

# Bible Study

# Basics

# Session 2

## Bible Study Basics

- Observation
  - What does the text say?
- Interpretation
  - What does the text mean?
- Application
  - How does the text apply to my life?

## Key Observations

- Who is the author?
- Who is the audience?
- Who wrote it?
- What is the main idea?
- What does this reveal about God?

## Context

- Historical
- Cultural
- Literary

## Interpretation

- What does the text mean?

## Application

- How does the text apply to my life?

## Psalm 23

- The Lord is my shepherd
  - Relationship
- He leads me
  - Guidance
- He restores my soul
  - Peace
- I will dwell in the house of the Lord
  - Forever

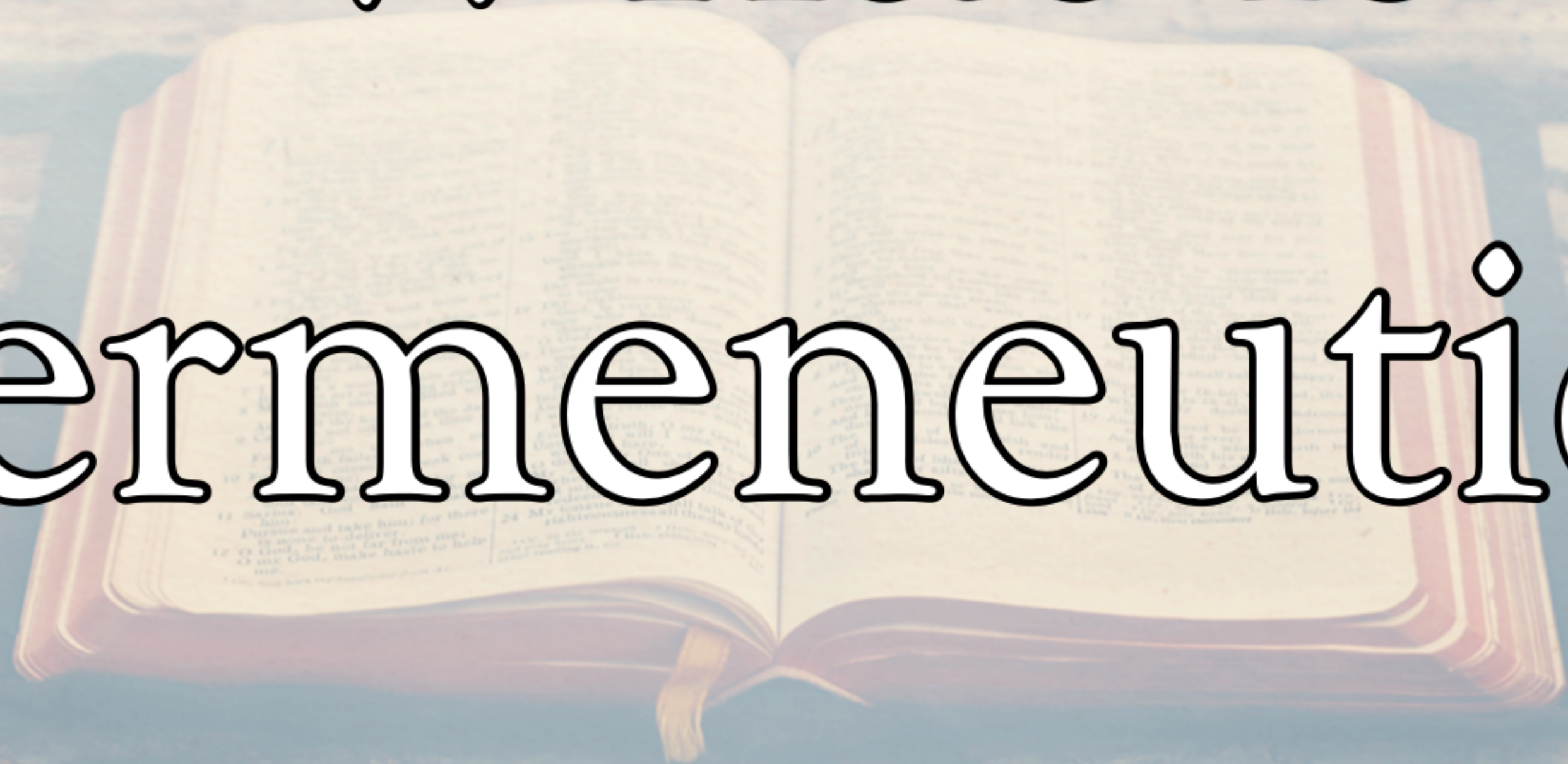
OR

“How to read your  
bible without  
becoming a heretic”

# Topic Review

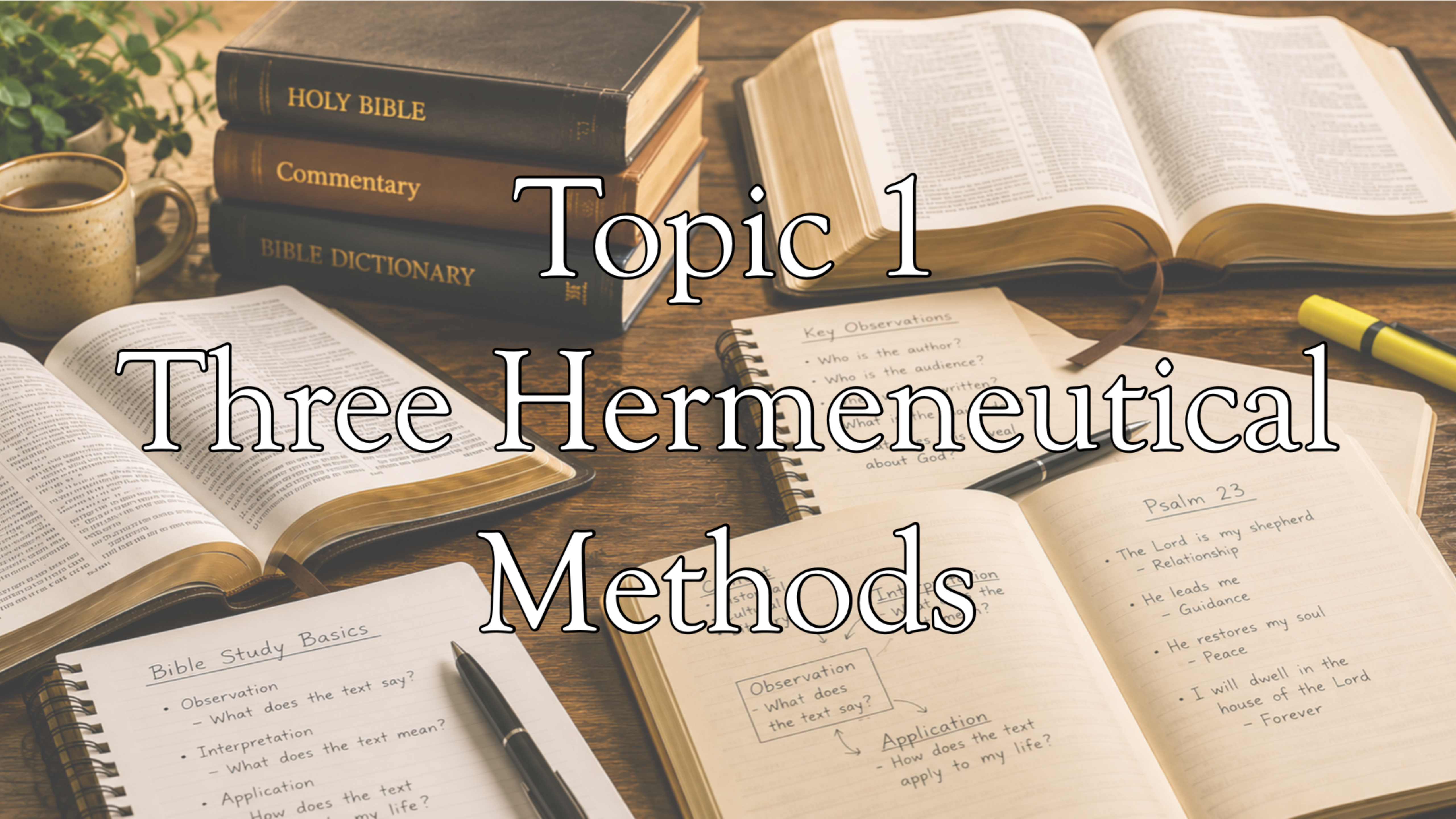
What is

Hermeneutics?



“HERMENEUTICS is the science and art of Biblical interpretation. It is a science because it is guided by rules within a system; and it is an art because the application of the rules is by skill, and not by mechanical imitation.”

Bernard Ramm



HOLY BIBLE  
Commentary  
BIBLE DICTIONARY

Open Bible with text on pages.



# Topic 1

# Three Hermeneutical Methods

Open Bible with text on pages.

Key Observations  
• Who is the author?  
• Who is the audience?  
• Who wrote it?  
• What is the occasion?  
• What does it reveal about God?

Bible Study Basics  
• Observation  
- What does the text say?  
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How does the text apply to my life?

Interpretation  
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Psalm 23  
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# The Medieval Quadriga

This method examines the text for four meanings:

1. Literal Meaning
2. Moral Meaning
3. Allegorical Meaning
4. Spiritual/Mythical Meaning

Literal Meaning:  
The plain and evident  
meaning of the passage



Moral Meaning:  
That which instructs  
humans in how to behave



# Allegorical Meaning:

The sense in which a passage reveals the content of faith



Spiritual/Mythical Meaning:  
The sense in which the passage  
expresses a future hope



Example:

Passages that mention the city of Jerusalem:

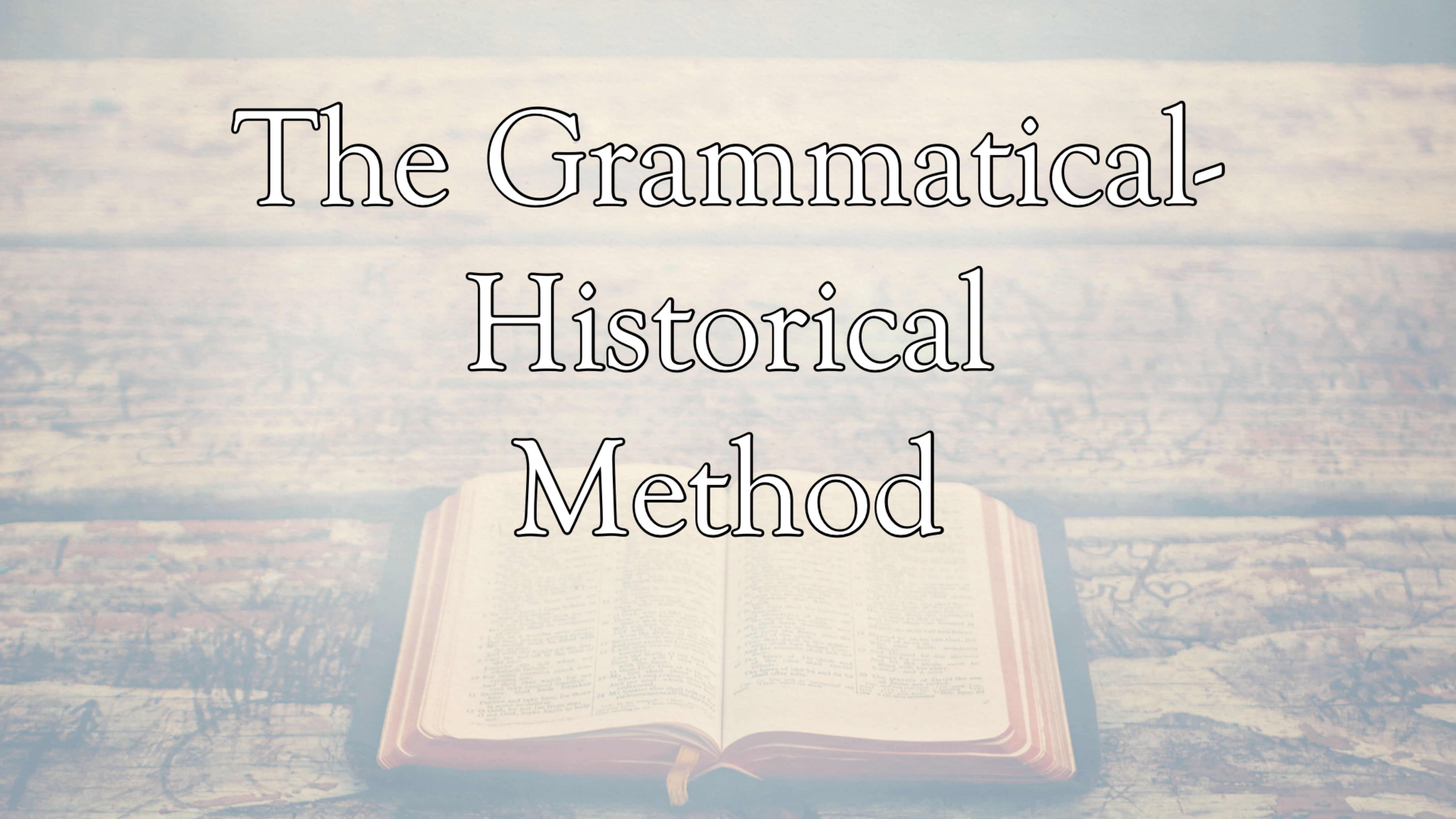
Literal = The capital of Judea and the central sanctuary of  
the nation

Moral = The human soul or center sanctuary of a person

Allegorical = The the church or the center sanctuary of the  
Christian community

Spiritual/Mystical = Heaven the final hope and future  
residence for the people of God.

# The Grammatical- Historical Method



This method examines the grammatical structure and determines whether words are to be taken as questions (interrogative), commands (imperative), or declarative (indicative)

Example:

In Acts 1:8 when Jesus says “You shall be my witnesses...” Is he making a prediction or issuing a sovereign command?

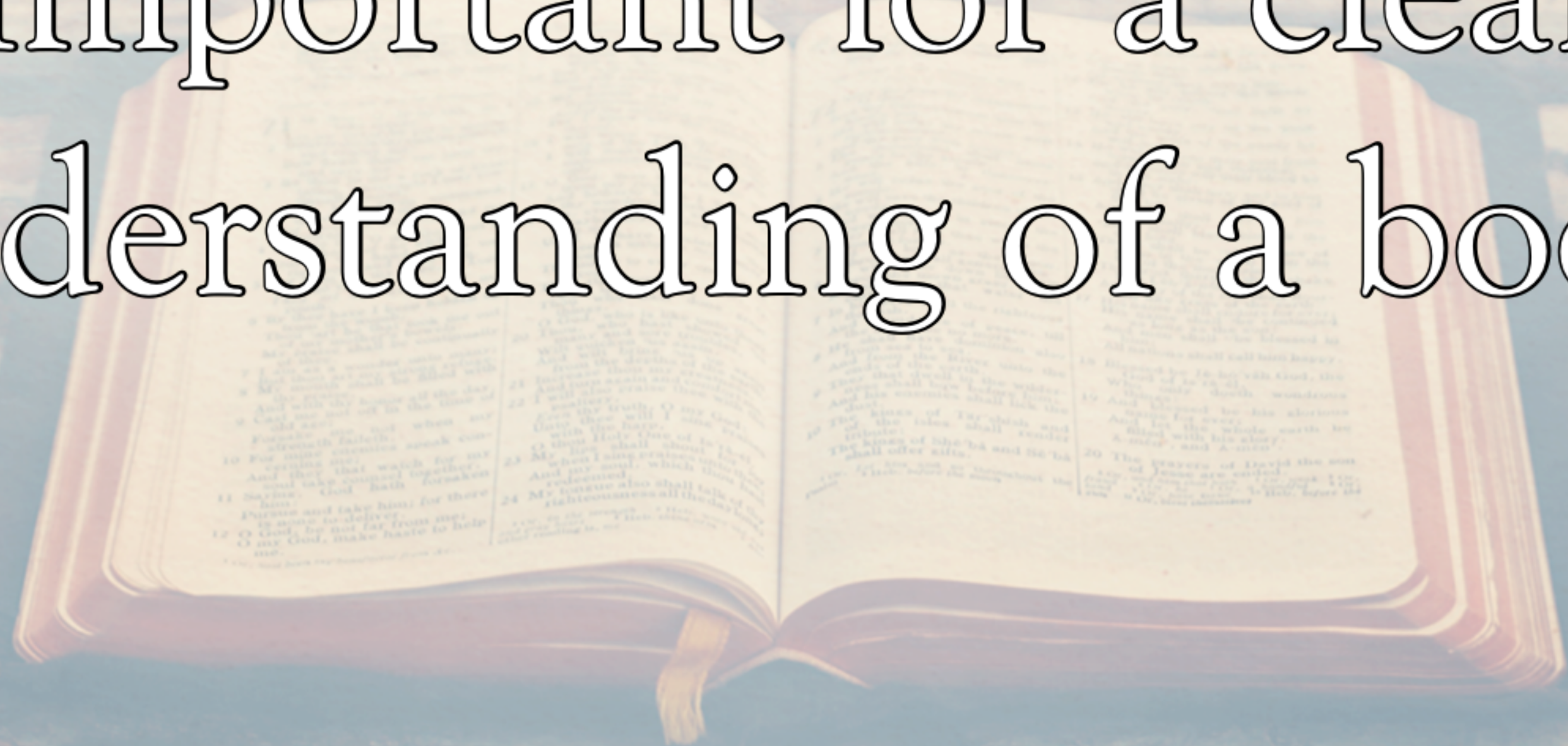


This method examines performs historical analysis to seek a knowledge of the setting and situation in which the books of the bible were written.

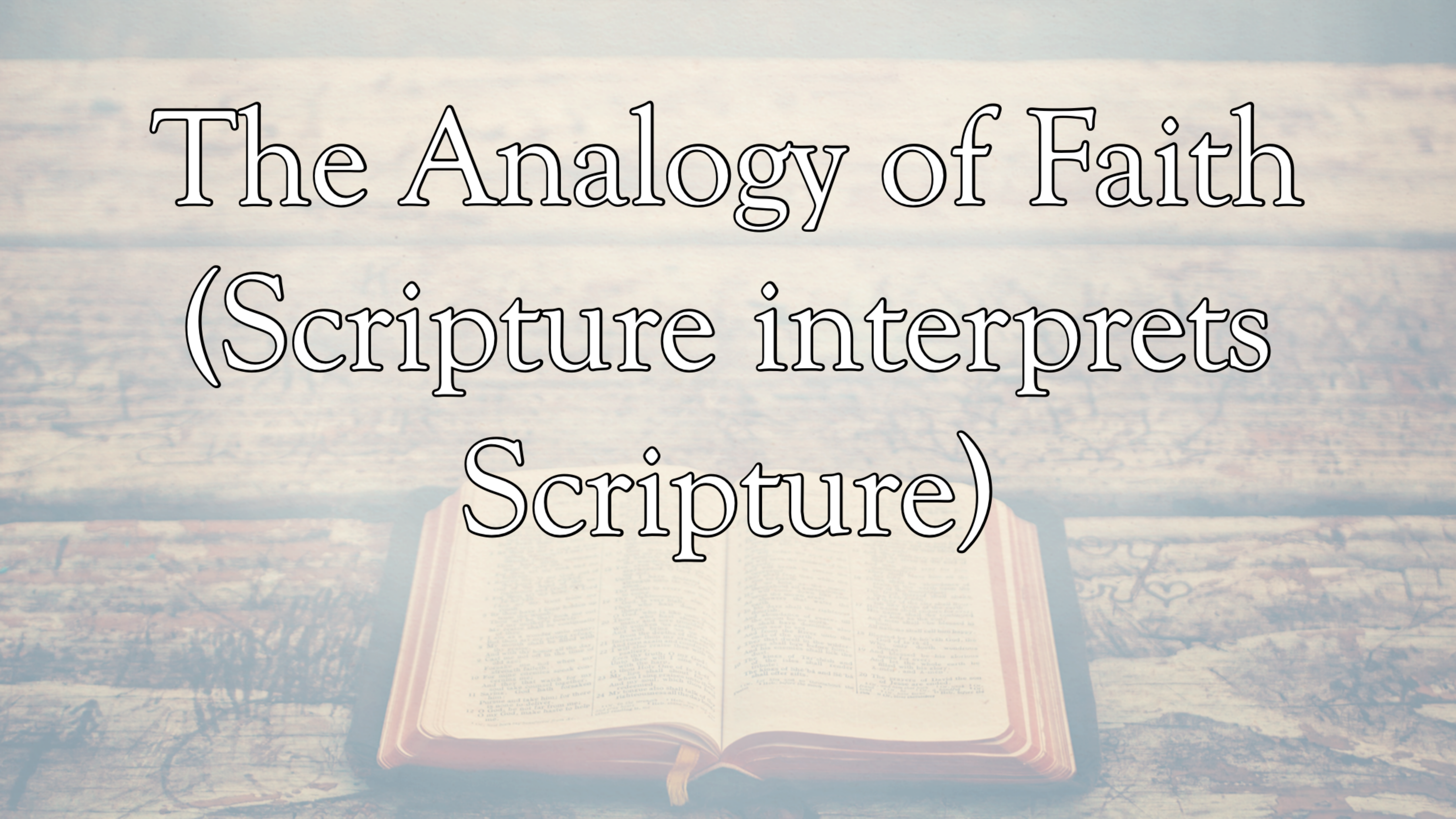
It asks: “What did the original audience understand this to mean?”

Example:

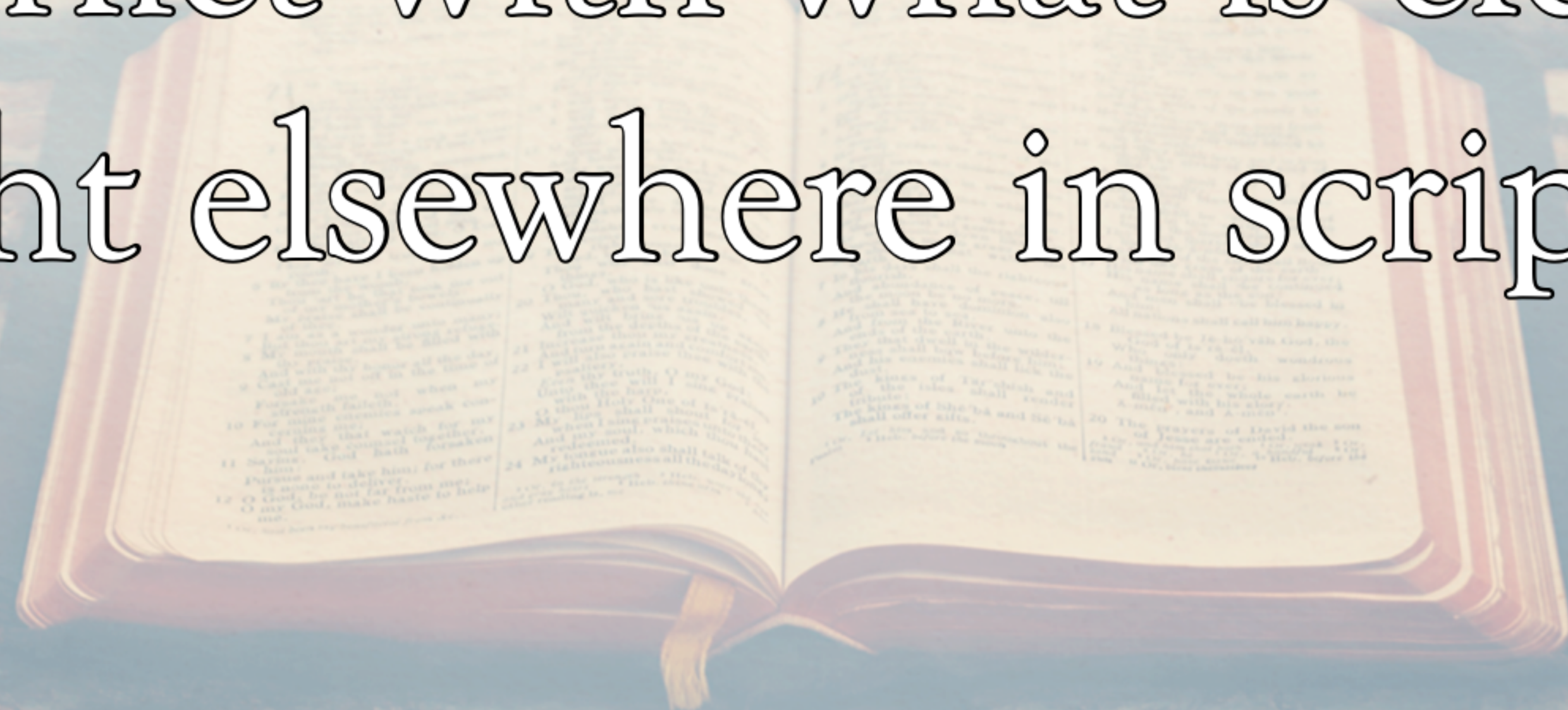
Questions of authorship, date  
and destination of books are  
important for a clear  
understanding of a book.



# The Analogy of Faith (Scripture interprets Scripture)

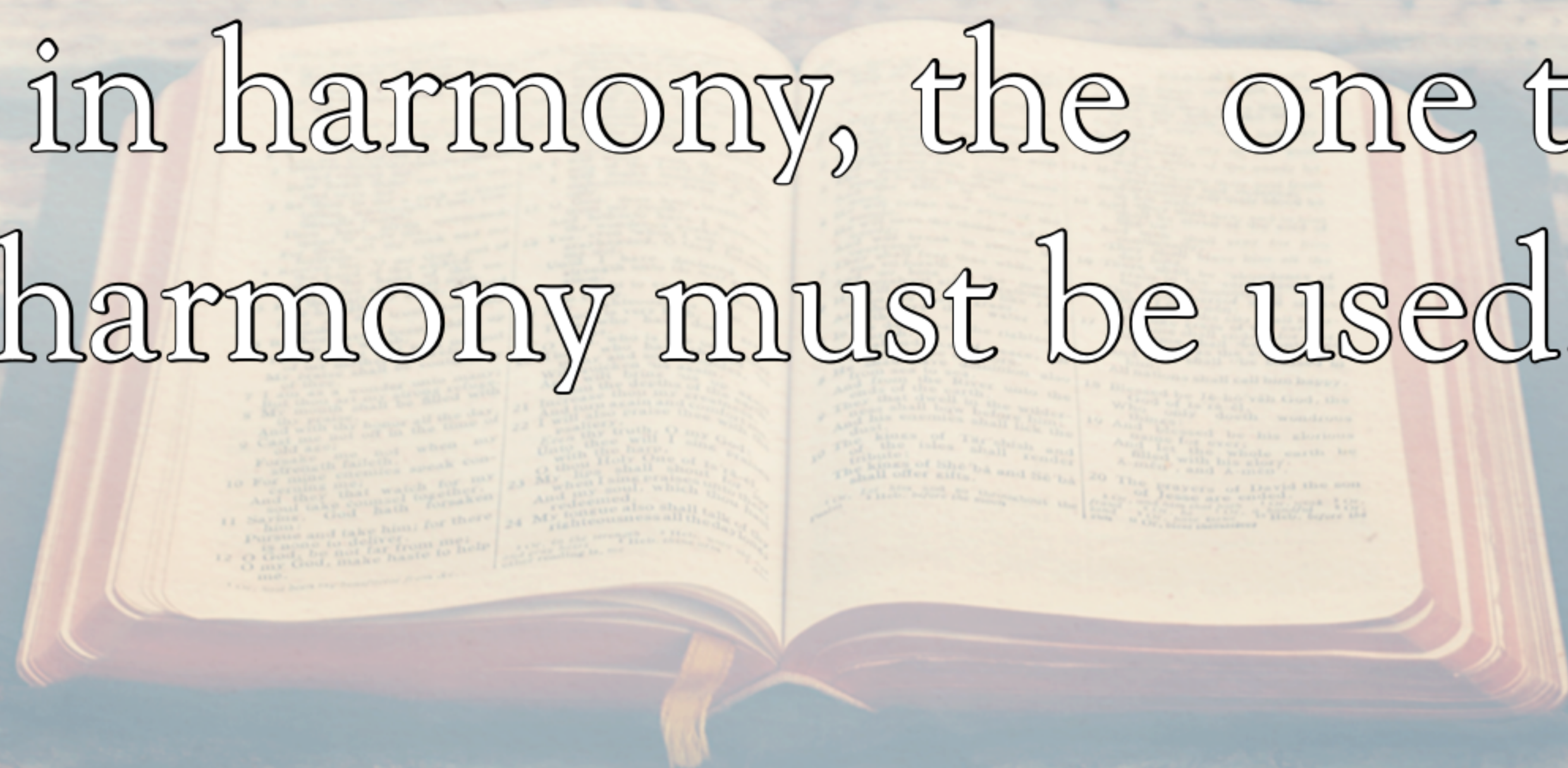
An open Bible with a red cover is the central focus, lying flat on a wooden surface. The pages are filled with text, and a small bookmark is visible at the bottom. The background is a soft-focus image of a desert landscape with a blue sky and a horizon line. The text is overlaid in a white, outlined font.

This means simply that no part of scripture can be interpreted in such a way as to render it in conflict with what is clearly taught elsewhere in scripture.



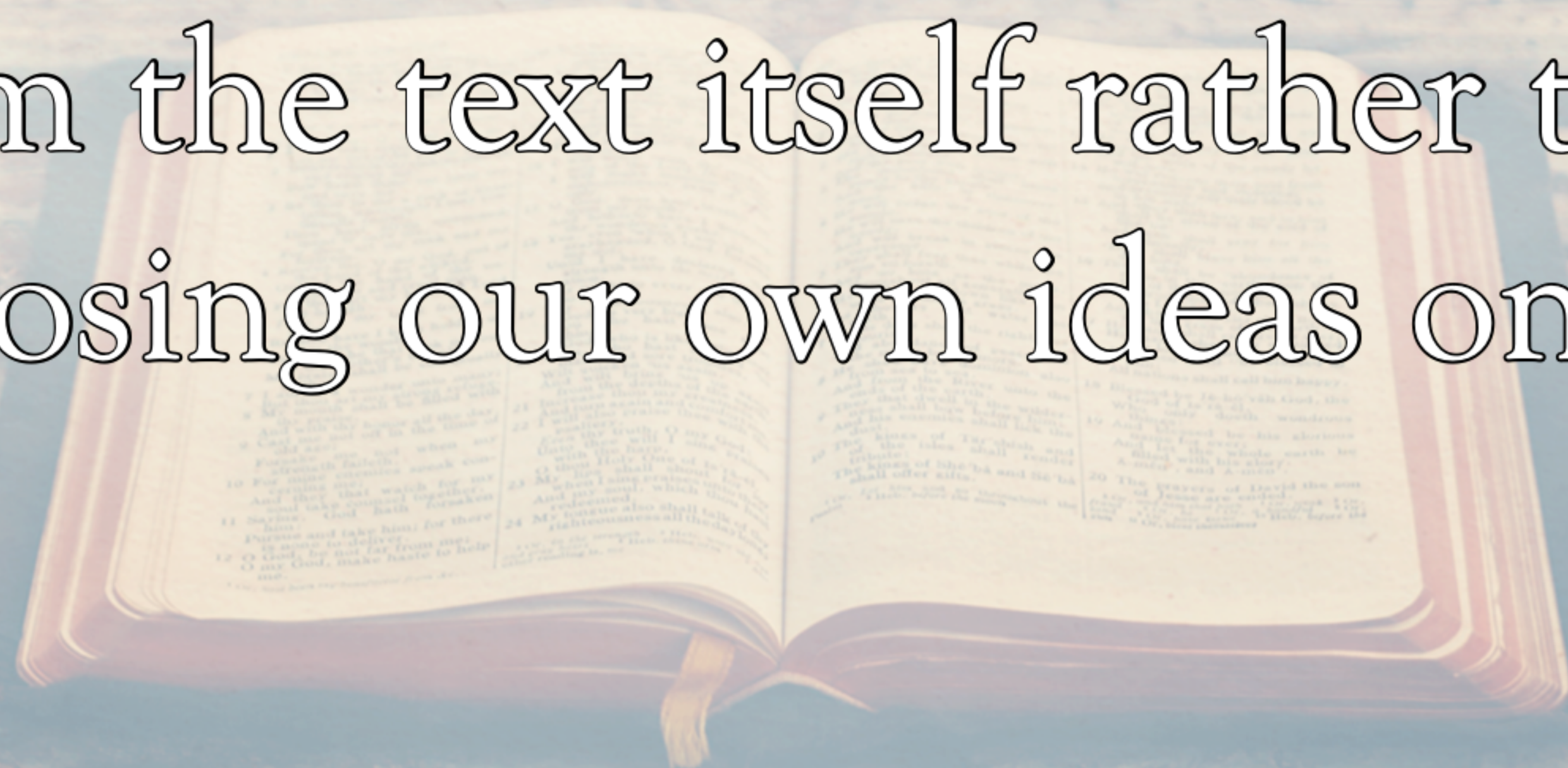
Example:

If a verse has two possible interpretations and one of these goes against the rest of scripture , while the other is in harmony, the one that is in harmony must be used.

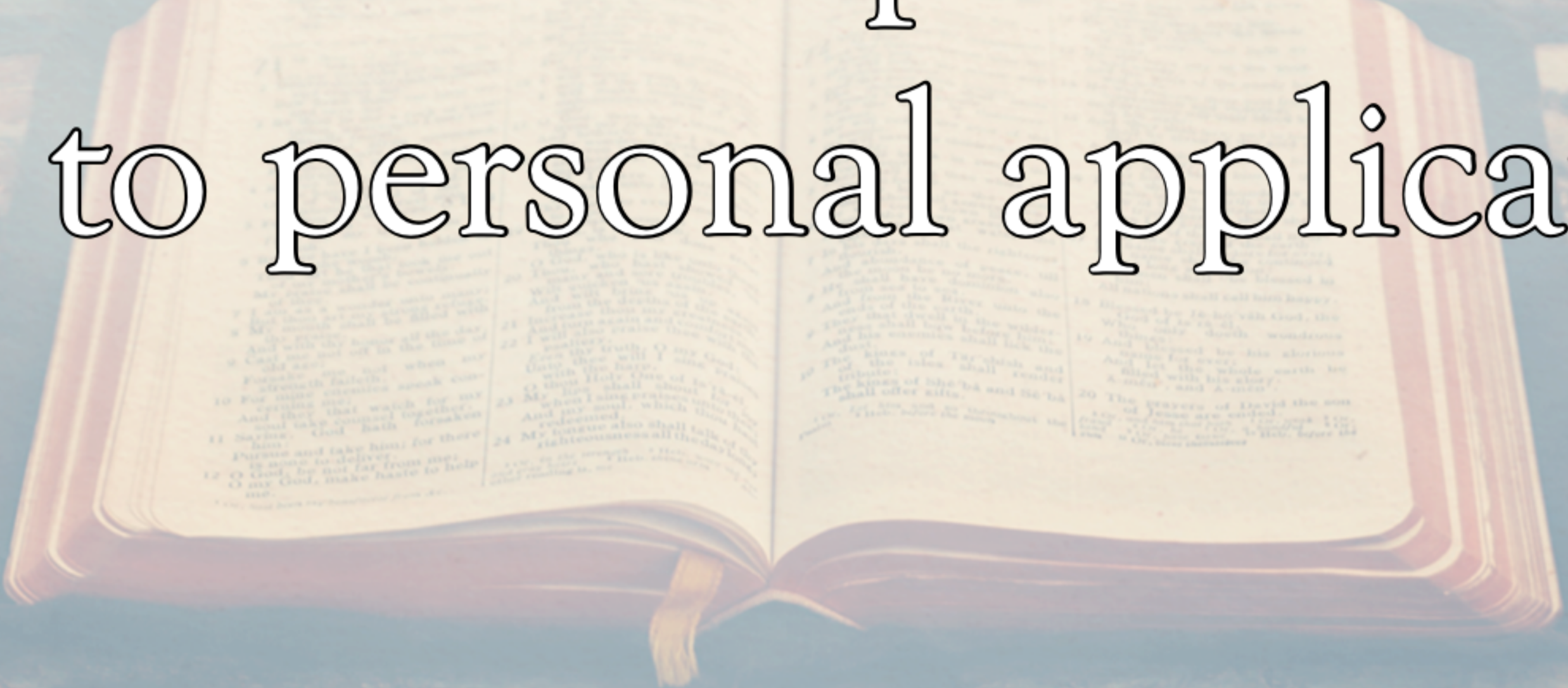


## The Inductive Method:

A way of studying Scripture that seeks to let the meaning of the text arise from the text itself rather than imposing our own ideas onto it



The Inductive Method  
moves from careful observation  
to faithful interpretation and  
then to personal application.

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, outlined font.

## Stage 1. Observation — “What does the text say?”

This stage focuses on carefully examining the passage.

Key questions:

What words or ideas are repeated?

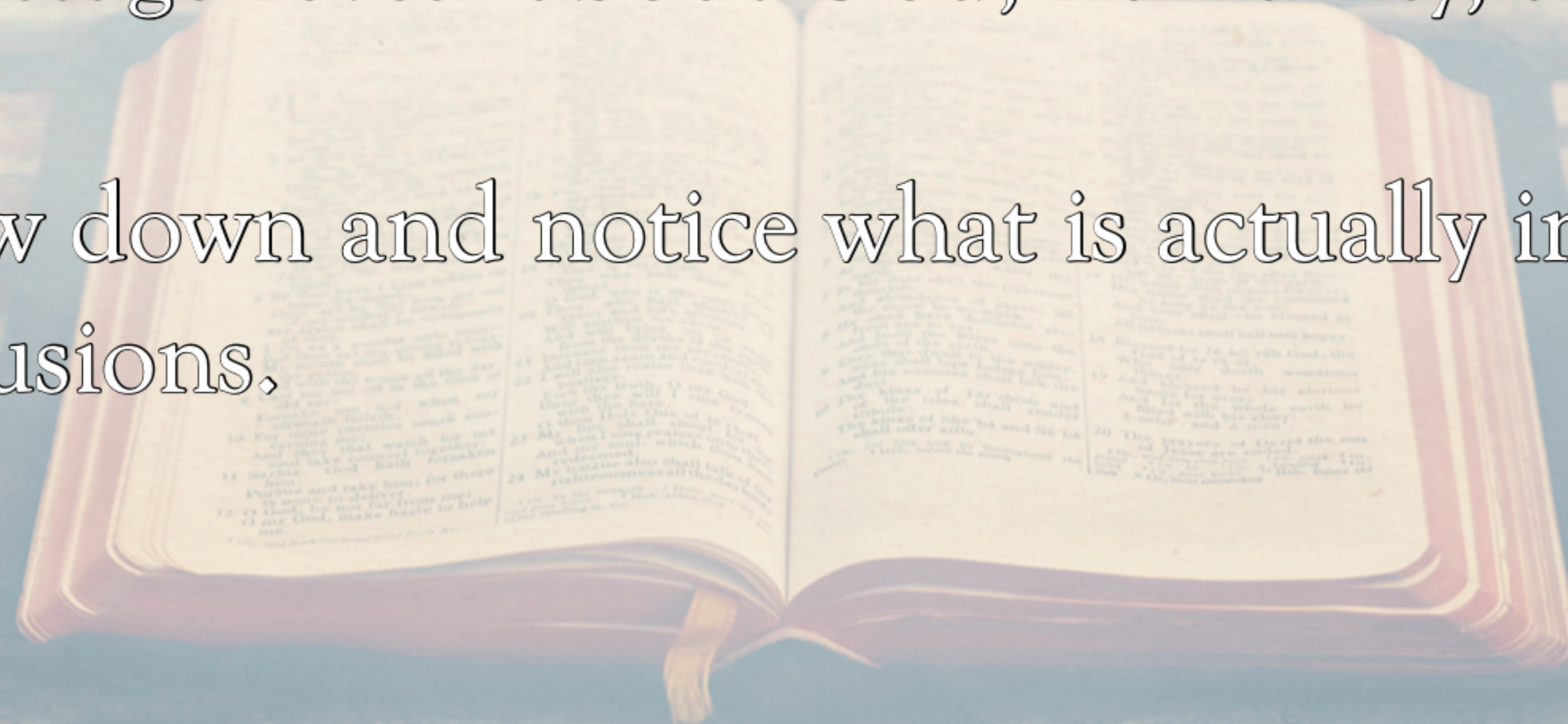
Who is speaking?

Who is being addressed?

What commands, promises, warnings, or themes appear?

What does the passage reveal about God, humanity, sin, or redemption?

The goal is to slow down and notice what is actually in the text before jumping to conclusions.



## 2. Interpretation — “What does the text mean?”

This stage seeks to understand the author’s intended meaning.

It involves:

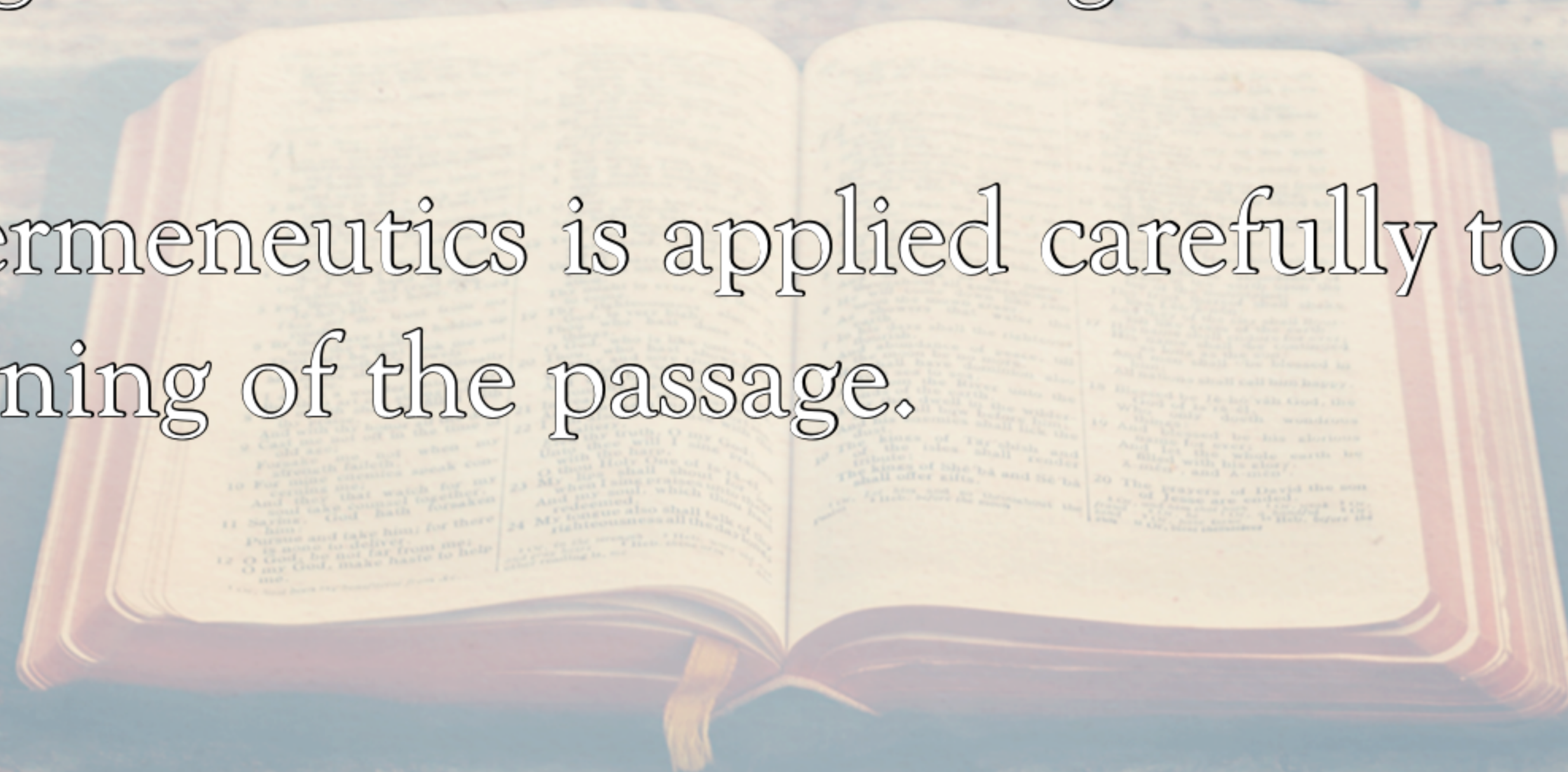
Considering context (historical, literary, biblical)

Defining important words

Comparing Scripture with Scripture

Understanding genre and flow of thought

This is where hermeneutics is applied carefully to determine the one correct meaning of the passage.



## Stage 3. Application — “How should this truth change me?”

Once the meaning is understood, we ask how the truth should shape:

Our beliefs

Our worship

Our attitudes

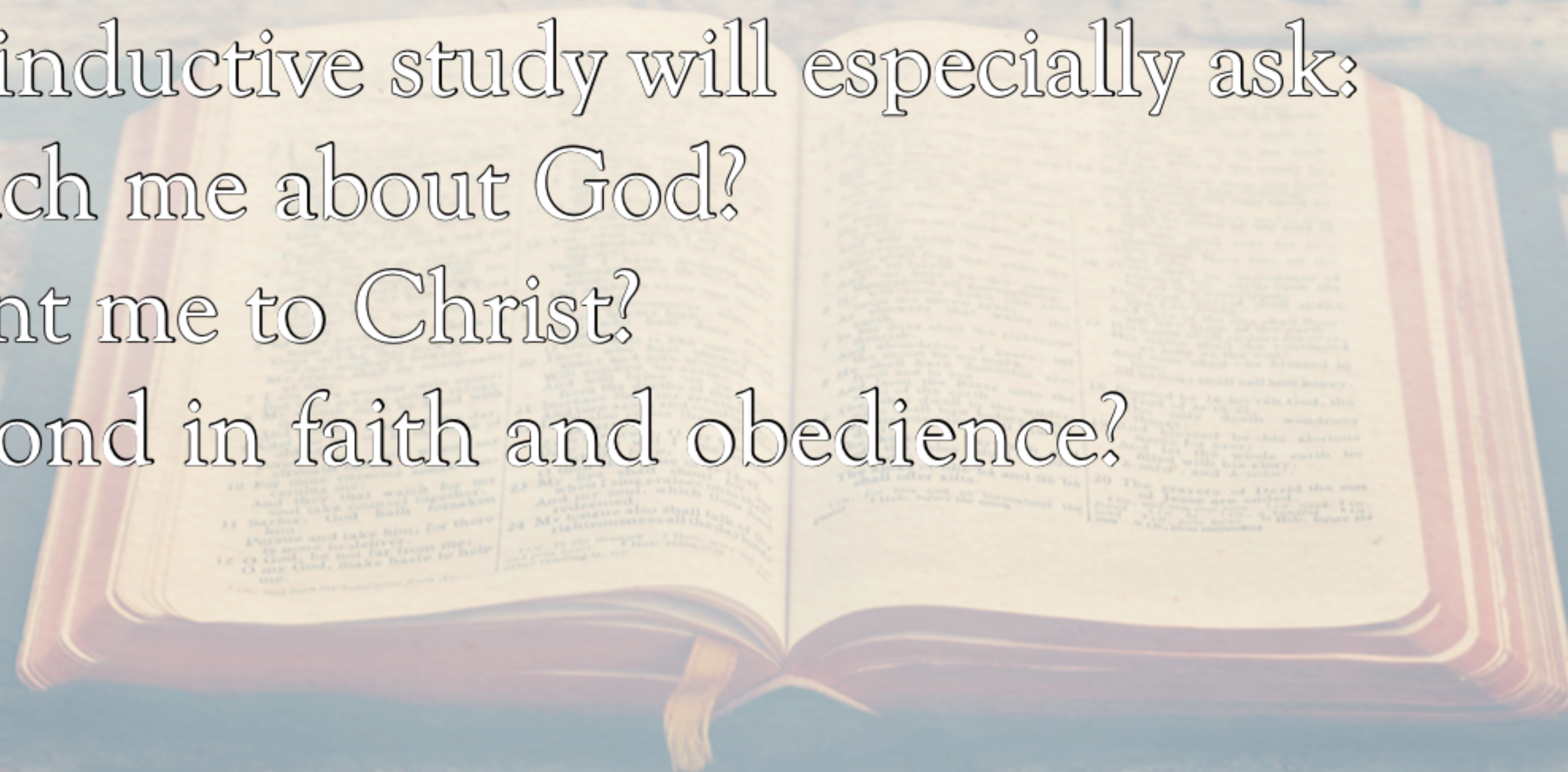
Our obedience

A Christ-centered inductive study will especially ask:

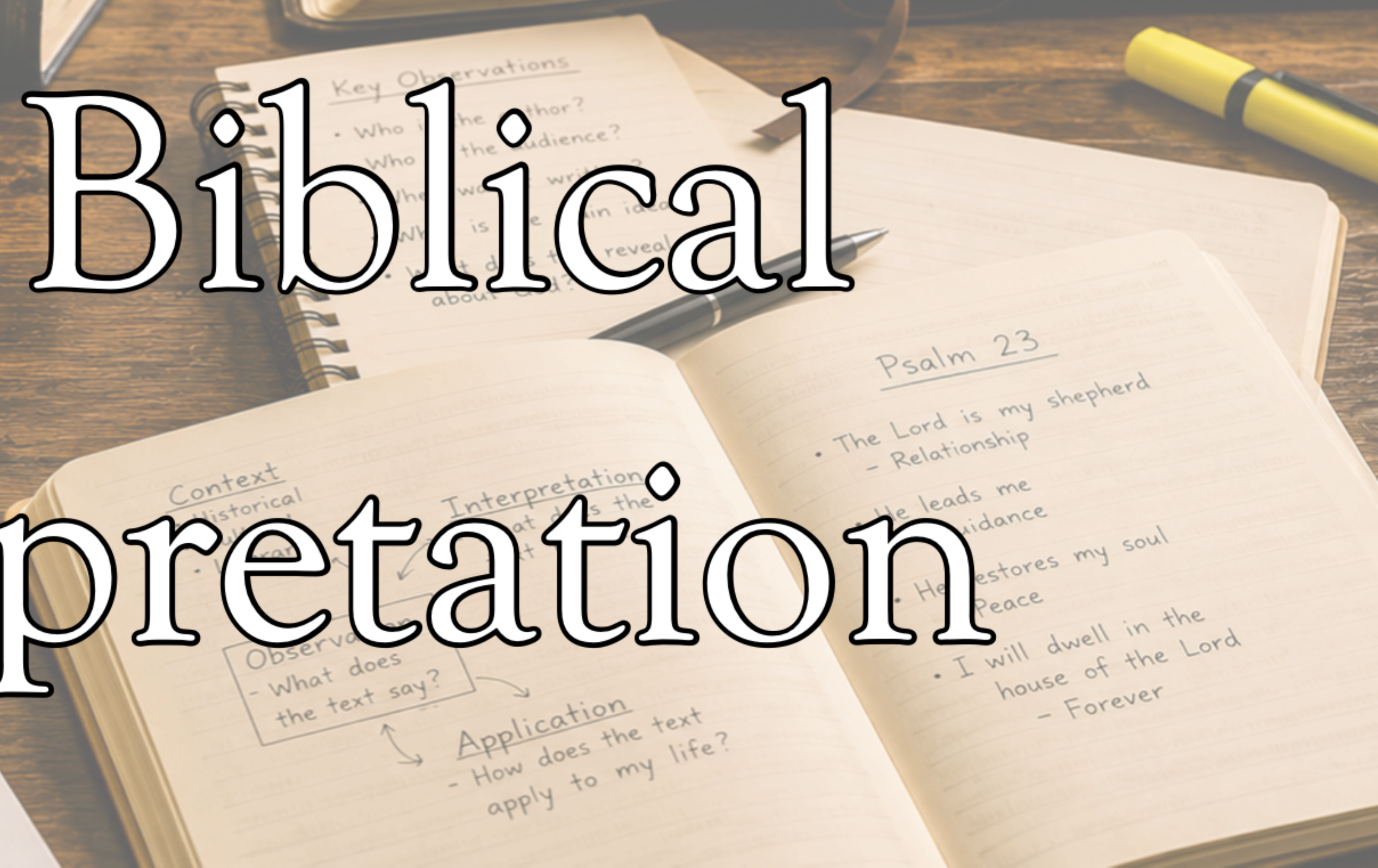
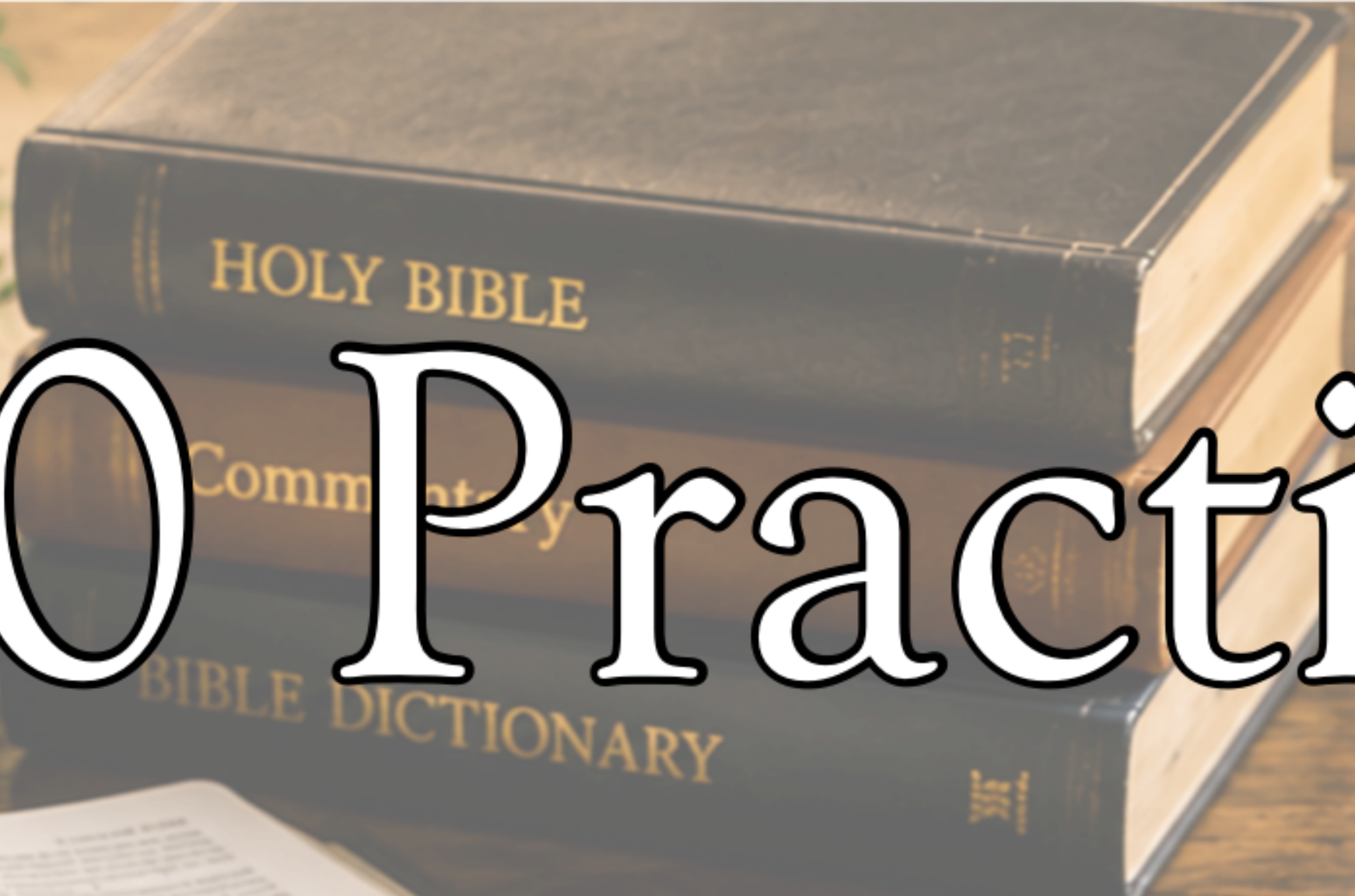
What does this teach me about God?

How does this point me to Christ?

How should I respond in faith and obedience?




# 10 Practical Rules For Biblical Interpretation



# Rule # 1

Read the Bible like  
any other book

An open Bible with a red cover is centered in the lower half of the image, resting on a wooden surface. The pages are yellowed with age and contain faint, illegible text. The background is a blurred, light-colored wooden surface.


Rule # 2

Read the

Existentiaally


# Rule # 3

Interpret the Stories  
by the Teachings



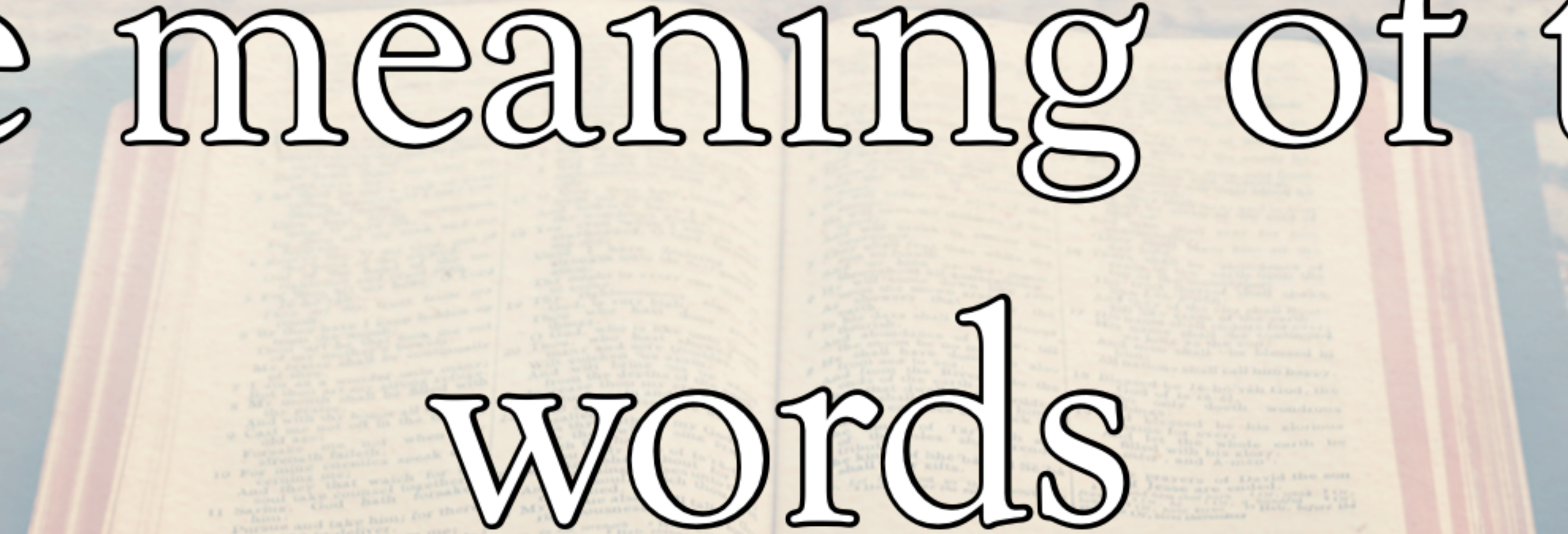
# Rule # 4

Interpret the Obscure  
(implicit) by the Clear  
(explicit)

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The book is the central focus of the image, with its pages slightly curved as if being turned. The text on the pages is small and illegible, but the overall appearance is that of an old, well-used volume. The background is a soft, out-of-focus wooden surface, suggesting a desk or a table.

# Rule # 5

Determine carefully  
the meaning of the  
words

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The text on the pages is faint and mostly illegible, but some words like 'And they that shall be' and 'And they that shall be' are visible. The book is open to a page with a large heading that appears to be 'And they that shall be'.

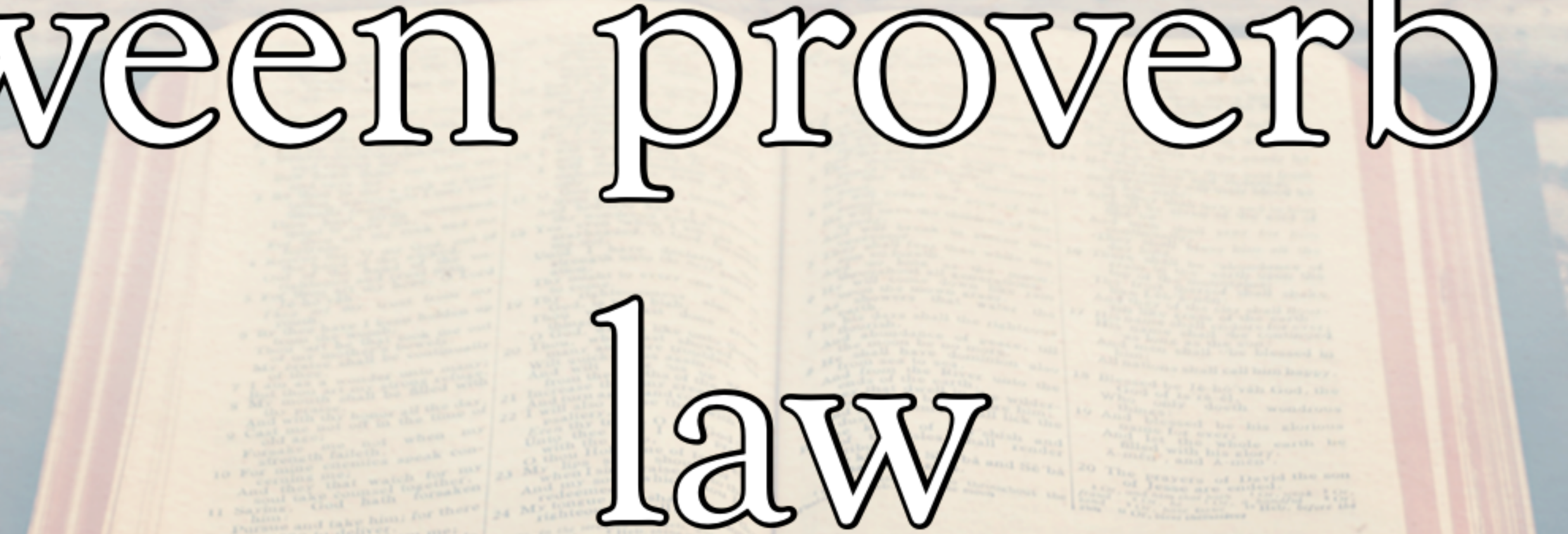
# Rule # 6

Look out for

Parallelisms

# Rule # 7

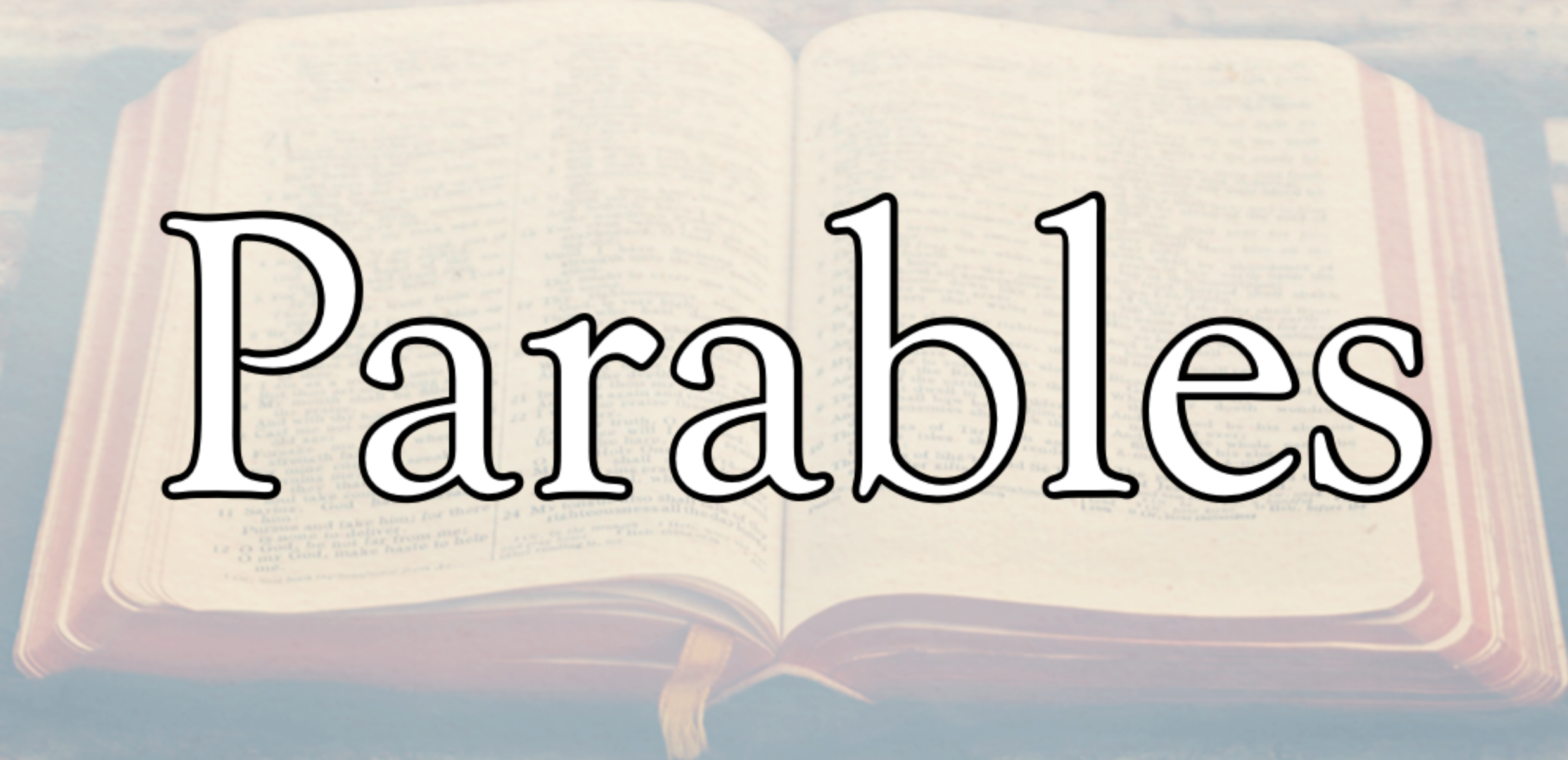
Note the difference  
between proverb and  
law

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The text on the pages is small and mostly illegible, but some words like 'And they that watch for me' and 'And they that are diligent' are visible. The book is open to a page with a red cover.

# Rule # 8

Be careful with

Parables



# Rule # 9

Be careful

predictive prophecy

Rule # 10

Study the Bible

with Humility