

STUDYING THE BIBLE OURSELVES

-LET'S GIVE IT A TRY ON AN IMPORTANT VERSE ABOUT JESUS

2 PET 3:14-18

NOTE THE CONTRAST OF RESULTS

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, **be diligent** to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.**

You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on your guard** so that you are not carried away by **the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness**, but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

SEARCH THINGS OUT **FOR YOURSELF**, SO THAT YOU CAN HONOUR GOD FIRST,
BELIEVE WHAT IS ACTUALLY TRUE, AND REPRESENT THE TRUTH WELL

(2 TIM 2:15; 1 TIM 3:15)

Seek to let Scripture interpret Scripture

- context (of surrounding verses, chapter, book, dispensation)
- words are checked for reasonable consistency
- question any ideas or conclusions that contradict biblical facts
- let go of ideas which call into question the character of God

Consider the implications of your proposed beliefs

- are there any problems which arise as we follow the logic through to its conclusions?

MATT 27:45-50

Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

"ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**"

And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink.

But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him."

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

HAVE YOU HEARD ANY OF THESE WORDINGS?

“God turned His back on Christ”

“The Father turned His back on His Son” (more relational terms)

“The Father turns His face away”

“The unity enjoyed for all eternity was broken for that terrible moment.”

“Jesus’ cries were rejected so that our cries could be accepted”

“A lonely prayer was offered to a vacant sky”

STUDY PRINCIPLE:

IMPLICATIONS OR PROBLEMS OF IDEAS

- Is it ever described this way in the Bible?
- Are God's eyes too holy to look upon sin? (*Hab 1:13a*)
 - *Hab 1:13b* *Hos 7:2* *Ps 90:8*
- Is it possible for Jesus to ever cease to be God, even for a moment?
 - *Jn 10:30; 16:32*

We might be unintentionally accusing God of something He didn't do

STUDY PRINCIPLE:

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

CONTEXT

- When was it said?
- What comes after it?
- What comes before it?

PSALM 22:1-10

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but I have no rest.

Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In You our fathers trusted; they trusted and You delivered them. To You they cried out and were delivered; in You they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people. **All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, "Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."**

Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb.

PSALM 22:11-21

Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. **They open wide their mouth at me**, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded me; **a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.** I can count all my bones. **They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.**

But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance. Deliver my soul from the sword, my only life from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth; from the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

CHARACTER OF GOD COMPROMISED?



GOD REJECTS ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE FIRST DELIBERATELY AND HABITUALLY REJECTED HIM...YET EVEN THEN HE ISN'T QUICK TO DO SO

For example:

- *1 Sam 15:11, 23;*
- *2 Chr 15:2; 24:20;*
- *Neh 9:17-19, 26-33;*
- *Ps 37:28; 94:14;*
- *2 Cor 4:9*

But was Jesus like that?

- *John 8:29—“I always do what pleases the Father”*
- *John 5:30—“I do not seek to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*
- *Heb 10:7—“I came [delight] to do Your will, O God”*

PSALM 22:22-31

(NOTE THE SHIFT IN TONE AND EXPECTATION)

I will tell of Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You.

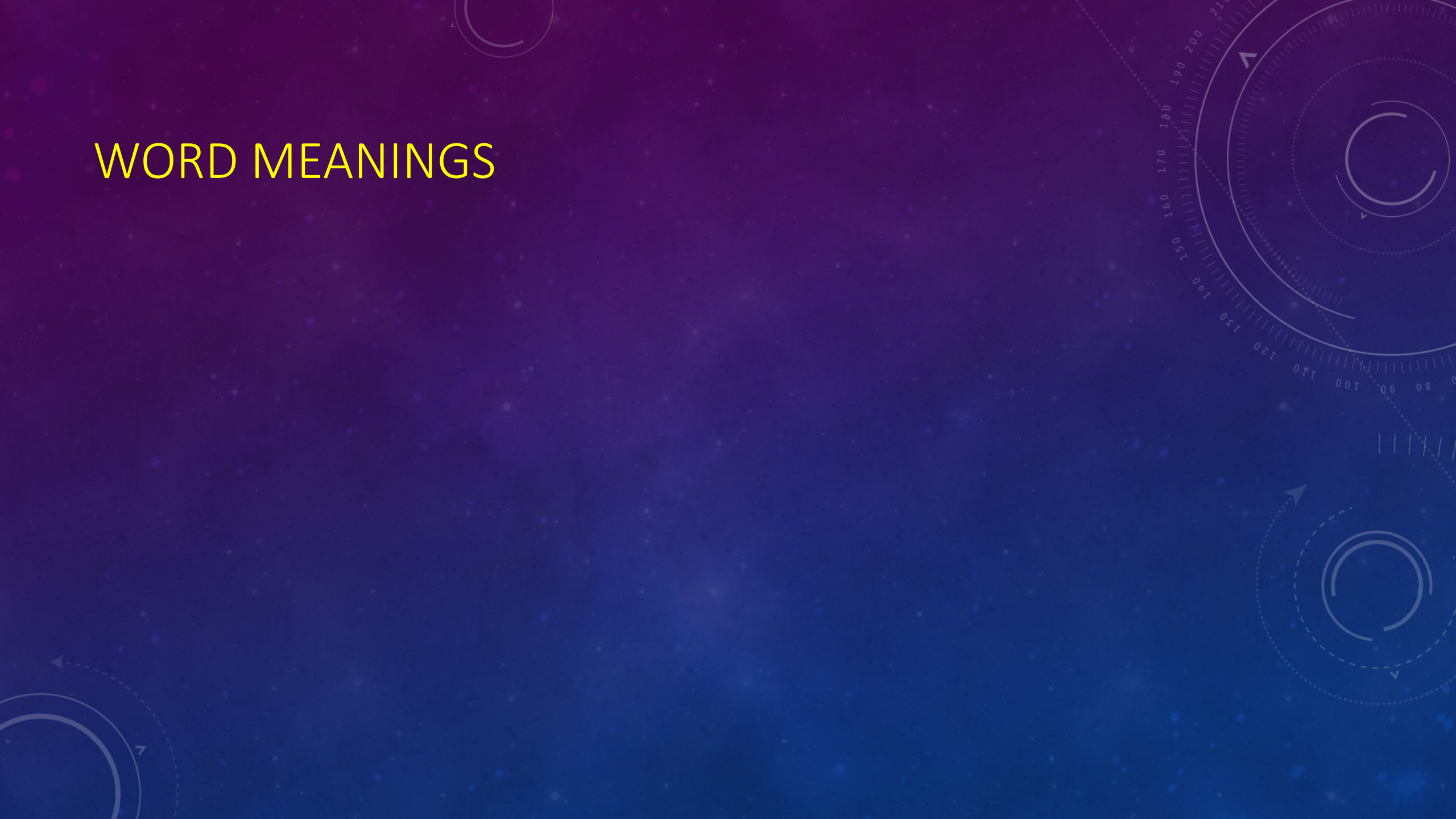
For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.

Posterity will serve Him; it will be told of the Lord to the coming generation. They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE CAN BE **A FEELING OR PERCEPTION** OF ABANDONMENT...EVEN IF NOT ACTUALLY THE CASE

- *Ps 9:7-10 yet 18-19*
- *Ps 10:1, 12 yet 17-18*
- *Ps 31:22*

WORD MEANINGS



PS 22 ITSELF GIVES US THE CONCEPT OF THE WORD WE HAVE TRANSLATED 'FORSAKEN' IN VERSE 1

- v1 – “... *Far* from my deliverance are the words of my groaning”
- v2 – “... I cry by day, but *You do not answer...*”
- v11 – “Be not *far* from me, for trouble is near; for there is *none to help.*”
- v19 – “But You, O LORD, be not *far* off; O You my help, *hasten to my assistance.*”

- vv12, 16 – “Many bulls have *surrounded me*; strong bulls of Bashan have *encircled me....* For dogs have *surrounded me*; a band of evildoers has *encompassed me...*”

VERSES WHERE THE SAME WORD IS USED, YET WITH OTHER MEANINGS

- *Lev 19:10;*
- *Ruth 1:16;*
- *Ps 49:10;*
- *Mal 4:1*

- *and especially Gen 2:24–*

*“A man shall **leave** his father and mother and be united to his wife...”*

(from Gen 2:24) It is not a lack of involvement, rather it is an acceptance of a new dynamic that needs to be.

So it was on the cross:

Though Christ was fully God, He had to go through the time on the cross without any divine intervention. He could not use His own divine prerogatives, and the Father could not step in to stop anything...or else Christ would not have been fully taking our place in that time of judgment. He had to suffer as a human. So, He said, "My God, My God", not "My Father, My Father". The Passover Lamb, though personally not responsible for sin, was having the full weight of all human sin being judged by the court of heaven...and no divine intervention would come until the full price had been paid by this perfect Man.

HE WAS LOVING AND TEACHING RIGHT UP UNTIL THE END...

Was He quoting v1 so that the surrounding people would recognize the psalm that they were unwittingly fulfilling?

He never missed an opportunity to teach the people; and neither did He here, with only minutes left to reach them.

Yes, He was suffering exceedingly intensely; but He had said in His first statement "*they don't know what they are doing*", and He wanted them to realize what was happening there...and wanted them to experience the future glory of the final section of Ps 22.

Therefore, even His 2nd last statement matched the close of Ps 22 "*He has performed it*" ..."*It is finished!*"

In Matt 27:46, **we are standing on the holiest of ground** that ever has been seen on the Earth.

Rather than give our own words to describe it,
we should fall silent, and worship in awe...

and **leave the meaning with God.**

“People of faith live by God’s promises, not explanations”