

Let's Discuss...The Bible

PART 5_Help Me Understand!



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Scriptures mentioned:

Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; Lord, tear out the fangs of those lions! Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short. May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along, like a stillborn child that never sees the sun.
Psalm 58:6-8 NIV

Noah's story...
Genesis 5:28-10:32

Abraham's (originally Abram) story...
Genesis 11:26-25:19

David's story...
1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 3:15 & 1 Chronicles 10:14 - 2 Chronicles 1:13
(David also wrote many of the Psalms)

But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in Him.
John 12:37 NLT

But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live.
Exodus 33:20 NLT

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Episode Summary

In this episode we discuss how the Bible is anything but boring, and how the biblical authors did not shy away from documenting the very real and raw stories of people of faith throughout their time. Instead, they depict what it looks like to navigate the complexities of life, faith, and relationships in the real world. We also chat about the importance of doing a proper exegesis to find the intended meaning of passages, and how this can be especially helpful when wrestling with difficult texts.

Definitions

exegesis: critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of Scripture; an in-depth study of a Bible passage that seeks to understand the historical context of the passage, how it fits into the wider biblical narrative, and how it would have been understood by its original audience

imprecatory psalms: psalms in which the writer is expressing a wish for judgement or harm to befall their enemy or someone they perceive to be an enemy

of God (The psalms are poems written by people expressing their deepest and most genuine thoughts and feelings. These are not included in Scripture to model how we should feel toward others but to reflect the range of emotions that we all experience, even the biblical authors, and to model how honestly we can come before God.)

metanarratives: the big picture themes that are woven throughout the narrative of the Bible

Let's Discuss...

Let's do an exegesis!

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
Proverbs 29:18 KJV

Here are some tools you could use to gain a deeper understanding of this verse:

- Watch **Proverbs** by the Bible Project.
 - » Hint: You can find these overviews for any book of the bible on bibleproject.com, YouTube, or by searching the book title under "Q Discover" on the **Bible** app.
- Invest in a **study Bible** for wider context and nuance – The ESV, Amplified, NIV and NRSV translation all have study bibles with additional comments & insights.
- Use **biblegateway.com** to read the verse side by side in many different translations.
- Use **blueletterbible.com** to find each word of the verse in its original language, read lexicon (dictionary) entries for in depth definitions, and see where else in the Bible these words were used.
- Always be sure to read the verses that come before and after any Scripture you are studying to make sure you understand the context of the passage it sits within, and for additional clues on what this verse might be communicating.
 - » EX: Philippians 4:13 ESV says, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Does this mean literally anything? Jump off a building and survive? If we read the verses surrounding verse 13, we see that Paul is talking to the Philippians about the difficult situations he has faced. So when he says "all things", he is referring to learning how to thrive in any situation, hunger, abundance, or need.

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Scriptures mentioned:

But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you."

Exodus 3:13-14 NLT

Do not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

Exodus 23:19, Exodus 34:26, Deuteronomy 14:21

Where there is no vision, the people perish...

Proverbs 29:18a KJV

Diving in...

1. What literary style is this text?

2. What context was this written in (historically and culturally)?

3. Who was the author?

4. Who was it written for?

5. What was the author's original intended meaning of this text?

6. How does this align with other biblical texts (the metanarrative of Scripture)?

Let's Pray...

- We thank God for the plethora of resources that are now available to help us gain a profound understanding of Scripture. With hearts full of gratitude, we acknowledge the privilege we experience in reading and studying the Bible without overwhelming persecution in this nation. Pray for a genuine hunger for truth that motivates you to continue digging deeper into Scripture.

Let's Go Deeper...

- bibleproject.com
- blueletterbible.com
- biblegateway.com
- biblehub.com
- bibleref.com
- *Journey Into the Word* by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays [book]

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Proverbs 29:18_Exegetical Insights

1. What literary style is this text?

Poetry (Proverbs is also considered part of a collection of wisdom literature)

2. What context was this written in (historically and culturally)?

It was likely written during the reign of King Solomon. Solomon had such a reputation for being wise that 1 Kings 4:34 tells us that people came from all nations to hear his wisdom.

Proverbs 1:1 also sets the scene: "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel". David's story is one of a shepherd boy being plucked out of obscurity by God to be chosen as king over Israel. He made huge mistakes during his lifetime, but continually turned back to God. He shares his journey very vulnerably throughout the Psalms, crying out to God in grief, repentance, praise, confusion, faith, and more. 1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22 refer to David as a man after God's own heart. So this wise king is the son of that guy. All this would've been conjured up in the minds of the original audience when they read the opening of Proverbs.

3. Who was the author?

Most of Proverbs, including chapter 29, is attributed to King Solomon.

4. Who was it written for?

As king of Israel, Solomon would've likely written Proverbs for all the Jewish people, the Israelites. More specifically, some proverbs are written as wisdom being passed down from a parent to a child, or to anyone seeking to gain wisdom.

5. What was the author's original intended meaning of this text?

Solomon was warning his audience that destruction in our lives comes from a lack of understanding of God's divine revelation in our lives. On the other hand, he encourages them that by following the blueprint that God lays out for us, which today we find in Scripture, we can cultivate a life of blessing and joy.

6. How does this align with other biblical texts (the metanarrative of Scripture)?

We see the same principles that Solomon lays out in this verse repeated throughout Scripture and lived out in the story of many biblical characters, the Israelites, and later all believers.