

# The Bible: Context Of The Text

March 1, 2023

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## Context

- Whenever we read the Bible, we need to read each book, letter, paragraph, sentence, & verse in context.
- Read what's *before* to understand the verse in context. A single verse used this way; out of context.
- The meaning of that passage must be understood in its original context *before* application can begin.
- Sometimes external sources help with context:
  - Lev. 7:23-25; fat = weatherproofing, grease, etc.

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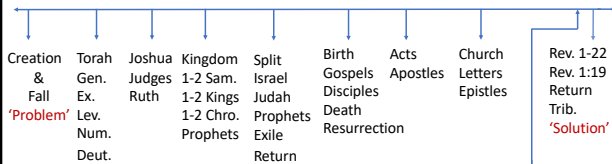
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## Redemptive History



Where on the timeline and where are we on the timeline?

**We are here** on the timeline of Redemptive History. We view the past and future by our location. We learn from the past to live for Him where we are. Not everything is about us, but it **informs** us. From information, we correctly understand application.

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Context

- Where on the timeline & Who is speaking
- Who is being spoken to: each person, group(s)
- What is the issue, or the problem being addressed?
- Where is it being addressed? (In the Land, not, etc.)
- What is the solution to the issue or the problem.
- We weren't there, nor in the conversation.
- Overwhelming majority is not about us.
- Application in context can only now be applied.

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Context & Consistency

- Gen. 1 & 2, 2:24; 3:15.
- Ex. 20 – 10 Commandments; Do they still apply?
- Lev. 1 – sacrifices that Israel had to follow.
- Jeremiah 29:11 (Read 29:1-10, you in 29:11 is plural)
- Phil. 1:6 ('You' is the Philippian church, not you & I)
- Phil. 4:13 ("I" is Paul in his context, not you or I.)
- Matthew 18:20 (Read Matthew 18:15-19 first!)

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Context – Always Remember

- Be consistent & understand what is consistent.
- Be willing to study and be willing to learn something new that may differ from what you have been told.
  - Wait a minute! I've always been taught . . . !
- Don't read your theology into the text.
  - 1 Tim. 3:12: *Apolyō* = divorce; not in that verse.
  - Literally; a one-woman man = fidelity in marriage.
  - If married, your marriage is above reproach.

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