

# Defining words/Terms Within the Biblical Text

Social media has also impacted our communication style. Our messages have been getting increasingly **shorter**. It is now normal to send short messages to friends or tweet 140-character posts. Other areas of communication have adapted for **summarized writing** as well, such as shortened work memos, shortened communication between students and professors, and shortened messages in advertising. Also, the creation of emojis and GIFs may seem fun and innocent, but they interfere with our ability to communicate properly. **People are starting to replace written messages with emojis or animated pictures**—think of the crying face emoji, skull emoji, or even the heart emoji.

*Written by: Juliette Santulin (W'25); Edited by: Saya Desai (C'25)* How Social Media Has Impacted Our Ability To Communicate With One Another Wharton women April 4 2022

**Collateral damage:** What the above reflects is less thoughtfulness in communication, both ways, talking and listening. We forget or perhaps ignore that there is a difference between listening and reading. This is not just social media. It shows up in personal conversations as less time in speaking to each other, that is shorter conversations and less conversations period. However, there is something deeper, how it shows up in “personal bible study” The issue is time, focus and effort. Shorter conversations, shorter messaging, substituting images for words help produce a shorter attention span. Opinion: We seldom go away from one of these encounters mulling over the communication, just move on to the next thing. Bible study is meant to be a focused, deliberate, “in the moment” process. Bible study is also to be a conversation between the person studying and the author and the Holy Spirit. What does this mean? What’s behind this word? Why is this here? What are the important points and so on..... This takes time and you see/learn/apply better when you’re moving slow. It’s a conversation a one on one with the God of the universe.

## What are we doing?

**Exegesis:** Simply put, exegesis is not about discovering what we think a text means (or want it to mean) but what the biblical author meant. It’s concerned with intentionality—what the author *intended* his original readers to understand. Gordon Fee, *Handbook to New Testament Exegesis* (1993), 27

Any term in the biblical text has only one intended meaning or definition. Usage and context are paramount to determine the meaning of a term used in the biblical text.

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The fun part is that a word the same word can be use in the same context but not mean the same thing.

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## Why are we doing this?

Understand God’s word and apply it to our lives.

## How do we do this?

1. Research the options of meaning of the word/term using a Greek or Hebrew lexicon or Greek and Hebrew dictionary for English readers.
2. Study the grammatical context within the section or paragraph to narrow down the definition options.
3. Use a Greek or Hebrew Concordance or Strongs Concordance to examine how the word is used in the same book of the Bible.
4. Use a Greek or Hebrew Concordance or Strongs Concordance to examine how the word is used in the same author in other books of the Bible he wrote.
5. Use a Greek or Hebrew Concordance or Strongs Concordance to examine how the word is used by other authors in other books of the bible.

### \*Grammatical Definitions and Theological Definitions

#### Salvation

Grammatical preservation or [deliverance](#) from harm, [ruin](#), or loss Oxford

Theological salvation is God's act of rescuing us from the power and consequences of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is a gift received through faith in Jesus, providing forgiveness, justification, and the hope of eternal life with God, rather than spiritual separation in eternal hell.

# **Defining Words/Terms Within the Biblical Text**

# “The bible was not written to us it was written for us”

## **Jeremiah 29:10 (NIV)**

This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.

## **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

(For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

## **Jeremiah 29:12-14 (NIV)**

(Jer 12 (NIV)) Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (13) You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (14) I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

**Context: You do not claim the bible verse you claim the God behind the bible verse**

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 (NIV)

(1Co 1 (NIV)) For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. (2) They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. (3) They all ate the same spiritual food (4) and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. (5) Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. (6) Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. (7) Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." (8) We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. (9) We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. (10) And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. (11) **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.**

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