

Lesson 8

Principles Regarding the Cultural, Political, Historical, and Geographical Context of the Biblical Text

Principles for Maximizing the Cultural, Geographical, Historical, and Political Information & Resources Related to the Biblical Text

- **Practice due diligence to verify your resources are credible.**
 - Tegan George's CRAAP Test –
 - Currency:
 - Is the source up to date?
 - Relevance:
 - Is the source relevant to your research?
 - Authority:
 - Where is the source published? Who is the author? Are they considered reputable and trustworthy in their field?
 - Accuracy:
 - Is the source supported by evidence? Are the claims cited correctly?
 - Purpose:
 - What was the motive behind publishing this source?
 - For a further look into the CRAAP test, see the following:
 - George, T. (2023, May 31). *Applying the CRAAP Test & Evaluating Sources*. Scribbr. Retrieved October 24, 2023, from <https://www.scribbr.com/working-with-sources/craap-test/>
- **Guard yourself from deriving conclusions based on being fanciful, fascinating, and new.**

- **Clearly and meticulously distinguish between supportive information versus foundational information when trying to discover the authorial intent of the Biblical Text.**
- **Accumulate and/or become acquainted with reliable resources in each of these contextual subjects.**
 - Some of the types of resources for cultural, political, geographical, and historical context are the following:
 - A good Bible Atlas, such as Beitzel or the ESV Atlas.
 - Bible Encyclopedias such as the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible.
 - Study Bibles that focus on a particular discipline of study such as The Archaeological Study Bible or The Cultural Study Bible.
 - Theological journals such as Bibliotheca Sacra or those published by recognized and accredited seminaries and Christian colleges/universities.
 - History books & resources recommended by credible historians, particularly those who have written or taught on subjects such as the Roman Empire, the Ancient Near East (particularly the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, & Assyrian Empires), the Bronze & Iron Ages, the Intertestamental Period, and credible sources on manners and customs in 1st century Israel.
 - Numerous materials (books, articles, etc) have been written on these various contexts. Look for credible documentation in footnotes, annotated bibliographies, and indexes. A source that lacks these should be held in suspect of being reliable.