



BIBLE READING QUESTIONS: 4 Questions

Reading the Bible is good. You should do it. But the Bible is up to 4500 years old. The newest part is at least 1900 years old. It's fair to say that the world has changed a bit since it was originally written. So here's 4 ways to help you read and understand the Bible for yourself.

1. What is the context?

- Where does this book fit in the overall story of the Bible?
- Where does this story fit into the book itself (Luke, Jeremiah, 1st Corinthians)?
- Does this take place before or after Jesus' death and resurrection?
- Why was this passage written? (remember what the apostle John says in John 21:25 - not everything about Jesus could be written down, so they only chose the important things to include in the gospels.)

2. What else can you observe?

- Is this passage part of a poem, a proverb, a letter, a story...?
- Is there any exaggeration being used to help make a strong point?
- Are there any words repeated or any patterns or themes developing?

3. What could it mean?

- What does this passage tell me about God, Jesus, God's people, or the world?
- What did this passage mean for the people who first read it? (*put yourself in their shoes*).
- How can I sum it up in my own words or in modern language?

4. How do I apply this to my life?

- Does this passage tell me to do anything?
- Is this passage helping me understand who God is, what He does, or how He relates to people?
- Do I need to change some of my attitudes, start doing something I haven't been doing, or change the way I live?