

Who Is The Author Of The Statement?

1. Is it an inspired statement? Matthew 18:18;
28:20;
1 Corinthians 14:37.
2. Is it an inspired record of an uninspired statement?
 - a. Acts 5:38; John 9:31; Proverbs 28:9
 - b. cf. 1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:17-18 –Error taught
 - c. Colossians 2:21 –Rules of men are here quoted, but not for us to follow.

Who Is The Author Of The Statement?

3. Is the passage from the Old Covenant or the New Covenant?
 - a. The doctrine of Christ is found in the new, Galatians 2:21; 3:23-25; 5:4.
 - b. The Old Testament law came to an end at the cross, Colossians 2:14-15; Hebrews 9:15-17.
 - c. Use of statements from the Old Covenant ... 1 Corinthians 10:11; cf. Romans 15:4

To Whom Was The Statement Made?

1. Was it limited to a special fact situation or for general application?
 - a. Genesis 6:14 “*Make an ark*” is obviously not a commandment for us.
 - b. Matthew 3:1-6 –The baptism of John was limited for a certain period. cf. John 1:31ff
 - c. Matthew 28:18-20 –The baptism of Christ is for all generations.

To Whom Was The Statement Made?

2. Was it a promise only to particular individuals or for all men?
 - a. John 14:26; 16:13 –The promise of miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit whereby one could speak by inspiration (cf. Hebrews 2:1-4) and perform healings cannot be scripturally applied today.
 - b. None can add new revelations without error, Revelation 22:18-19; nor can one work the miracles like those of Bible days, e.g., blind a blasphemer, Acts 13:8-12; or raise the dead, Acts 9:36-42.
 - c. However, all who “*repent and are baptized*” (Acts 2:38-39) shall receive the “*gift*” of the Holy Spirit, which is salvation and its attendant blessings.

What Is The Subject Matter?

1. Does the subject pertain to things past, present, or future?
 - a. **Acts 8:34** "*Of whom speaketh the prophet this?*" When the Ethiopian understood the answer, he was baptized, **Acts 8:27-40**. Though it was spoken in the past it had present day application.
 - b. **Colossians 2:14-17** – However, some commandments such as "*Remember the Sabbath day*" or abstain from unclean meat, **Leviticus 11**, were not intended for Christians. cf. **2 Timothy 2:1ff**

What Is The Subject Matter?

2. Is the subject the same as the isolated passage may seem to indicate?
 - a. **Hebrews 5:4** is sometimes applied to support the theory that preachers are specifically called by God. cf. **Acts 2:21; Romans 10:1ff**
 - b. All men are "*called*" by the gospel, **2 Thessalonians 2:14**.

What Was The Purpose To Be Accomplished?

Most passages that require careful consideration have a special object to accomplish. It may be to prevent an error or to correct one. It may be to remove a special difficulty or to prompt particular duties.

Examples:

- a. The fact that **Matthew's Gospel** was written from the Jewish point of view explains why the genealogy of Jesus was traced to David and Abraham and why emphasis is given to the fulfillment of prophecy.

What Was The Purpose To Be Accomplished?

- b. The **book of Revelation** was written during a time of persecution to assure Christians that truth and righteousness would ultimately triumph over evil and error, and thus to give them the hope and patience they needed to endure. cf. **Revelation 1:1ff**
- c. The tendency of Jewish Christians to return to the traditional practices of the Law of Moses prompted several letters of the New Testament. **Galatians, Romans, and Hebrews** were written especially to prevent such apostasy.

Gain A Knowledge Of The Background Of The Text

Learn About The History Of The Times And The Geography Of The Country

The historical fact that the Romans had conquered the Jews and that Judea had a dual form of government in the time of Christ helps in understanding the trial of Christ as well as many other events of the N.T.

Learn About The History Of The Times And The Geography Of The Country

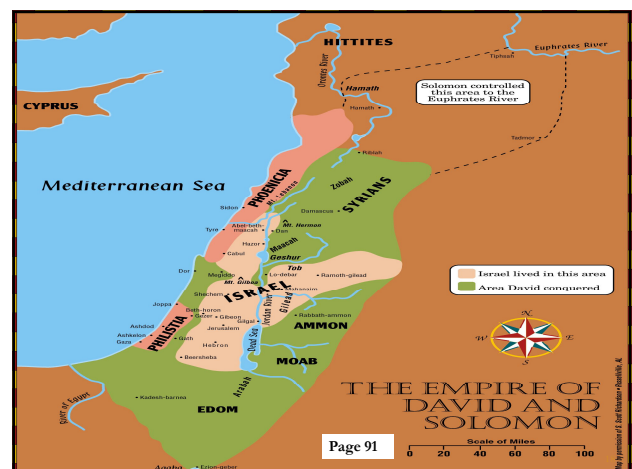
- a. Jesus was first examined by the Jews:
 - (1) Annas, John 18:12-14, 19-23;
 - (2) Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, John 18:24-27;
Matthew 26:57-68.
- b. He was then delivered to Pilate, the Roman governor, Matthew 27:1-2, 12-14; John 18:28-38; Luke 23:1-5.
- c. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas, king of the Jews, Luke 23:6-12.
- d. Herod sent Him back to Pilate, Luke 23:13-23; Matthew 27:15-23; John 19:1-16.

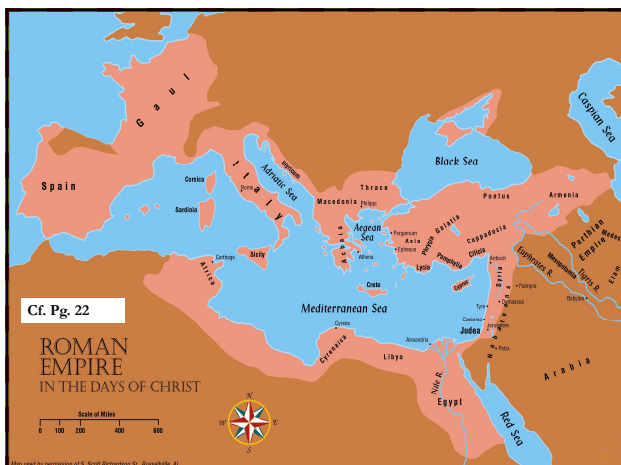
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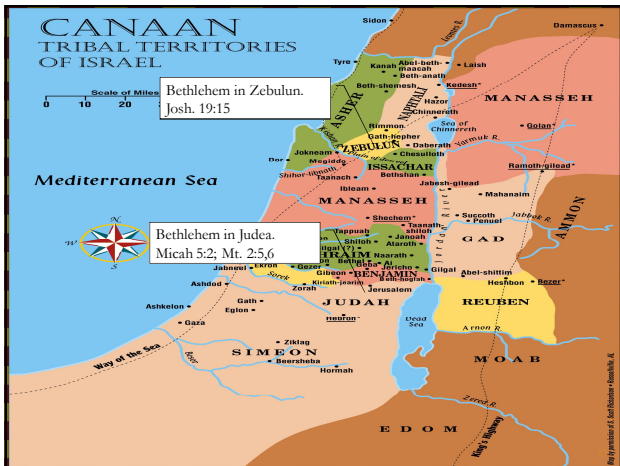
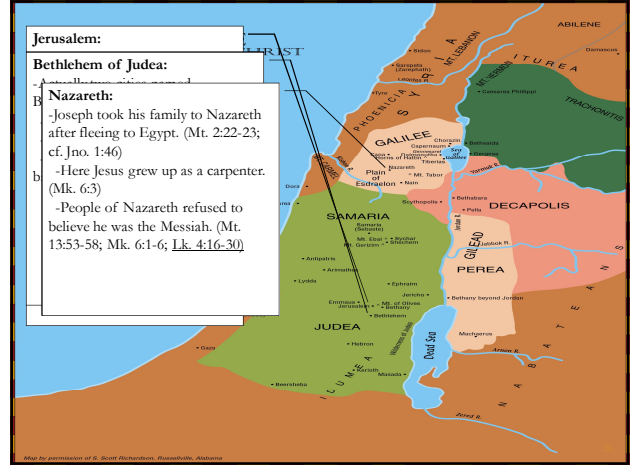
Learn About The History Of The Times And The Geography Of The Country

Observe the geography of the country.
(Study the maps...)

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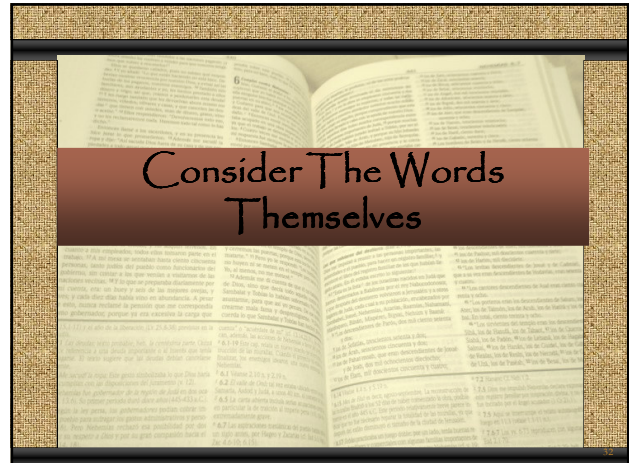




Consider Existing Laws, Customs, Or Popular Opinions

- Existing Roman law provided that a guard found to sleep on duty would be put to death. Hence, to lie about the Lord's body being stolen placed the soldiers in danger of death. But the Jews promised to "secure you," [Matthew 28:14](#).
- The Jews told Pilate, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death," [John 18:3](#)
 - This is a reference to the fact the Romans had taken away from them the powers to inflict the death penalty. It does not mean that the Law of Moses did not provide such a penalty ([Leviticus 24:16-17](#)).

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Each Word Used Has A Purpose

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

"But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual (words)."

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Each Word Used Has A Purpose

Don't Confuse Words...

- "Strait"** means restrained, difficult, [Matthew 7:13-14](#)
- "Straight"** means upright, not crooked or bent, [Hebrews 12:13](#).

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Compare Parallel Passages

Truth Does Not Contradict Truth

Can a rich man go to heaven?

- [Matthew 19:23-24](#) "A rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven."
- [Mark 10:23-25](#) "A rich man" is shown to mean "they who trust in riches."
- [1 Timothy 6:9-10](#) "They who are minded (ASV) to be rich" will be in sin.
- [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#) "A wealthy man" who uses money wisely can be saved.

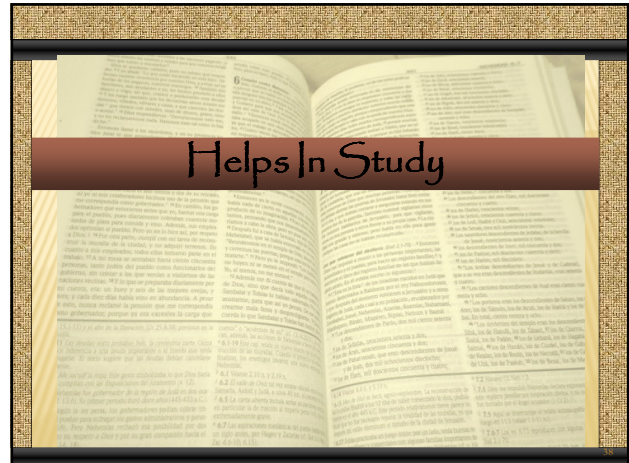
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Truth Does Not Contradict Truth

What is the purpose of baptism?

- Salvation – 1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16.
- To put us into Christ – Gal. 3:27.
- To put us into His death – Romans 6:3-4.
- For the remission of sins – Acts 2:38.
- To wash away sins – Acts 22:16.

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Suggestions

- (1) A Bible Atlas or Encyclopedia will provide maps and historical information;
- (2) A Concordance is essential in finding all parallel passages which use the same word;
- (3) A Dictionary will help with most words, but a dictionary of N.T. words defines the specific meaning of the original Greek words;
- (4) Commentaries are useful in analyzing who made the statement, to whom, and why. However, caution must be followed with these, for they are simply the work of uninspired men and may have an incorrect interpretation.
- (5) Follow all the rules suggested in this lesson and then THINK FOR YOURSELF!

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Conclusion:

- If you are not a Christian...
 - **Hear the gospel, Romans 10:17.**
 - **Believe the gospel, Mark 16:15-16.**
 - **Repent of sins, Acts 2:38.**
 - **Confess faith in Jesus, Acts 8:37.**
 - **Be baptized, Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27.**
- **Obey the gospel “which is the power of God unto salvation” Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff**

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