

## How To Interpret The Bible Correctly

By Yirmeyah Tan, 19th September 2026

**2Pe 3:16** *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some **things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.***

**2Pe 3:17** *Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.***

**2Pe 3:18** *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

### I. Rightly Dividing The Word

**2Ti 2:15** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly **dividing** the word of truth.*

Thayer's Dictionary: G3718- orthotomeō

*to make straight and smooth, to handle aright, to teach the truth directly and correctly*

- a. We must correctly interpret Scripture
- b. Failure to be vigilant can lead to spiritual destruction
- c. Instead, we are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Yeshua.

### II. Search The Scriptures

**Act 17:10** *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

**Act 17:11** *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.***

**Psa 119:160** *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

- a. The church at Berea checked for themselves what Paul preached to verify the truth
- b. YAHWEH's Word endures for ever in righteousness and truth

### III. Declare The Whole Counsel of God

**Act 20:26** *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that **I am pure from the blood of all men.***

**Act 20:27** *For I have not shunned **to declare unto you all the counsel of God.***

**Eze 33:7** So thou, **O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore, thou shalt hear the word at my mouth and warn them from me.**

**Eze 33:8** When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; **if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.**

**Eze 33:9** Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

- a. People prefer sermons that uplift them: they want to hear of God's love, grace, mercy and blessings
- b. They want healing
- c. They do not want conviction of their sins
- d. They do not want the truth of God that requires discipleship, obedience and righteous living.
- e. But the whole counsel of God requires balancing God's love, grace, mercy and blessings with the requirements of discipleship, obedience, dying to the flesh and righteous living.
- f. Preachers must be like Paul: he determined to preach the whole counsel of God lest he be guilty of blood.

#### **IV. Books & Authors of Bible**

- a. The Bible comprises a collection of sixty-six books composed and compiled over 2,000 years by forty authors on three continents.
- b. Despite the impressive diversity of authors and subjects ranging from history to poetry, from prophecy to personal accounts—and languages, the Bible displays an astonishing unity of purpose, undivided harmony of thought, an unfolding narrative that is both unified and progressive.
- c. Three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek
- d. The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, projects universal truth that remains applicable to people around the world.

#### **V. The Real Author of The Bible**

**Jas 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**Jas 1:18** Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

**Psa 119:105** NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**Psa 119:130** The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

**2Ti 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

*2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

#### **VI. Plain & Right To Find Knowledge**

*Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.*

**Pro 8:9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.**

#### **VII. Children Can Understand**

*Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

*Deu 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

*Deu 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

*Deu 6:7 And thou shalt **teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

*Deu 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*

*Deu 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

#### **VIII. Hermeneutics**

- a. Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible. Second Timothy 2:15 commands believers to be involved in hermeneutics: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who . . . correctly handles the word of truth." The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to help us to know how to properly interpret, understand, and apply the Bible. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Biblical-hermeneutics.html>
- b. Look at the context, which is often helpful, except for prophecies that can appear in the midst of other discourses.
- c. Compare verses relevant to the topic
- d. Be careful of obscure passages. Do not try to distil doctrines from such verses

#### **IX. A Glass Darkly**

**1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

- a. God has chosen to reveal only what is needful for our salvation
- b. We must understand that sin darkens our understanding
- c. God's ways are unsearchable:

***Rom 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!***

*Rom 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor?*

**X. The Secrets [Sod] of God**

***Deu 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.***

**H5641: sathar**—hidden things

- a. Hidden things [secrets] belong to God
- b. What He has revealed to us through His Word are ours
- c. His revelations are meant to produce obedience to His Torah
- d. The Rabbinic method: 4 levels**
  1. Pshat: plain-the direct, literal meaning based on grammar and historical context
  2. Remez [hint]: the allegorical or deeper hinted meanings beneath the words
  3. Derash [Inquiry]: comparative- looking at different [allied] verses to get insights.
  4. **Sod [secret]**: the Kabbalistic mystical interpretation of the text. Involves numeric values of words etc.
- e. Note: there are many Christian YouTube videos that purport to discover deeper meanings of Bible verses. These are Kabbalistic and to be avoided.
- f. God Himself provides revelations for those who fear Him.

**XI. Revelations**

***Psa 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.***

**H5475: Sod**--secret

*Dan 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

***Dan 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.***

***Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.***

***Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;***

*Gen 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*

**Gen 18:19** *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

**1Co 2:9** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

**1Co 2:10** *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

**Psa 111:10** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

- a. God's secrets are revealed only to those who fear [reverence] Him.
- b. To get a good understanding of scripture, obey His commandments
- c. He reveals secrets to His servants like Abraham, Daniel and His prophets.

## **XII. We Need The Holy Spirit to Understand Scripture**

**2Pe 1:20** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

**2Pe 1:21** *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

## **XIII. Understanding Given To The Simple**

**Psa 119:130** *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

**Pro 1:1** *The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;*

**Pro 1:2** *To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;*

**Pro 1:3** *To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;*

**Pro 1:4** *To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*