

# Full Scope of Scripture: Keys to Understanding and Interpreting Scripture - Part 2

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- [Hermeneutics/Exegesis] - The most important law of biblical *hermeneutics* is that the Bible should be interpreted literally. We are to understand the Bible in its normal or plain *meaning*.

**Prov. 8:8** *All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.* **9** *They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.*

The Word of God is the only place we MUST turn to for the Truth - it is inspired, precious, alive, sweet, complete, pure, infallible, without error and it endures forever. No other writing(s), revelations or prophecies are to be considered as an authoritative source of truth and/or interpretation of the Bible. No organization, individual and/or group of individuals is to be considered as primary source of Bible interpretation.

What is taught and accepted as truth becomes a belief system. People's belief system is such a strong thing; it is the basis of our judgments and convictions which govern our lifestyles. If our belief systems are founded on the rightly divided word of God, then believers would be released to the liberties of the truth, and they would prosper in the things of God.

How do we study then?

Please note: **"THE WORD OF GOD STUDIED IN CONTEXT IS ABLE TO INTERPRETE ITSELF"**  
The Bible has 66 books divided up into chapters and verses in each chapter. It's important to note that the Bible was originally a ONE continuous piece. Divisions were incorporated and the logic of doing so (from a face value) was for convenience of reading, provide some kind of logical flow, and enhance referencing among other reasons. **Nothing of this subdivision or arrangement is inspired and keeping the context in view is more important than the chapter flow.**

Before we begin, let us consider the Bereans for a moment - **Acts 17:11** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

\*Why fair-minded? Because of two things;

- (i) They received the word of God with readiness of mind i.e. passionately
- (ii) They were diligent in searching scriptures daily in order to come to a good understanding.
- Thus, they **took personal responsibility**.

**Psalms 119:34** *Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.....* **73** *Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments...* **125** *I am Your servant; Give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies...* **144** *The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live...* **169** *Let my cry come before You, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Your word.*

- ✓ Let us seek to understand the scriptures
- ✓ Let us desire to learn, know and obey
- ✓ The seeking is Personal – Note the 'I' in the following - v 34 ... and I shall; 73... I may learn; ... 125 I may

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know; 144 I shall...169 ... my cry.

- Let us make it personal everyday and here below are the keys to help us along the way;

## **Key # 1: Studying Scripture the way Jesus taught His disciples**

- In this key, we will be looking at how Jesus taught His disciples to study. And in showing them this method, He literally ‘opened their minds to understand Scripture!’ In this, He gave us the perfect example of how God wants us to study His Word if our understanding to it will be opened as well.

Below is a lengthy passage detailing events that took place on Resurrection Day when Jesus began walking with two of His disciples as they were making their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. While on the 7-mile journey, the disciples were downcast, talking about the events that had just taken place over the preceding several days – the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. When Jesus began walking with them, they were prevented from recognizing Him. He asked them what they were talking about, and they began to tell Him of the things that had just happened in Jerusalem. After hearing their thoughts and that their ‘hope [of the One crucified being the Redeemer of Israel, their Messiah]’ being dashed, *He rebuked them for their being foolish and so slow to believe!*

- ❖ **Please read through this passage and answer the questions in the text boxes. We will discuss and go through them together God willing.**

***Luke 24:25*** Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. 28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them.

*30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.*

*32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was [i]known to them in the breaking of bread.*

*36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to*

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*them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”*

*40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence.*

*44 Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

## Questions

1. Why did Jesus call them foolish?
2. What should they have known?
3. To correct this lack of understanding of these things, where did Jesus begin in Scripture to teach them about Himself?
4. And in the beginning there, what was He able to do?
5. And based upon what He had just taught them, what was their desire now, and what did Jesus do?
6. And did He comply with their request?

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**7. In vs. 30-31, why was it that they could recognize Him now?**

**8. From vs. 32 what affect did seeing Scripture this way have on them?**

**9. And according to vs. 33 what did they now desire to do?**

**10. When Jesus appeared to all the disciples, How did he open their understanding to be able to comprehend the scriptures?**

**11. How can our understanding be opened to be able to comprehend the scriptures?**

**12. What other scripture references can you find that mention Moses, prophets, and Psalms?**

**❖ What are your overall thoughts on this key and how significant is it in our daily study of scripture?**

**May the Lord bless your diligence and let us pray that the Lord will open our understanding!**