

# Let's Discuss...The Bible

## PART 3\_Grappling with the Text



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### Scriptures mentioned:

*A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just  
gone by...*

Psalm 90:4 NIV

The creation story...  
Genesis 1 & 2

Adam & Eve's original sin  
(sometimes referred to as the  
fall of man)...  
Genesis 3

*Therefore shall a man leave  
his father and his mother, and  
shall cleave unto his wife: and  
they shall be one flesh.*  
Genesis 2:24 KJV

God looked at His creation and  
*saw that it was good...*  
Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21 & 25

*Then God looked over all He  
had made, and He saw that it  
was very good!*  
Genesis 1:31a NLT

## Episode Summary

In this episode, we continue our conversation on the wonder and mystery of how expansive the Bible is, the involvement of humans in its inception, and the accumulation over time of different stories and books into one collection. The group chat about what it looks like to grapple with the text, how that grappling is relevant to our lives, and how it can even deepen our confidence in the authority of Scripture.

## Let's Discuss...

- Create a timeline of creation based on Genesis 1, then do the same for Genesis 2. What are some of the similarities and differences you notice when you compare the two timelines? What does each timeline tell you about character and nature of God?
- There are some things we may never be able to understand, explain, or scientifically prove in this lifetime in relation to Scripture. How do you wrestle with the mysteries of the Bible? i.e. Jesus was born to Mary through immaculate conception...that's takes a faith step to believe! Just ask Joseph.
- What foundational principles do you consider helpful/grounding when engaging with the Bible?
- Are conversations around how to interpret/apply the Biblical texts a new phenomenon to our generation? Why do you think the application of Scripture seems to be a current hot topic?
- Consider the effects of the Enlightenment on the Christian faith tradition and what that means for each of us:
  - » Enlightenment thinkers placed a heavy emphasis on intellectual processes such as reason, rationalism, and empiricism (i.e. things we can observe and prove). During this time there was a move away from superstition and blind faith. Post enlightenment thinking changed some of the ways people attended church and understood their Bible.
  - » Scripture tells us that God's thoughts are higher and broader than our own:

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*  
Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV
- » With a focus on reason and facts, how do you still leave space for growing in your understanding of the supernatural?

## Let's Pray...

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*  
Proverbs 27:17 NLT

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truths to you as you read the Bible, whether it's a passage you think seems easy to understand, or one that is difficult to wrestle with. Pray for friends who you can study the Bible alongside and share questions, insights, and helpful resources with.

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## Let's Go Deeper...

- *Literary Styles* by BibleProject [video]
- *Who Wrote the Bible?* by BibleProject [podcast]
- *Enlightenment (Parts I & II)* by Ryan Reeves [videos]