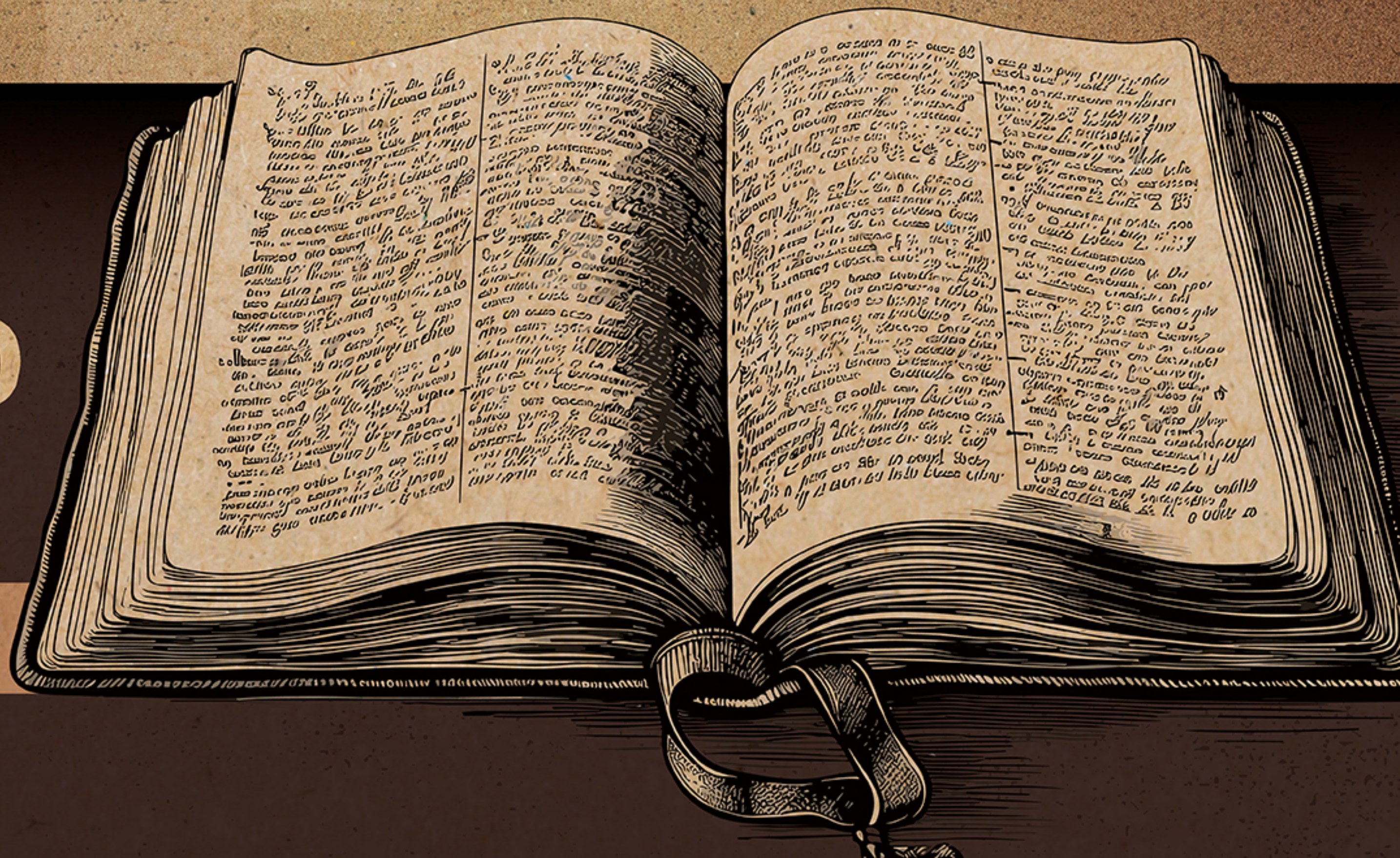


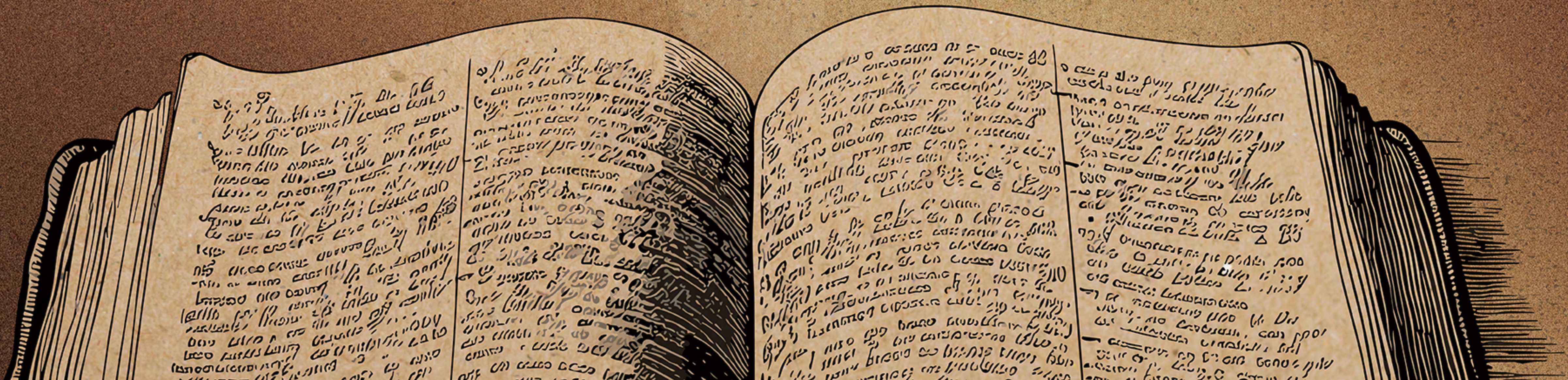
FORGED BY THE WORD

**LEARN TO READ
AND UNDERSTAND
GOD'S WORD**

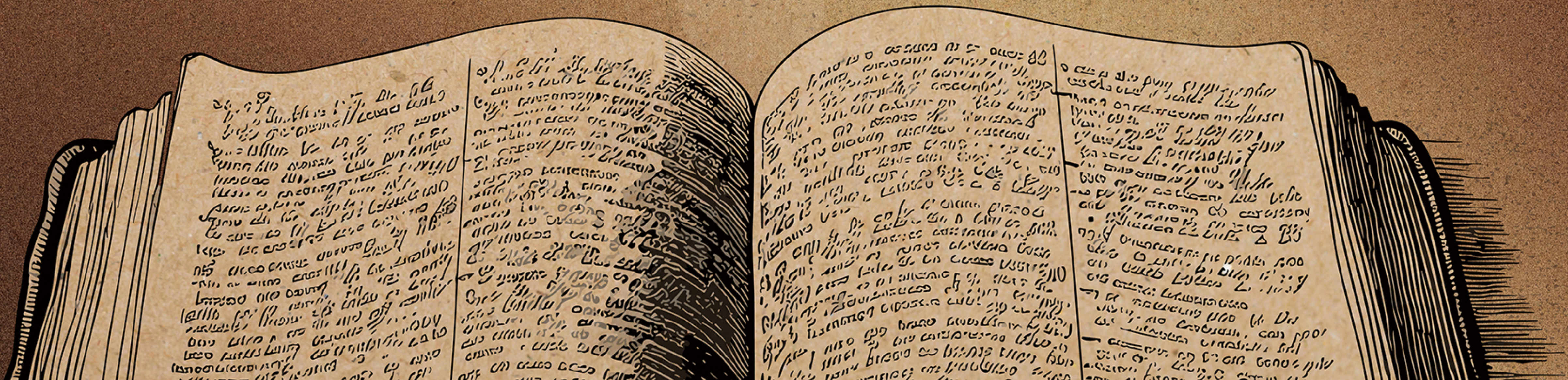
MEN'S MORNING STUDY



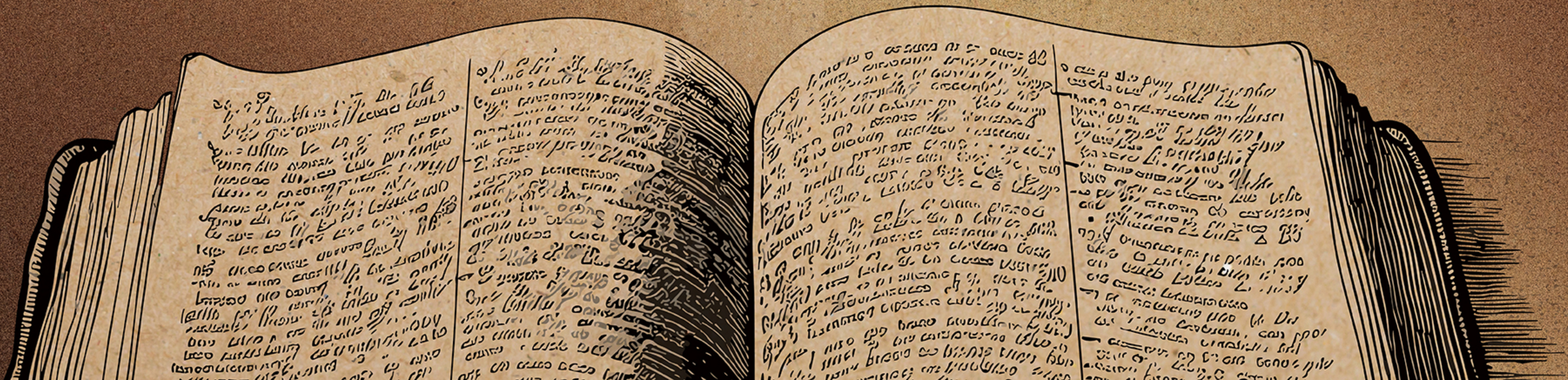
**WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE, DO YOU
USUALLY FOCUS ON HOW IT MAKES YOU
FEEL OR HOW IT'S ORGANIZED? WHY DO
YOU THINK THAT IS?**



LOOKING AT THE STRUCTURE



**THE SHAPE OF A PASSAGE WILL
ALMOST ALWAYS SHOW YOU THE
EMPHASIS OF THE BIBLICAL AUTHOR.**



Looking at the Structure

- Pay attention to the organization and shape of a biblical passage.
- The structure reveals the author's emphasis.
- That emphasis helps guide our interpretation and application.

Looking at the Structure

We look for clues like:

- **Transition words: so, therefore, if, because...**
- **Shifts in subject or tone**
- **Repeated words or phrases**

Problems Avoided

- **Misplaced Emphasis**
- **Wandering Interpretation**
- **Literary Abuse**

Benefits of Applying this Principle

- **We uncover the author's flow of thought.**
- **We better grasp the main emphasis.**
- **We're guided toward the correct application.**

Practice Together: Psalm 1

- **As we read, note:**
 - **Where the focus shifts**
 - **What transitions or repeated words appear**
 - **Any developing theme**

Practice Together: Psalm 1

- **Verses 1–2 - Description of the Righteous**
- **Verse 3a - Metaphor for the Righteous**
 - **Verse 3b - Fruition of the Righteous**
- **Verse 4a - Fruition of the Wicked**
 - **Verse 4b - Metaphor for the Wicked**
- **Verses 4–5 - Description of the Wicked**
- **Verse 6 - Summarizing Conclusion**

Luke 15:1-2

Now, the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them.

Luke 15

- **Three Parables**
- **The Lost Sheep**
- **The Lost Coin**
- **The Lost Son**

Luke 15:3-7

- **The Lost Sheep**
- **Something is lost (v. 4)**
- **Something is found (v. 5)**
- **There's rejoicing (v. 6)**

Luke 15:8-10

- **The Lost Coin**
- **Something is lost (v. 8)**
- **Something is found (v. 9a)**
- **There's rejoicing (v. 9b)**

Luke 15:11-32

- **The Lost Son**
- **Something is lost (v. 11-12)**
- **Something is found (v. 17-21)**
- **There's rejoicing (v. 22-24)**
-

Luke 15:25-28

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

CASE STUDY: GENESIS 11:1-9



Genesis 11:1

**Now the whole world had one language
and a common speech.**

Genesis 11:9

That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:5

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

Case Study: Genesis 11:1-9

- **Begins: humanity united by language**
 - **Middle: God comes down**
- **Ends: confusion and scattering**

Case Study: Genesis 11:1-9

- **Begins: humanity united by language**
- **Middle: God comes down**
- **Ends: confusion and scattering**

Review

Looking at the Structure:

- How are the biblical authors constructing what they're writing?
- How does that show us what we must center in our interpretation and application?