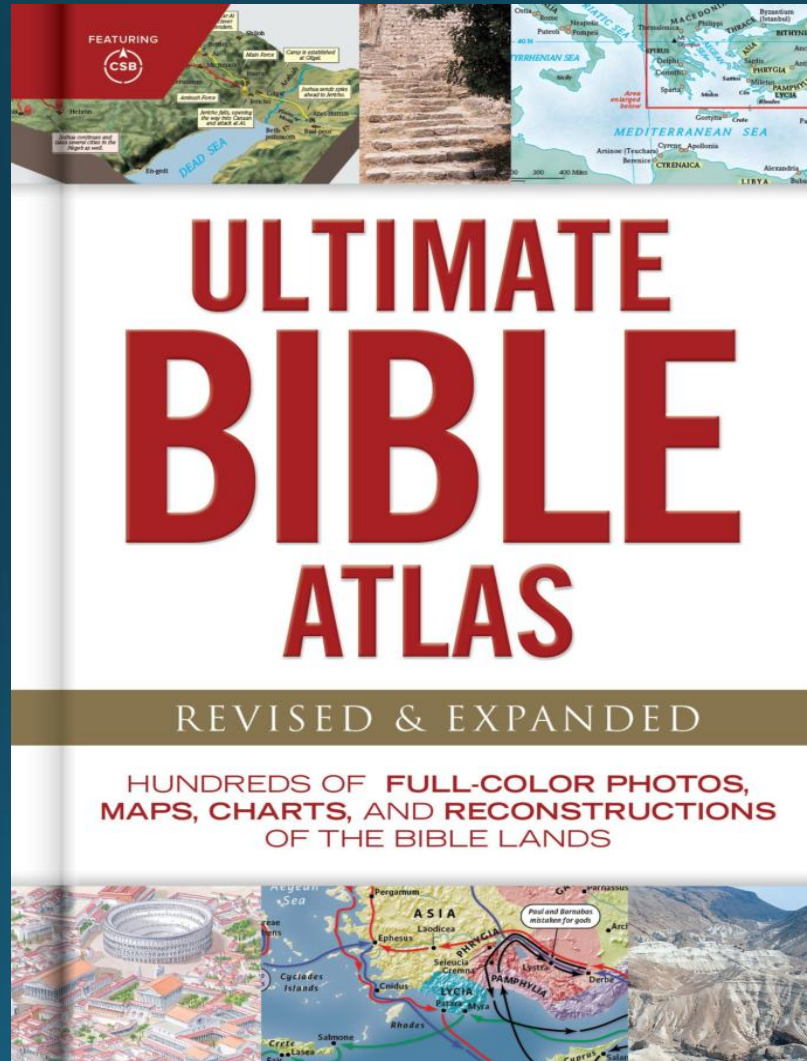
Provides Life Examples: The Apostle Paul noted in 1 Corinthians 10:6 that the historical struggles of ancient Israel were recorded as examples for our instruction. History provides real-life models of faith to imitate and past mistakes to avoid.

Tools for Identifying Historical-Cultural Context



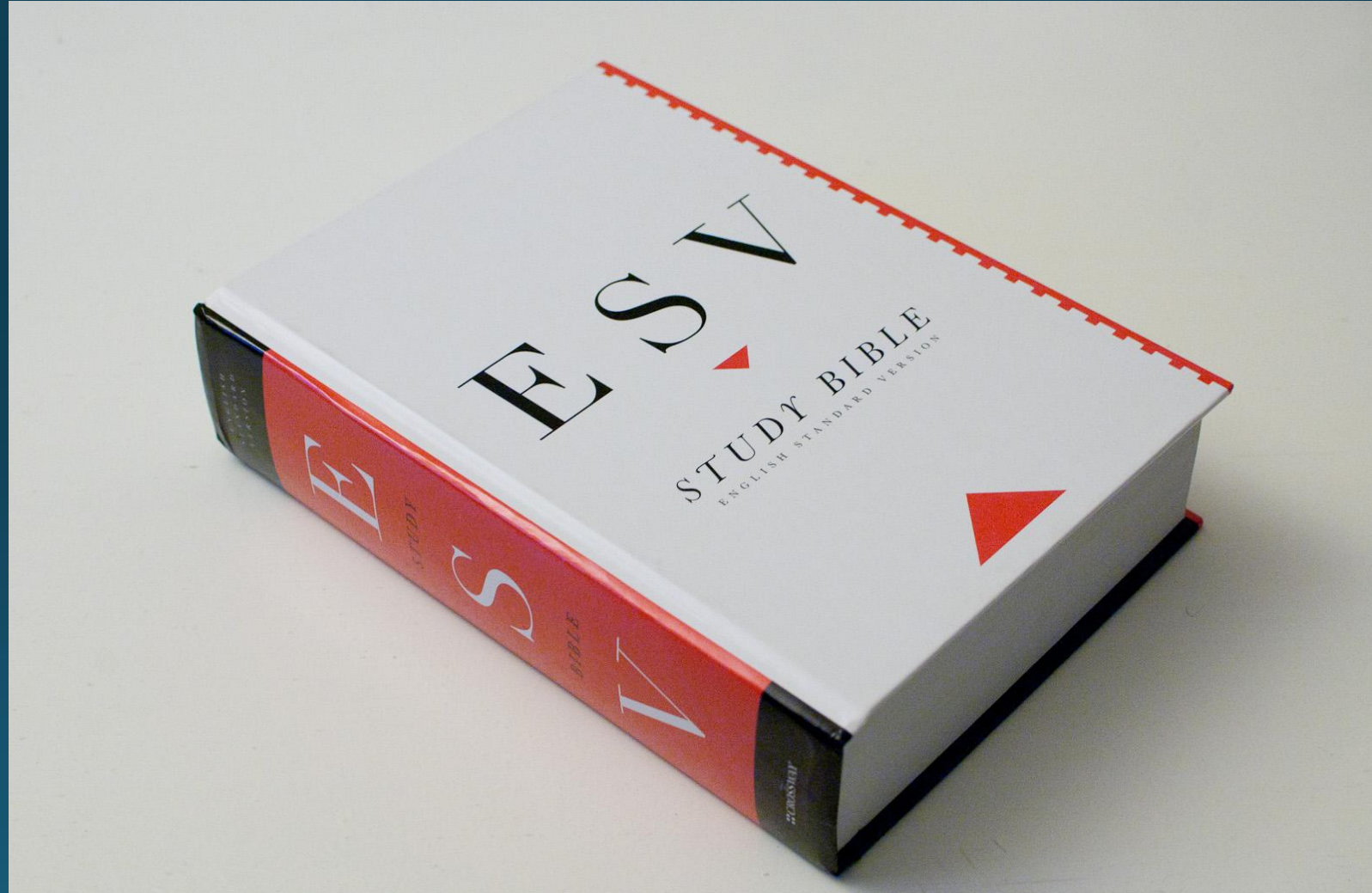
Bible Handbooks include general articles about the Bible and the world of the Bible. Typically, they also contain a brief commentary on the entire Bible.

Tools for Identifying Historical-Cultural Context



Bible Atlases contain maps of the land, pictures of important sites, and helpful historical charts.

Tools for Identifying Historical-Cultural Context



HE FAINTED?
BUT, WHY???

爸爸 生日快樂!

NEXT WEEK:

IGNORING
CULTURE...

