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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:17
Lesson #54
Sharpening the Sword
09/09/2018



Ephesians 6:17
“and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God,”

Matthew 4
“³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”
⁴ But he answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

2

Logos
(glory, image, truth of God)

Rhema
(Logos spoken and heard)

Immanuel
(Logos incarnate and touched)

Graphe
(Logos written and read)

3

The Word of God has great authority
but only when it is handled rightly.

4

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word (L) of truth.**”

Defending the authority of God’s word means little
if the handling of it is faulty.

A person can believe the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and authoritative
yet be Satan’s scribe in using it.

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2 Peter 1

“²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation (explanation), ²¹ for **no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will**, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

The Word of God is not authoritative
when in service to the will of man.

The greatest abuse of the Word of God is to
assume the human reader or hearer is inherent in the reading or hearing.

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Some common mistakes

1. The devotional crystal ball -
read till you feel good or
find a verse that “*has some meaning for you*”.

- Seeking “a word from God”.
- Open the Bible and start reading anywhere.
- Relate what is read to a personal situation.



7

“The Spirit gave me a verse.”

Ezekiel 3:8

“Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. **Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you.**”

Ecclesiastes 10:2

“A wise man’s heart directs him toward the **right**, but the foolish man’s heart directs him toward the **left**.”



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Some common mistakes

2. Encrypted meanings - hidden from the normal reading or hearing of the message.

The law of first mention - the first time a word is used in the Bible gives its true meaning throughout the rest of the Bible.

Bible codes - encrypted meaning that is found in the arrangement of letters or words.

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The law of first mention

Genesis 3:1

“Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any beast in the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’””

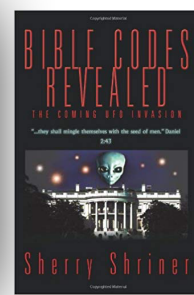
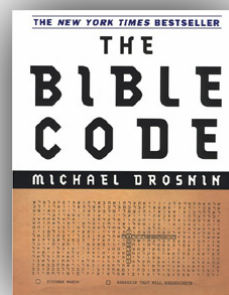
John 3:14

“And as Moses lifted up the **serpent** in the wilderness, so must the **Son of Man** be lifted up,”



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Bible codes



daughters? Thou hast now done foolishly in so doing
GHTERSTHOUHASTNOWDONEFOOLISHLYINS

Figure 1. “Roswell” hidden in KJV Genesis 31:28.

11

Messianic Trump-Cyrus Connection Revealed Through Hebrew Numerology, Bible Code. Isaiah 45:1



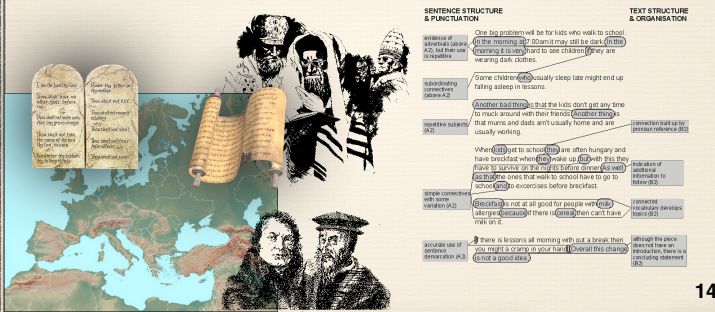
“When, in 1997, popular author Michael Drosnin (who wrote a book on Bible Codes) challenged critics to find the same “prophecy” regarding the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in “Moby Dick” as Bible Codes folks had found in the Bible, Australian computer scientist Brendan McKay did just that, and for good measure he found letter arrangements predicting the assassinations of Trotsky, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Dr. Jay Michaelson



Some common mistakes

3. Ignore the context of the text and the reader of it - literary, grammatical, historical, theological, cultural, etc.



Some common mistakes

3. Ignore the context of the text and the reader of it - literary, grammatical, historical, theological, cultural, etc.

The three greatest principles
to a sound understanding
of God's Word:

Context

Context

Context

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Hijacking a text for personal use

Isaiah 60

“2 For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. 3 **Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**”



Hijacking a text for personal use

Ecclesiastes 3:22

“I have seen that nothing is better than that **man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot.**”

Psalms 34:19

“The righteous person may have many troubles, **but the LORD delivers him from them all.**”



What does it mean to "bless Israel"?

Genesis 12

"2 I will make you (Abram) a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great, and so you shall be a blessing. 3 **And I will bless those who bless you and the one who curses you I will curse.**"

- Does this apply to American foreign policy with respect to Israel?
- When was God's discipline (captivity) of Israel to end and what were the conditions of her restoration?

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Deuteronomy 30

"1 So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, 2 **and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul** according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, 3 **then** the Lord your God will **restore you from captivity**, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you."

19

prophets
of the Old
Testament

Israel's History
is a study in
temporal judgment
(*God's discipline*)

Exile to
Assyria

Exile to
Babylon

Ruled
by Persia

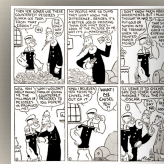
Ruled
by Greece

Ruled
by Rome

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Some common mistakes

4. **Disregard literary genre** - historical narrative, poetry, epistles, gospels, wisdom, apocalyptic, etc.



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Most common Biblical genre

Narratives

- telling the story of what happened or to illustrate a point.

Gospels

- a combination of Narrative and Epistle.

Epistles

- letters for the purpose of teaching.



Prophecy

- oracles to exhort, foretell, or comfort.

Apocalypse

- a combination of Prophecy and Poetry.

Poetry

- vivid figurative language to artistically send a message.

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A poetic narrative in a Gospel

Luke 16:23

"22 Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom."

23

Some common mistakes

5. Read the Bible through lenses of “modern culture” - Defining Biblical inerrancy in ways that do not allow for the human authorship, customs, and writing styles of the time.

Mark 1:2 (Matt.3:3)

“As it is **written in Isaiah** the prophet, ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way;’” (*Mal.3:1*)

24

The N.T. writers often quote from the O.T. Septuagint (**Greek translation** of the Hebrew).

Romans 10:20

“I have **shown myself** to those who did not ask for me”

Isaiah 65:1

“I was **ready to be sought by** those who did not ask for me”

Some terms have a broader meaning than the English translation would suggest.

Psalms 78:69

“the earth which is founded **forever**”

2 Peter 3:10

“the earth and its works **will be burned up.**”

Jeremiah 3:12

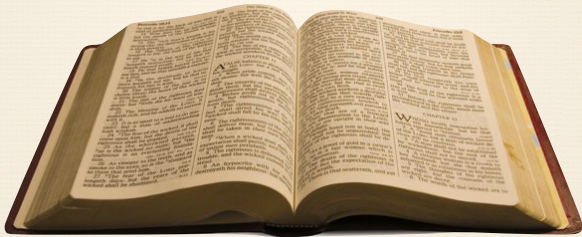
“I **will not be angry forever**”

Jeremiah 17:4

“For you have kindled a fire in **My anger which will burn forever.**”

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How to read the Old Testament



A new series starting this Fall

26

THE BEREANS

Acts 17:11

received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

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