

THE BIBLE

what it is.
why it's important.
how to read it.

ISAIAH 51:4

- and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- 4 "Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law¹ will go out from me,
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- 9 Awake, awake, put on strength,
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awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago.
Was it not you who cut Raab in pieces,
she who stored the devices?

Where We're Going

- Respond to critiques of the Bible's accuracy and reliability
- Strategies for transformative Bible reading

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Newsweek.

DOUBLE ISSUE

01.02.2015 – 01.09.2015

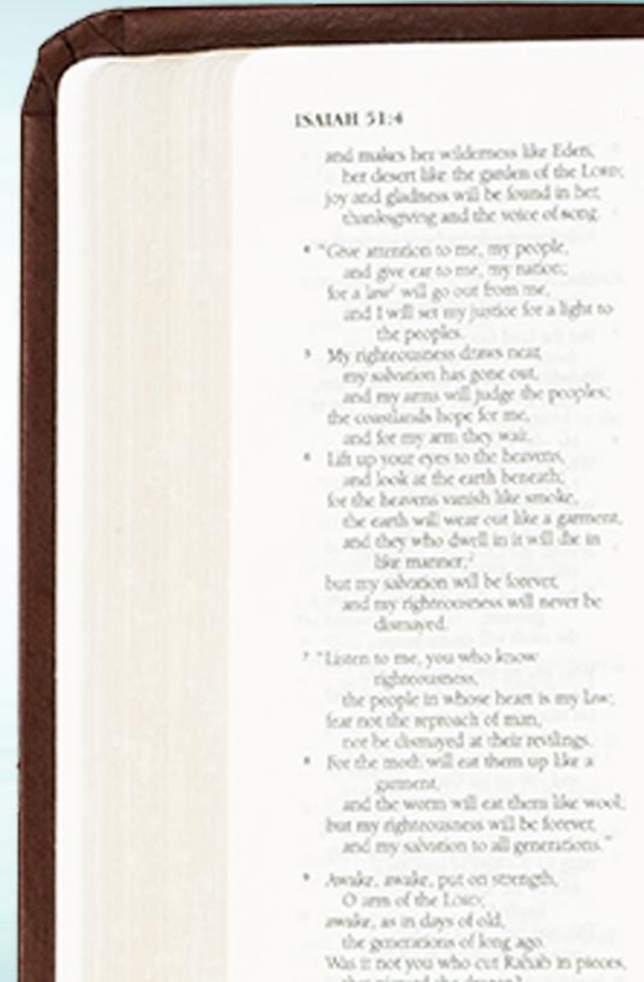
The Bible

So Misunderstood It's a Sin



Common Claims about the Bible

1) The Bible has been corrupted over time.



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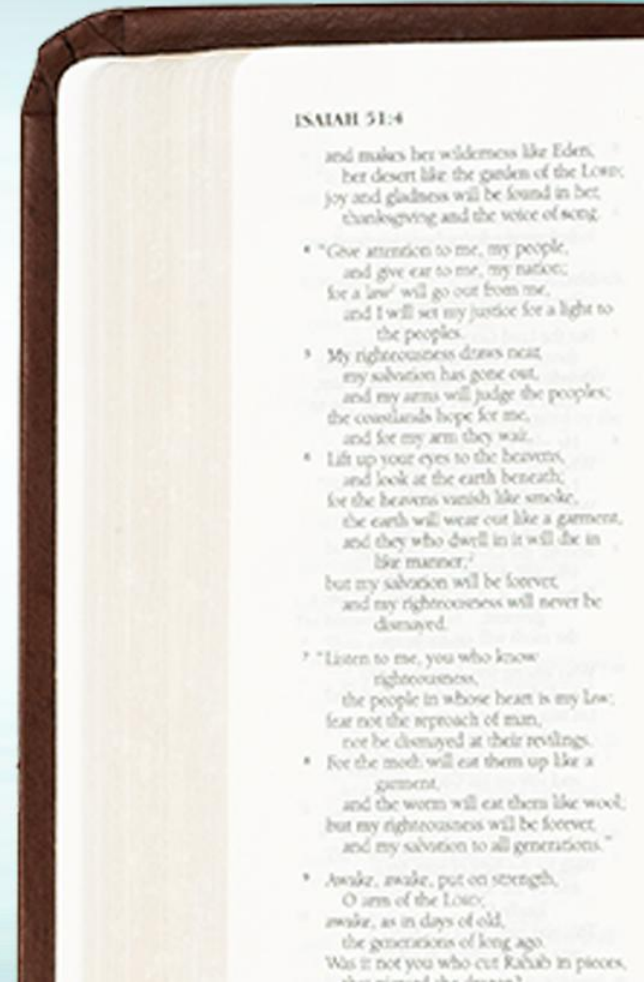
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“There are significant differences in copies that touch on far more profound issues. Scribes added whole sections of the New Testament, and removed words and sentences that contradicted emerging orthodox beliefs.”

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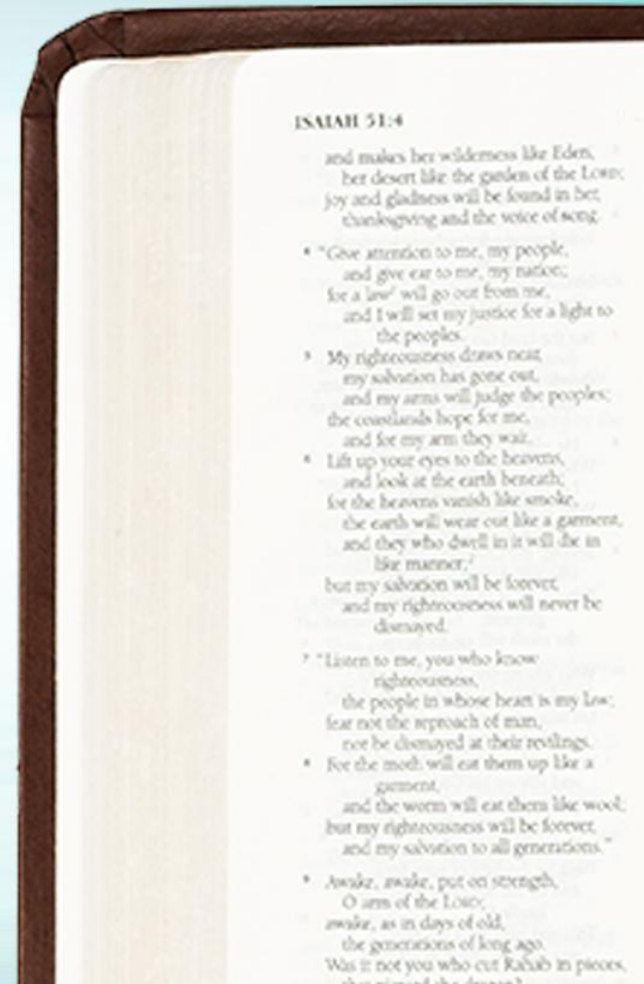
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1) The Bible has been corrupted over time.

2) The Bible is inconsistent and contradicts itself



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“There are so many contradictions in the New Testament. Some of those contradictions are trivial, but some create huge problems for evangelicals insisting they are living by the word of God.”

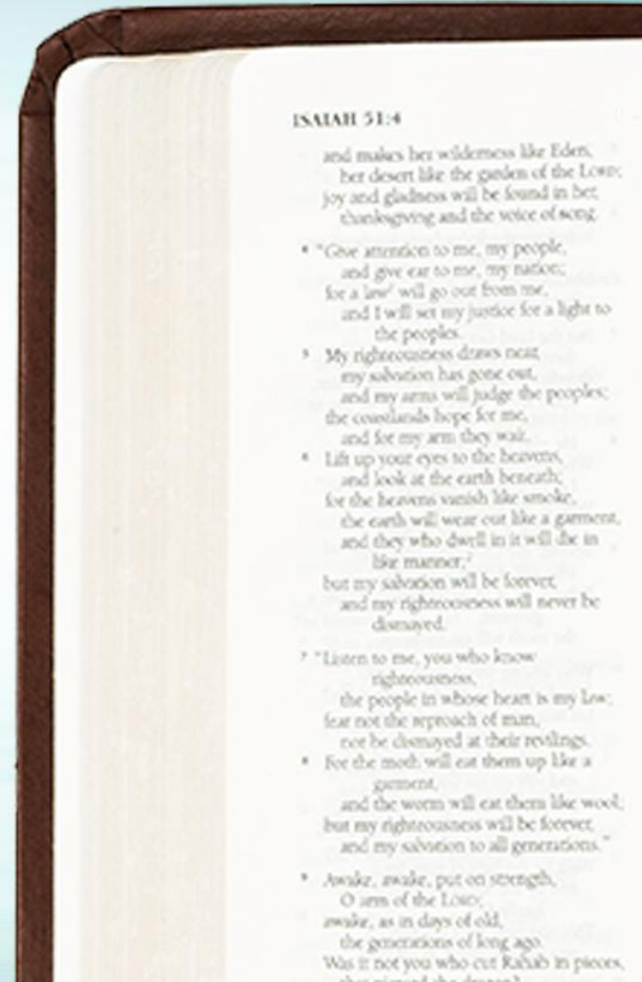
- 1) Just because you're selective with the details doesn't mean you're misleading.
- 2) "Different" doesn't mean irreconcilable
- 3) A paraphrase is not a quotation.

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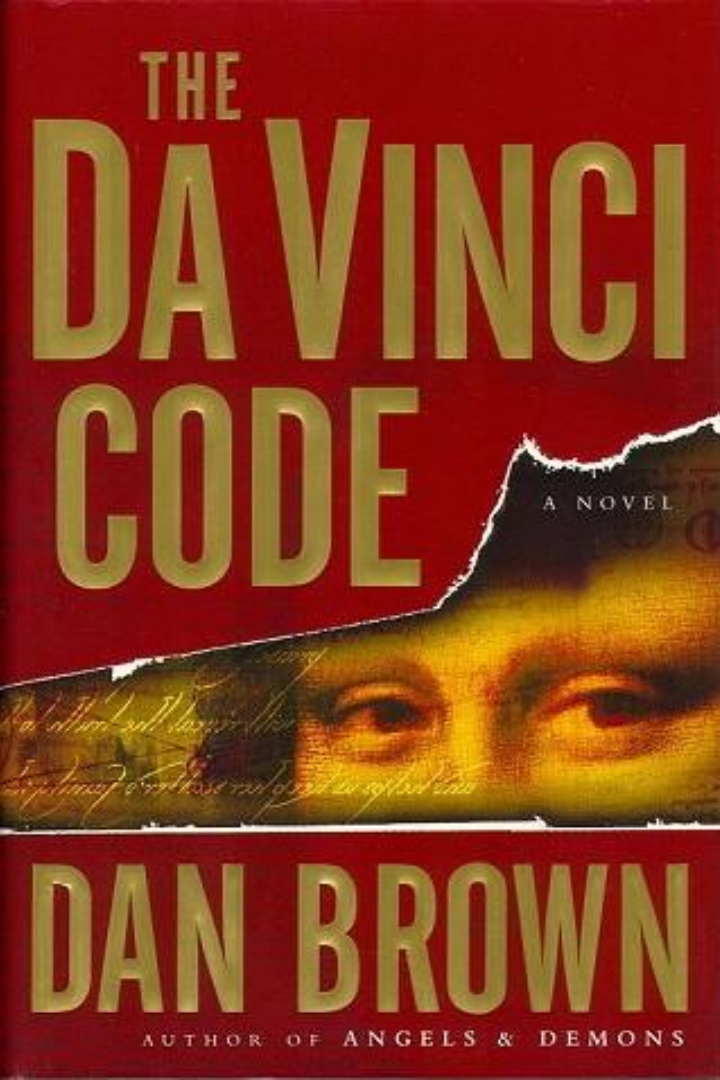
- 1) The Bible has been corrupted over time.
- 2) The Bible is inconsistent and contradicts itself
- 3) The people who put the Bible together had an agenda



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The modern Bible was compiled and edited by men who possessed a political agenda—to promote the divinity of the man Jesus Christ and use His influence to solidify their own power base.

3 Criteria for establishing the New Testament Canon

1) Apostolic Authority

2) Conformity to the Rule of Faith

3) Widespread acceptance and use throughout the churches.

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THE CASE FOR CHRIST

*A Journalist's Personal Investigation
of the Evidence for Jesus*

LEE STROBEL

IN DEFENSE OF THE BIBLE

Edited by
STEVEN B. COWAN
TERRY L. WILDER



A Comprehensive Apologetic for the Authority of Scripture

How do we give the Word of God opportunity to transform us?

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Attend Worship Services Regularly



Read Regularly and Systematically



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of the son of man who is made like
grass,

- ** and have forgotten the LORD, your
Maker,
who stretched out the heavens
and laid the foundations of the earth,
and you fear continually all the day,
because of the wrath of the oppressor,
when he sets himself to destroy?
And where is the wrath of the

613

ISAAH 53:3

- * Thus says your Lord, the LORD,
your God who pleads the cause of his
people:
"Behold, I have taken from your hand the
cup of staggering;
the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no
more;
and I will put it into the hand of your
surrenderers,
who have said to you,

- * Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
** The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

- ** Depart, depart, go out from there;

**What's your plan?
When will you read?
Who's with you?**

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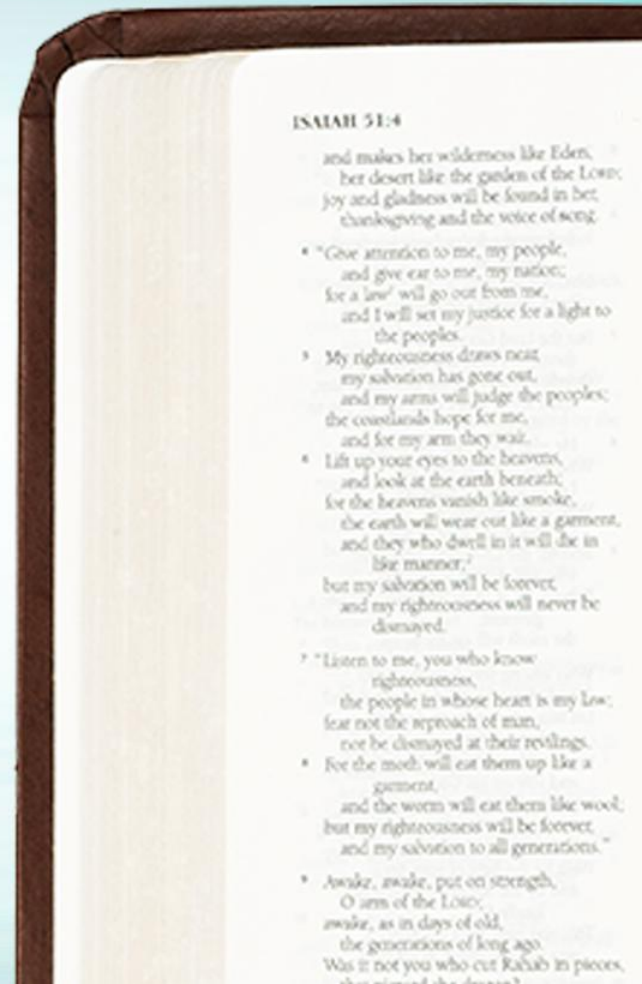
Read as a student of the Word



Read as a student of the Word

1) Get a Bible

- Readable Translation
- Study Bibles can be helpful
 - Cross-references
 - Explanations
 - Concordance



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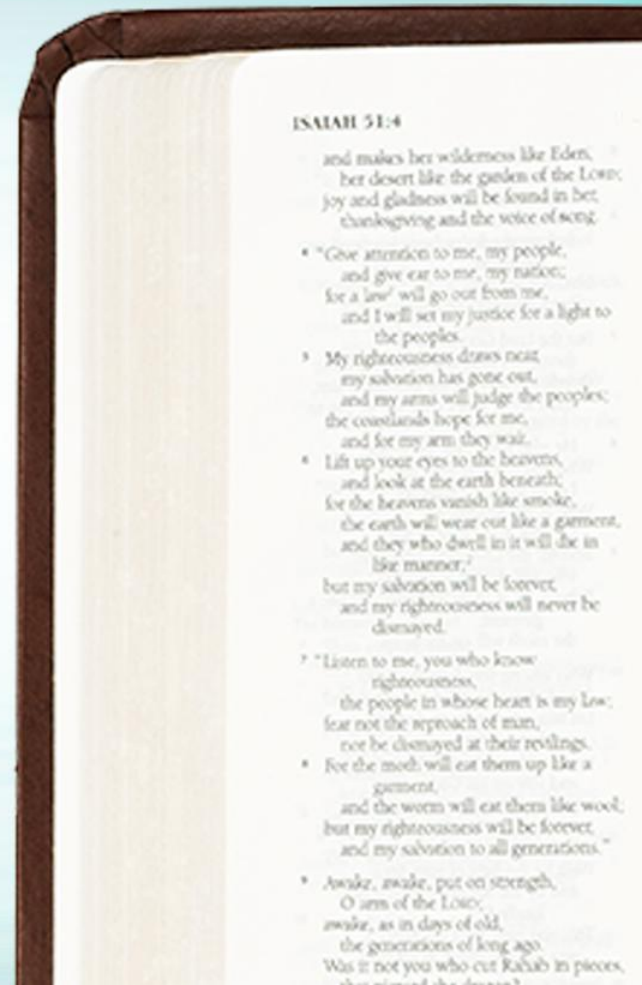
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Read as a student of the Word

2) Pay Attention to Context

- **Literary Context**



NEW TESTAMENT**OLD TESTAMENT****(The Gospels)****Other Letters**

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

REVELATION**Biography History**

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

Paul's Letters**Prophecy****ISAIAH****JEREMIAH****LAMENTATIONS****EZEKIEL****DANIEL****HOSEA****JOEL****AMOS****OBADIAH****JONAH****MICAH****NAHUM****HABAKKUK****ZEPHANIAH****HAGGAI****ZECHARIAH****MALACHI****Major Prophets****Minor Prophets****Laws of Moses****History**

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

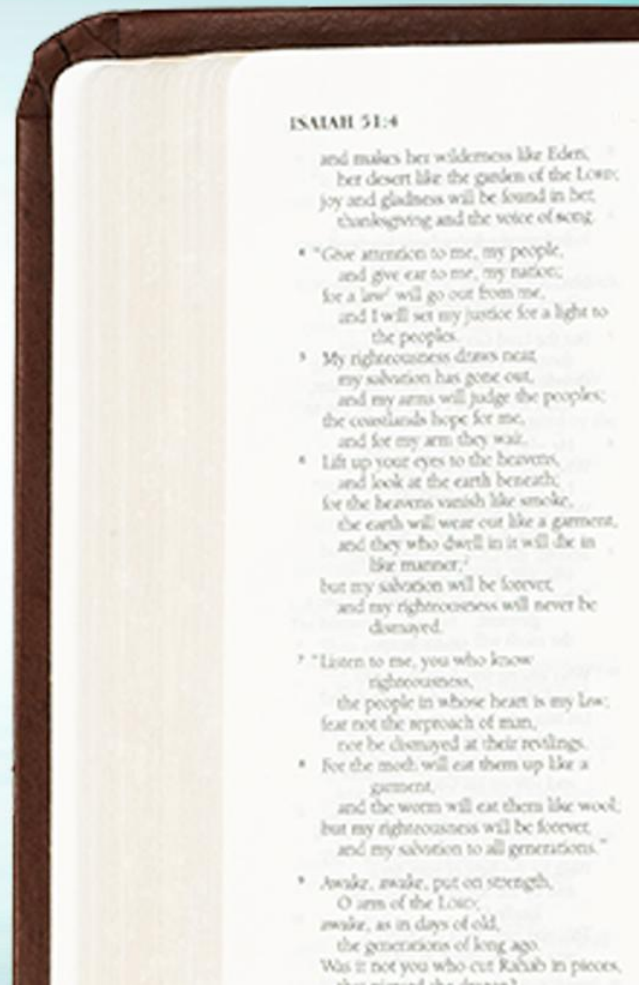
JOSHUA**JUDGES****RUTH****1 SAMUEL****2 SAMUEL****1 KINGS****2 KINGS****1 CHRONICLES****2 CHRONICLES****EZRA****NEHEMIAH****ESTHER****Poetry**

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
Songs of Solomon

Read as a student of the Word

2) Pay Attention to Context

- **Literary Context**
- **Context of the BIG STORY**



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CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION

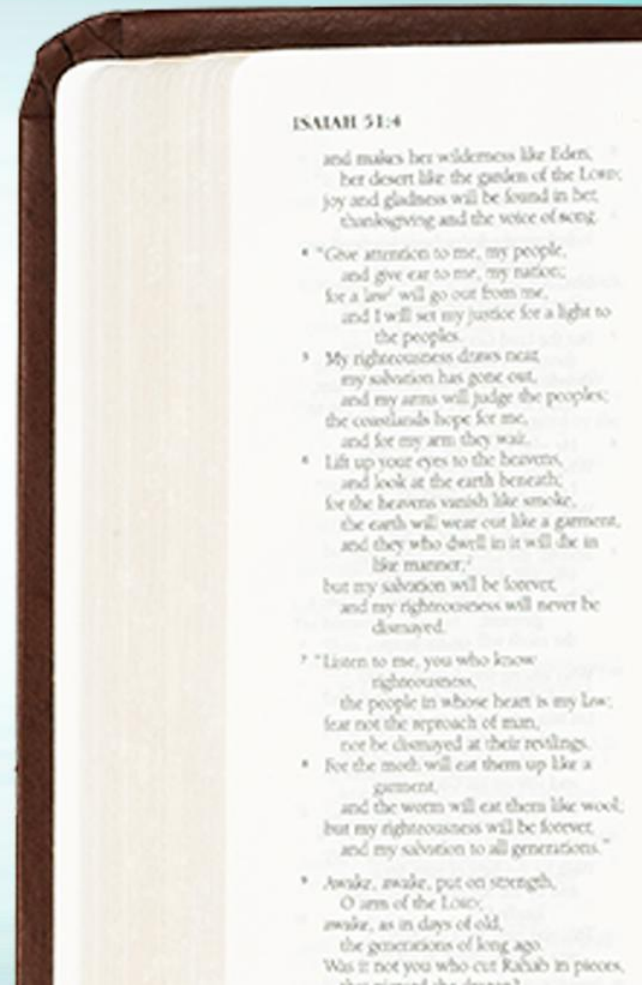


RESTORATION

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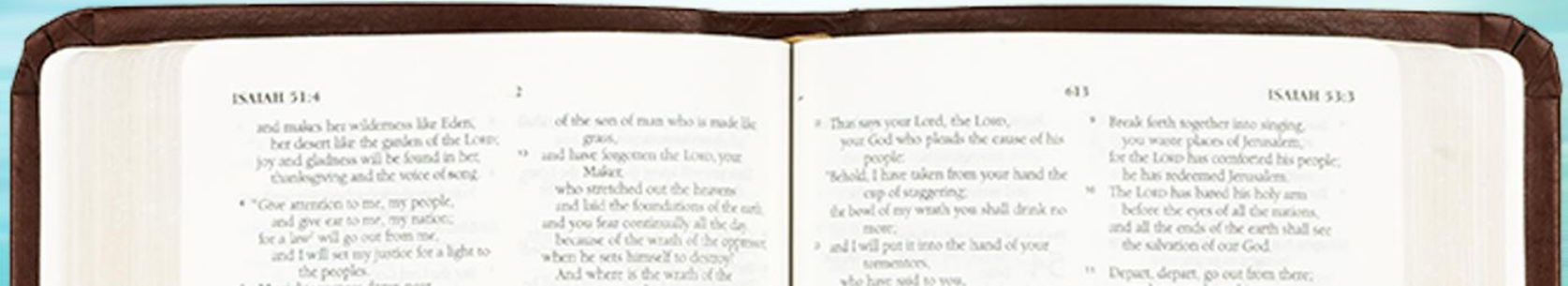
2) Pay Attention to Context

- **Literary Context**
- **Context of the BIG STORY**
- **Context of Jesus' Story**



And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

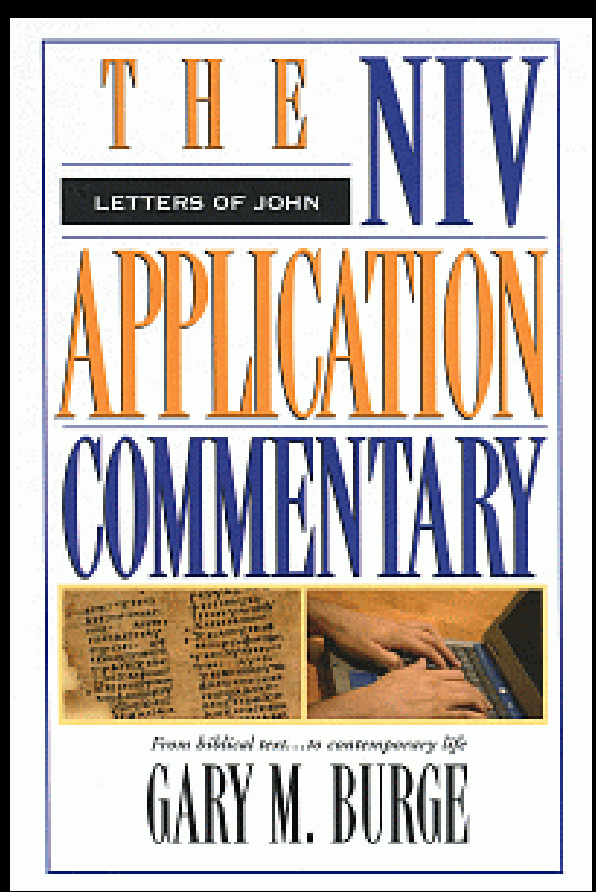
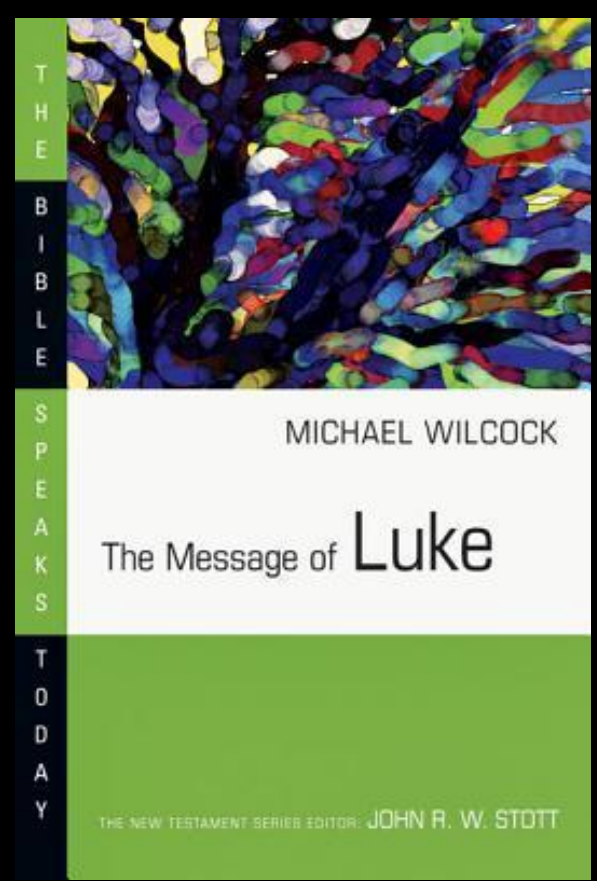
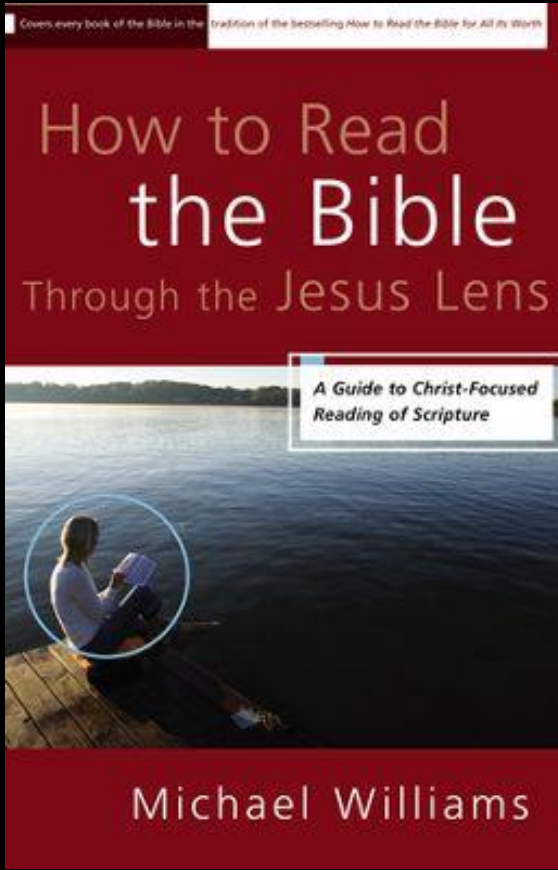


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3) Learn from other students of the Word.

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Read to be Shaped by the Word



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** and have forgotten the LORD, your
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And where is the wrath of the

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* Break forth together into singing,
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** The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

** Depart, depart, go out from there;

I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD, and I will obey your decrees. I call out to you; save me and I will keep your statutes. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.

Psalm 119

ISAIAH 51:4

- and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- * "Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law¹ will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to
the peoples.
- * My righteousness dresses me
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
- * Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in
like manner;²
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be
dismayed.
- * "Listen to me, you who know
righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my Law;
fear not the approach of man,
nor be dismayed at their revilings.
- * For the moth will eat them up like a
garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool;
but my righteousness will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations."
- * Awake, awake, put on strength,
O arm of the LORD;
awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago.
Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,
who stored the deeps?

Devotional Reading

- 1) **Begin, Continue and End with Prayer.**
- 2) **Be Open to What God is saying to you.**

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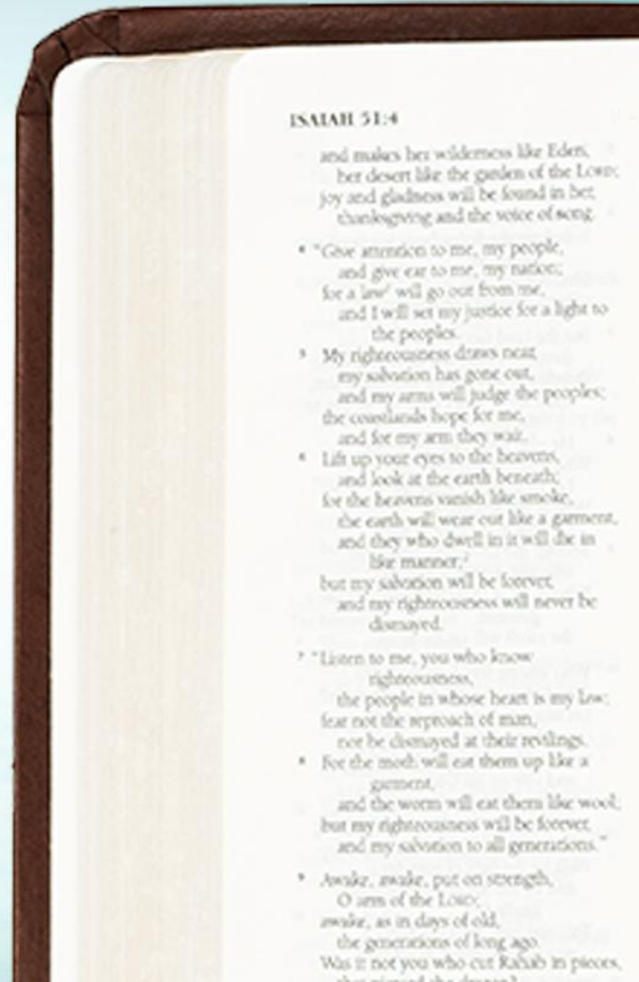
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dismayed.

7 "Listen to me, you who know
righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my law;
fear not the reproach of man,
nor be dismayed at their revilings.

8 For the moth will eat them up like a
garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool;
but my righteousness will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations."

9 Awake, awake, put on strength,
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- Beware of the temptation to know what the Word says before you allow it to speak for itself
- Listen to your heart as well as your mind
- Allow it to connect with the deeper chapters of your story
- Ask God to help you be transformed, not just informed
- Seek to meet with God...not just know more about God
- Learn to see your intake of Scripture as thought it were facilitating a conversation with God.



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...the Bible is given to us in the first place simply to invite us to make ourselves at home in the world of God, God's word and world, and become familiar with the way God speaks and the ways in which we answer him with our lives.

Eugene Peterson

