



influences of  
interpretation.  
of thought and interpreta  
ation. unseen

Seen and unseen  
influences of thought  
and interpretation.



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*The Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course* is a journey through God's  
love story the Bible. Through this course, each one is empowered to understand  
God's intended meaning of the scriptures. Copyright and royalty free 2025.

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## **Behind the Meaning Part 1**

Welcome to the Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture short course!

We're so excited to be here with you and to journey together through God's love story, the Bible. It is His love story to us, where He reveals who He is, what He has done and promises to do.

As God is a relational God and we are relational people, a lot of the bible is a record of God's journey with individuals and people groups. Through these relationships God revealed Himself to the first hearers and also to us today.

In order for us to be correctly guided and to really understand God's character and His truth from the Bible, we all need to be able to apply God's intended meaning to each scripture that we read.

Father in heaven, we pray that you open our eyes to see into your heart and open our ears to hear your whispers of love. May we receive a greater understanding of your intended meaning of the scriptures and live in the fullness of your love, truth and power. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **Interpreting scripture and applying correct meaning**

Why is it important that we understand God's intended meaning of each scripture that we read?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Key areas that affect meaning**

There are 5 key areas that affect how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture.



What is the first key area that affects how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

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What are the three questions we need to ask to discover the relationships within the text?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

For example, read **Matthew 12:34**

**Who** is speaking? Read **Matthew 12:25**

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**Who** are they speaking to? Read **Matthew 12:24**

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**Who** are they speaking about? That is, who is Jesus referring to as 'you', who He calls a brood of vipers? Read again **Matthew 12:24** and **34**

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What is the second key area that affects how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

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For example, in **Psalms 109:1-19** the writer declares a curse over his enemies. If we don't understand that the psalms are poetry where the psalmist expresses to God how he feels, we could incorrectly assume that God wants us to curse our enemies as well.



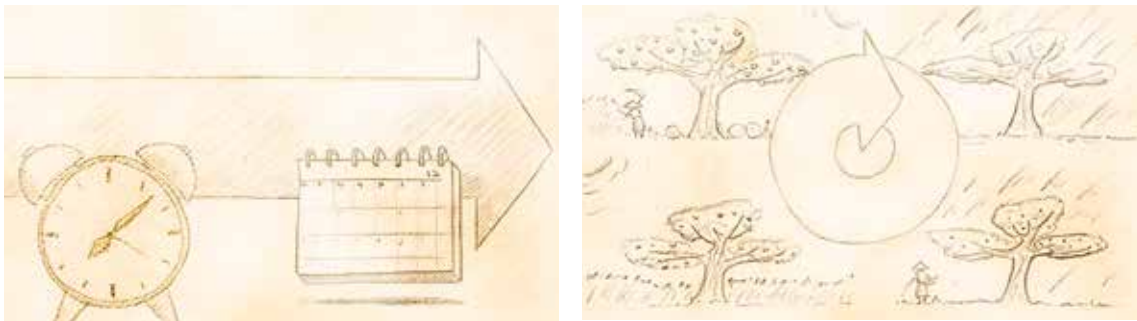
What are the seven styles of writing within the Bible?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

We will discover which books fall into which category as we go through this course together.

What is the third key area that affects how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

\_\_\_\_\_



Generally speaking, how does a person from a western culture view time?

\_\_\_\_\_

Generally speaking, how does a person from an eastern culture view time?

\_\_\_\_\_





How does culture affect different interpretations and emotional responses of the same scene?

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What are the three different cultures that we need to discover to understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Letting go of our own cultural thought patterns can be very difficult. So it is important that we surrender to God what we think the text means, and ask Him to help us see it through His eyes. Using the tools from this course will also help us understand the culture of the time of writing and ultimately discover God's intended meaning.

What is the fourth key area that affects how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

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What two questions do we ask to discover the reason for writing?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



For example, if God’s intention is to free the first hearers of their selfish pride and the destruction that it brings, the writer may write in a harsh tone that speaks directly to those selfish desires.

How does knowing the reason for writing help us understand God’s intended meaning of scripture?

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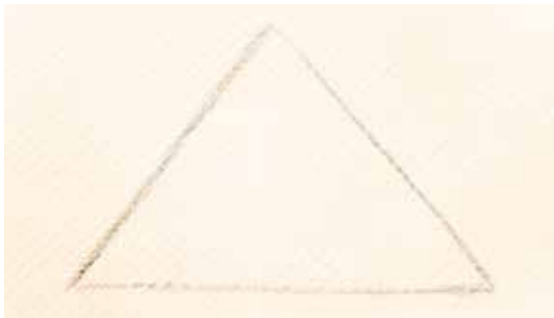
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For example, read **John 20:30-31**

To help us understand God’s intended meaning of the Gospel of Jesus according to John, what do we need to remember?

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We will now look at the fifth key area that affects how we understand God’s intended meaning of scripture.



Referring to the above illustrations, how does the meaning of the original object on the left change when viewing the whole image on the right?

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To understand God’s intended meaning of scripture, we cannot take one verse or chapter and read it in isolation, separate from God’s whole story.





For example, read **Genesis 22:1-2**

What can occur if we read a verse or verses in isolation?

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What is the fifth key area that affects how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

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### **Personal reflection**

From Behind the Meaning Part 1, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

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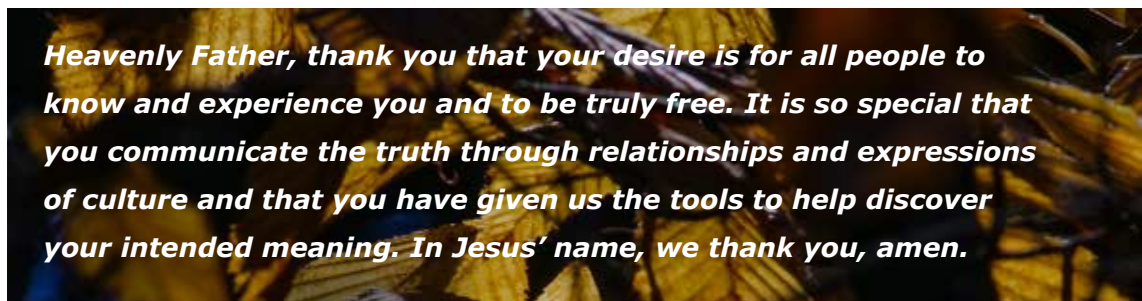
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What is your response/prayer?

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## Behind the Meaning Part 2

What are the five key areas that affect how we understand God's intended meaning of scripture?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Practical

Read **Matthew 7:15-23**

What are the six questions we can ask of any text to help us discover the details of the five key areas that affect meaning?

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

**Who** are the characters in this passage of scripture?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Who** is speaking? To discover this we need to go to the start of the conversation.

Read **Matthew 4:23-5:2**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Who** are they speaking to? Read **Matthew 5:1-2**

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Back to **Matthew 7:15-23**

**Who** are they speaking about? Read **Matthew 7:15**

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**How** do the characters interact? Read **Matthew 5:2, Matthew 7:15-23**  
and **Matthew 7:28-29**

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**Where** did it happen? Read **Matthew 5:1**

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**When** did it happen? Read **Matthew 4:23-25**

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**What** is the style of writing?

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**What** is the context (of this scripture **Matthew 7:15-23**) in God's whole story?

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**Why** was it written?

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**What** are some of the things that are the same today?

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**Personal reflection**

From Behind the Meaning Part 2, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

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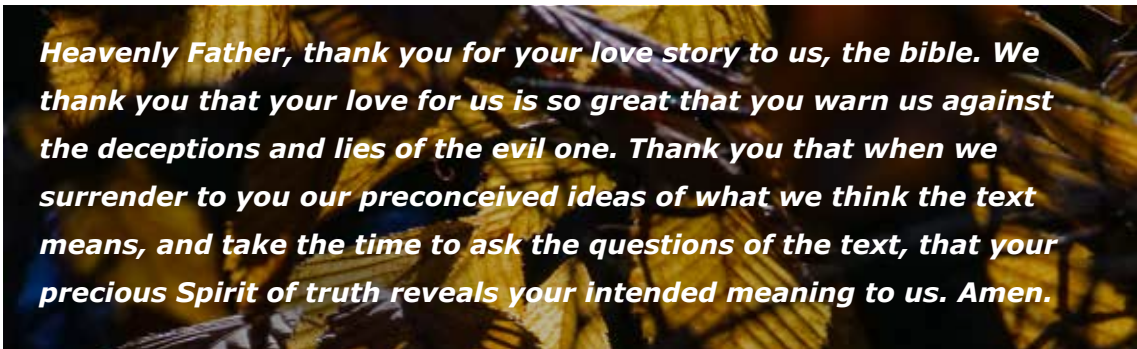
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What is your response/prayer?

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## Frequently asked questions

In **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus explains that only those who do the will of the Father shall enter into His kingdom.

Let us do a practical to discover what the will of the Father is. Read **John 6:36-40**

**Who** are the characters in this passage of scripture?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Who** is speaking? Read **John 6:35**

**Who** are they speaking to? Read **John 6 verse 24, verse 26, verse 31** and **verse 41**

Back to **John 6:36-40**

**Who** are they speaking about in **verse 37**?

**How** do the characters interact?

**Where** did it happen? Read **John 6:24-25**



**When** did it happen? Read **John 6 verse 2, verse 4, verse 11** and **verse 22**

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**What** is the style of writing? The book of John is a gospel.

**What** is the context (of this scripture **John 6:36-40**) in God's whole story?  
Refer to timeline illustration on page 10.

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**Why** was it written? Read **John 20:30-31**

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**What** is the will of the Father, according to **John 6:40**?

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Therefore, **who** are the ones who do the will of the Father? Read **John 6:40**

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According to the conversation in **John 6:36-40**, Jesus explains that the will of the Father is that everyone who comes to Him and believes in Him, that is receives His right to rule and reign, will have everlasting life. Therefore, those who do the will of the Father are those who receive Jesus the Son.

Back to **Matthew 7:15-23**, Jesus was not only exposing the deceptions of the false prophets, but He was also revealing that only those who receive Him shall enter into His kingdom. As a result, receive everlasting life. Conversely, as Jesus stated in **Matthew 7:23**, those who knowingly reject Him and His right to rule and reign are those who practice lawlessness and have no part in His kingdom.



In **Matthew 7:16-20** Jesus states that false prophets will be known by their fruit. He explains that every good tree bears good fruit and every bad tree bears bad fruit. That is, those who have aligned themselves with evil will bear the fruit of the evil one. Whereas those who have aligned themselves with God and only good will bear the fruit of His Spirit.

Let us do a practical to discover what the fruit of evil one and the fruit of the Spirit are. Read **John 8:42-47**

**Who** are the characters in this passage of scripture?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Who** is speaking? Read **John 8:42**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who** are they speaking to? Read **John 8 verse 13** and **verses 44-45**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who** are they speaking about? Read **John 8:44-45**

\_\_\_\_\_

**How** do the characters interact? Read **John 8:42-47**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Where** did it happen? Read **John 8:20**

\_\_\_\_\_





**When** did it happen? Read **John 8:2**

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**What** is the style of writing? The book of John is a gospel.

**What** is the context (of this scripture **John 8:42-47**) in God's whole story?  
Refer to timeline illustration on page 10.

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**Why** was it written? Read **John 20:30-31**

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**What** is the fruit of the evil one? Read **John 8:44**

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**What** is the fruit of God and His Spirit? Read **Galatians 5:22-23**

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It is a daily journey of surrendering our selfish desires of power and control to the Father's will, removing all blockages from receiving more of His character (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

However, disciples of Jesus who are trapped in their selfish desires and are not bearing the fruit of His Spirit are not false prophets. Also, disciples of Jesus who in ignorance are teaching false doctrine are not false prophets. As Jesus stated, false prophets are those who have given their allegiance to evil, but are masquerading as disciples of Jesus. All with the attempt to deceive and devour Jesus' disciples.

