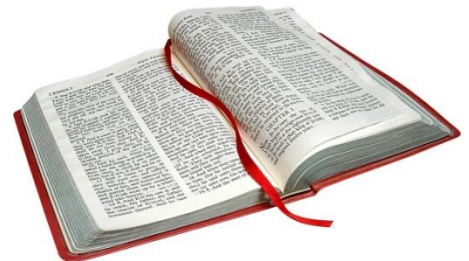




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Context Is Everything

What is “context”?

- “Context” is not just for Bible study, but for any form of communication, reading or hearing
- “Context” is not just for Bible study, but for every aspect of life

What is “context”?

- We don't like it when people take our words out of context
- We should give the same care to God's word (2 Tim. 2:15)

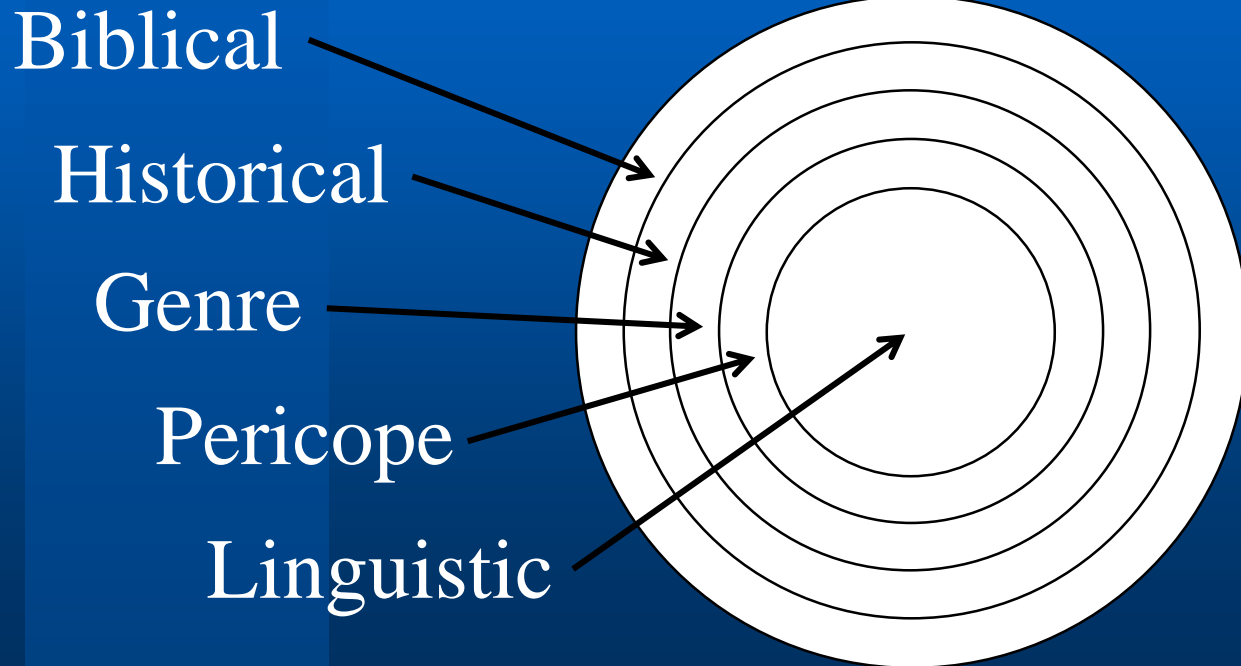
What is “context”?

- A text apart from its context is simply a pretext for a proof text (Mt. 4:6)
 - To remove a passage from its context is to distort its meaning and to destroy ourselves (2 Pet. 3:16)
-

What is “context”?

- “Context” = a text with (con) a text
- The text above and below the text you are studying

What is “context”?



Linguistic context

- What is the meaning of the original Heb. or Gr. word(s) under discussion in this text?
 - Look up the words in Heb. or Gr. lexicons/word studies references
-

Linguistic context

- Compare English translations and be careful not to interpret a passage based upon one contemporary English meaning (Acts 8:38)
- Recommend: [Biblehub.com](https://www.biblehub.com)

Pericope context

- What is the meaning of this text in the setting within the words around it; what is said in the paragraph, the chapter, and the book (1 Cor. 13:10)?
- Note carefully what is not said

Genre context

- What kind of literature is being read: literal, figurative, poetic, prophetic, apocalyptic, epistle, narrative, etc.?

Genre contexts

- Words should be taken in their normal, literal sense, unless the context shows that the author is using some non-literal figure of speech (Rev. 1:1)

Historical context

- What, if any, is the cultural/societal, historical, or geographical setting of the text?
 - Who is speaking and to whom (Jn. 16:13)?
-

Historical context

- Who wrote it and to whom?
 - When and where was it written?
 - Why was it written?
 - What is the purpose of the writing?
 - How was it written?
-

Biblical context

- What is the overall message of the Bible and how does this particular passage fit into it (book(s), covenant, ages, the Bible as a whole)?

Biblical context

- Let scripture interpret (explain) scripture!
 - Do not interpret a Bible passage in a way that would contradict another passage (Acts 20:27)
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Biblical context

- Recommend: Cross-reference Bible
- Recommend: “The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge”

Why out of context?

- Careless
 - Laziness
 - Defend a preconceived idea
 - Purposeful
-