How to Read the Bible



Opening Prayer

O Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom that I may think, speak and do that which is good in your sight. Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds, and have mercy upon all your creatures and upon me, a manifold sinner.

Opening Discussion

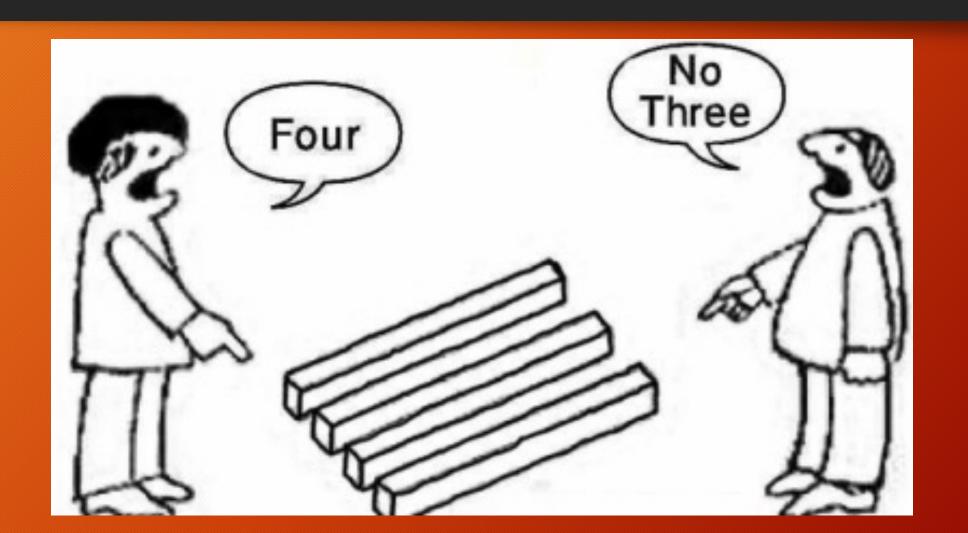
What is your favorite story/passage from the bible?

- Why is this your favorite?
- When did you first read it?
- Has your perspective on this passage changed over time?

What is a story/passage of the bible that is difficult for you to read?

- What is challenging about this part of the bible for you?
- When did you first read it?
- Has your perspective on this passage changed over time?

Eternal Truth vs. Point of View



Eternal Truth vs. Point of View





WHITE AND GOLD?

Eternal Truth vs. Point of View

Camp Eternal Truth

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

-John 14:6

Camp Point of View

 40,000 denominations of Christianity

Traditional Layers of Biblical Interpretation

1. Literal

literal interpretation of the events of the story for historical purposes

2. Typological

connecting the events of the Old Testament with the New Testament

3. Moral

how one should act today

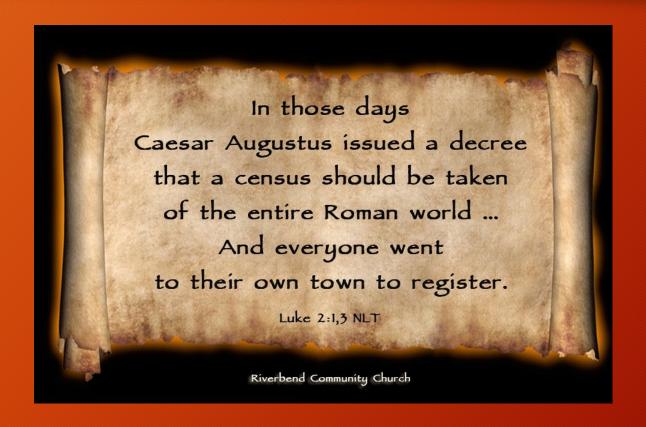
4. Anagogical

dealing with the future events of heaven, hell, the last judgment

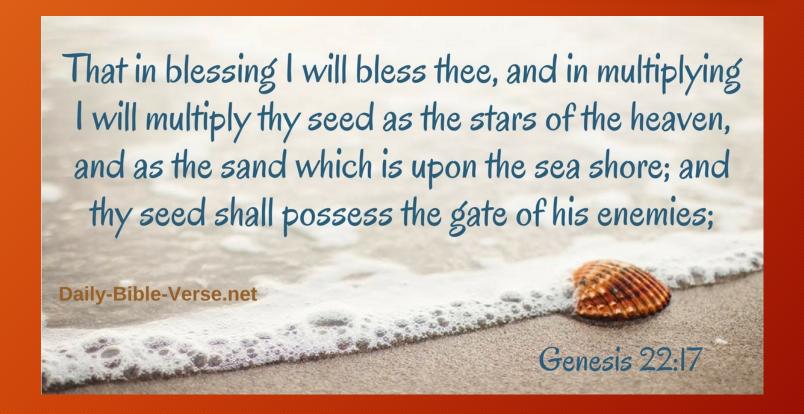
Traditional Layers of Biblical Interpretation

- 1. Literal
 - backward
- 2. Typological
 - forward
- 3. Moral
 - downward
- 4. Anagogical
 - upward

- 1. Literal
 - backward
- 2. Typological
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- 1. Literal
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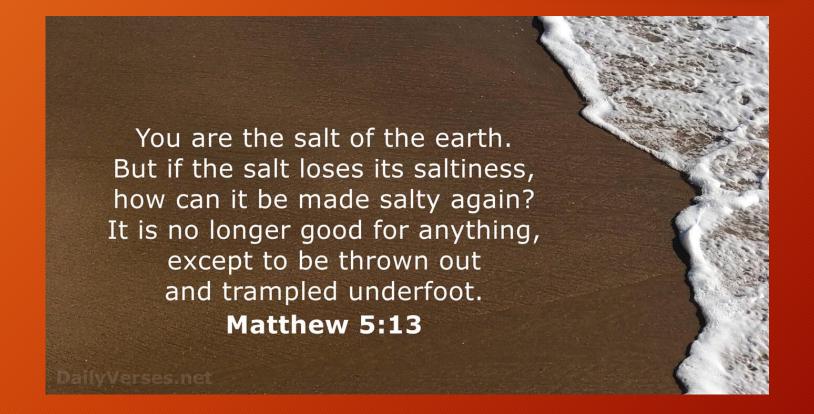
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The Lord Jesus said,

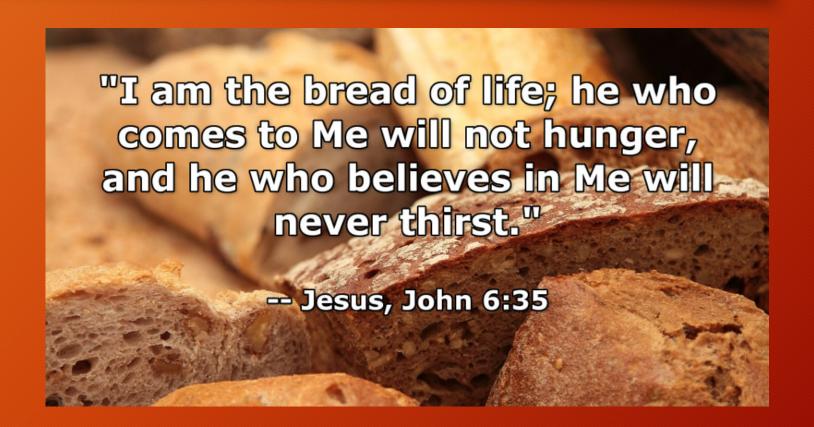
"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

>> Matthew 24:30

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Which way would you read it? - Mark 7:31-37

- 1. Literal
 - backward
- 2. Typological
 - forward
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- 4. Anagogical
 - upward

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they be sought him to lay his hand upon him. And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And he charged them to tell no one; but the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

Take Aways

- 1. Literal
 - backward
- 2. Typological
 - forward
- 3. Moral
 - downward
- 4. Anagogical
 - upward

- 1. Try reading the bible on each layer.
- 2. Test these readings within the framework of Church tradition.
- 3. The more you read the bible, the more these layers will come alive.

Questions/ Comments?

