



INTRODUCTION TO

HERMENEUTICS

	My religion is the one, true faith leading to eternal life	Many religions can lead to eternal life	Neither/ Both equally (VOL)	Don't know/ refused	Total
<b>Total</b>	24	70	3	4	100
					100
<b>Mainline churches</b>	12	83	2	4	100
<b>Historically Black churches</b>	34	59	3	4	100
<b>Catholic</b>	16	79	2	3	100
					100
<b>Orthodox</b>	20	72	3	6	100
<b>Jehovah's Witness</b>	80	16	0	3	100
<b>Other Christian</b>	8	83	4	5	100
<b>Jewish</b>	5	82	7	5	100
<b>Muslim</b>	33	56	2	9	100
<b>Buddhist</b>	5	86	5	4	100
<b>Hindu</b>	5	89	2	5	100
<b>Other Faiths</b>	3	85	9	2	100

	My religion is the one, true faith leading to eternal life	Many religions can lead to eternal life	Neither/ Both equally (VOL)	Don't know/ refused	Total
<b>Total</b>	24	70	3	4	100
<b>Evangelical churches</b>	36	57	3	5	100
<b>Mainline churches</b>	12	83	2	4	100
<b>Historically Black churches</b>	34	59	3	4	100
<b>Catholic</b>	16	79	2	3	100
<b>Mormon</b>	57	39	3	1	100
<b>Orthodox</b>	20	72	3	6	100
<b>Jehovah's Witness</b>	80	16	0	3	100
<b>Other Christian</b>	8	83	4	5	100
<b>Jewish</b>	5	82	7	5	100
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## **HERMENEUTICS**

the art and science of biblical interpretation

## **EXEGESIS**

the process of determining what the biblical text says

## **INTERPRETATION**

the process of determining what the biblical text means

## **HERMENEUTIC**

the set of principles used to what the biblical text means

## **EXPOSITION**

the process of communicating the meaning of the text



the immediate

# **PURPOSE AND GOAL OF HERMENEUTICS**

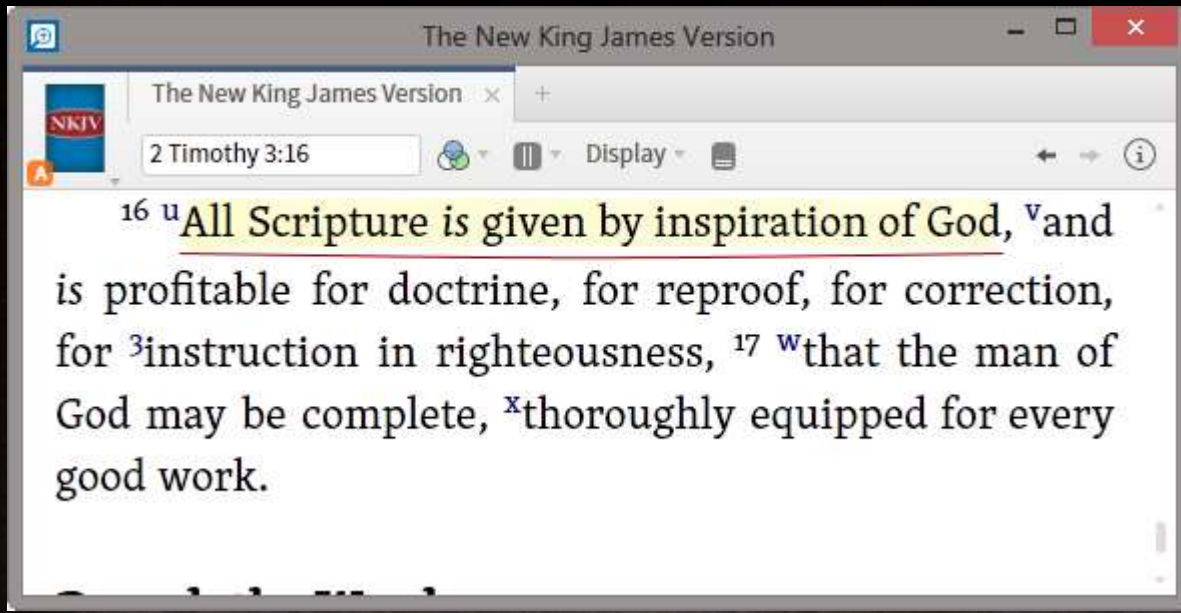
to correctly understand the biblical text

the ultimate

# **PURPOSE AND GOAL OF HERMENEUTICS**

to correctly apply the biblical text





The process of the spirit of God  
moving men to write the very  
words of God



# INSPIRATION EXTENDS TO

... the precise meaning of every word and phrase ...

... through the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the original languages ...

... such that the Bible is properly **called the “Word of God”** in its entirety





# THE BIBLICAL AUTHORS WROTE

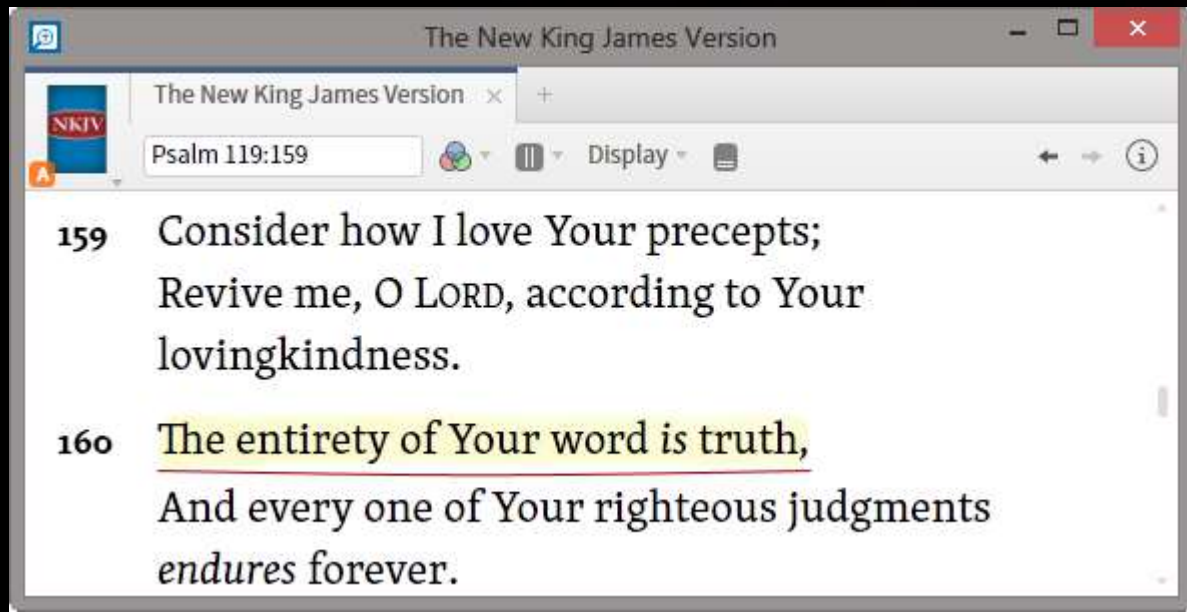
... according to accepted rules of language and communication

... with their own personal manner of thinking and expression

... within a historical context

... with the intent to be truthful and to be understood

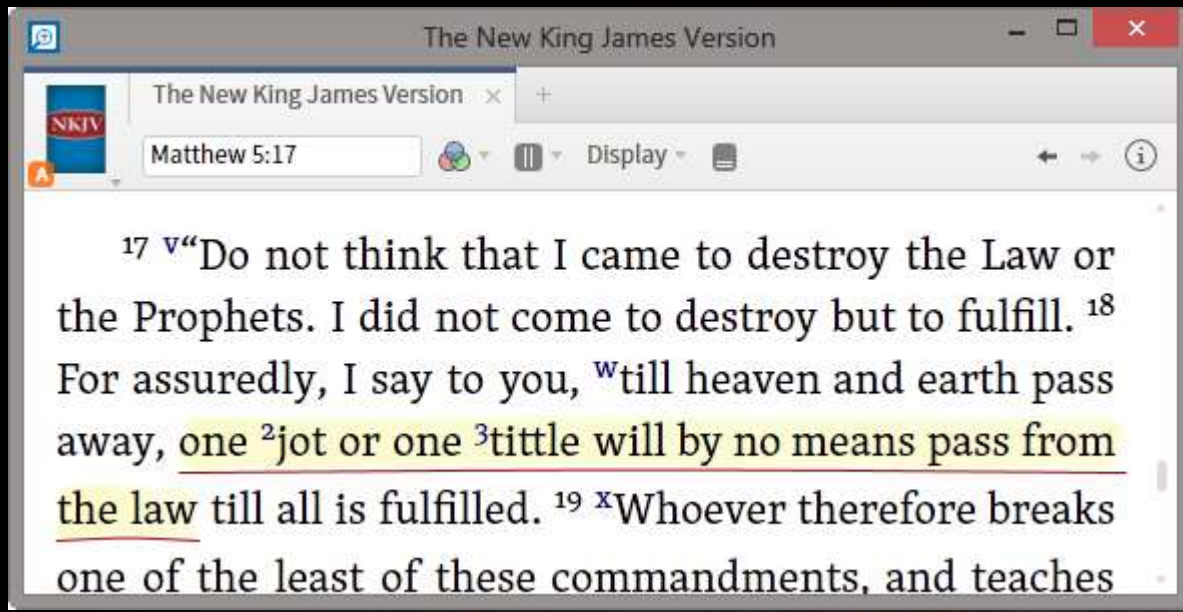




Because the Scriptures are the very words of God, they are entirely true and absolutely trustworthy

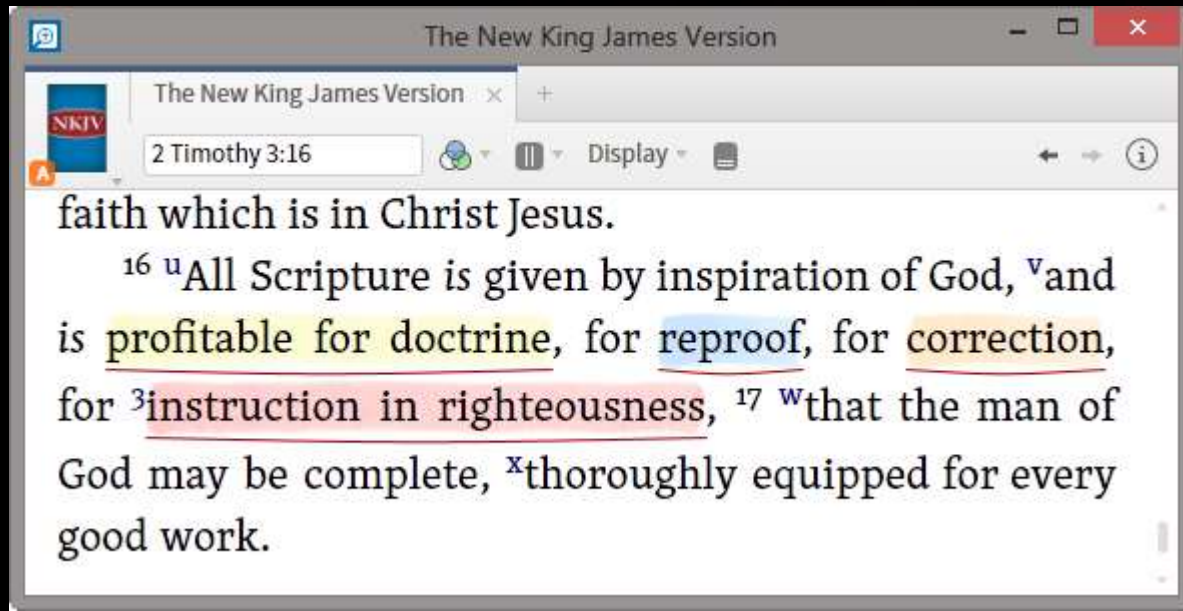






Because the Scriptures are the very words of God, being true and trustworthy, they are completely free from error

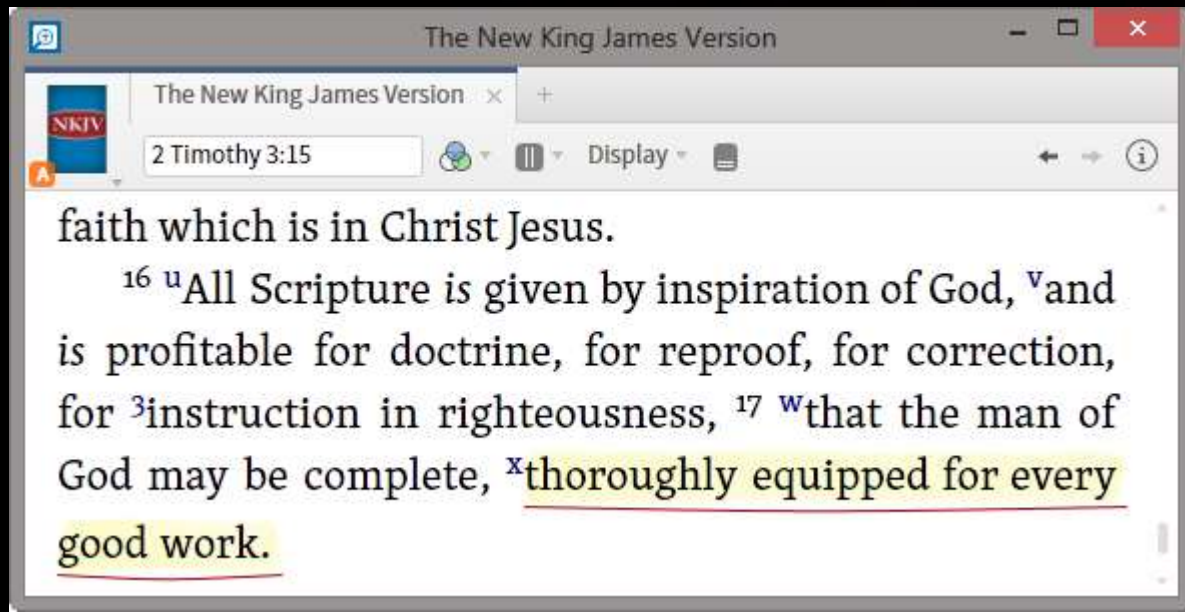




Because the Scriptures are the very words of God, being true, trustworthy and error-free, they have absolute authority







Because the Scriptures are the very words of God, being true, trustworthy, error-free and authoritative, they are completely sufficient



these demand the  
literal  
grammatical  
historical  
(normal) method of interpretation





literal



THE TEXT HAS  
**OBJECTIVE MEANING**

grammatical



**DETERMINED** BY THE  
**LITERARY CONTEXT**

historical



**ILLUMINED** BY THE  
**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**



**RATIONALE FOR A**

literal  
grammatical  
historical

**HERMENEUTIC**

the purpose of language

the biblical warnings

fulfilled prophecy

authorial intent

example of Christ & others





# RATIONALE FOR A

literal  
grammatical  
historical

# HERMENEUTIC

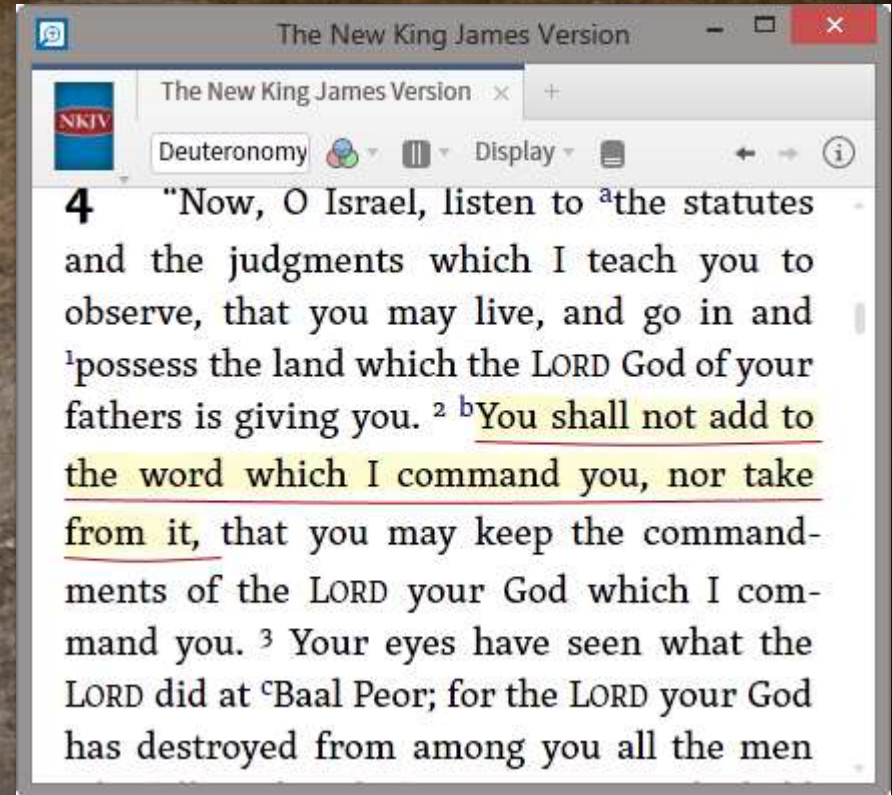
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**RATIONALE FOR A**

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# RATIONALE FOR A literal grammatical historical HERMENEUTIC

the purpose of language  
the biblical warnings  
fulfilled prophecy  
authorial intent  
example of Christ & others





# RATIONALE FOR A

literal  
grammatical  
historical

# HERMENEUTIC

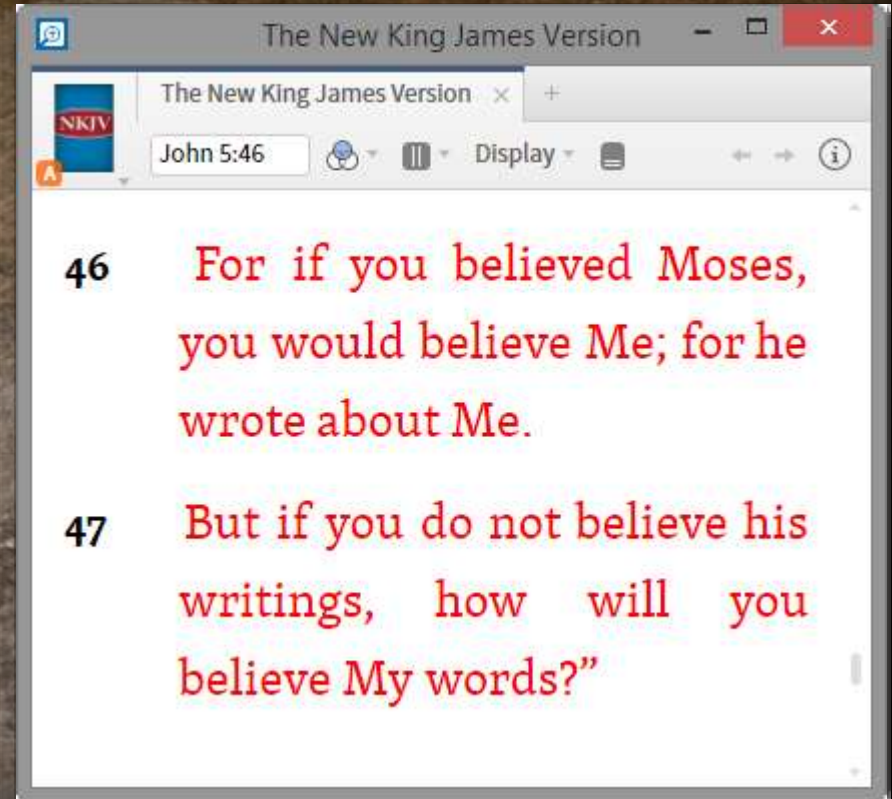
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**AUTHORIAL INTENT:** the possibilities

truthful

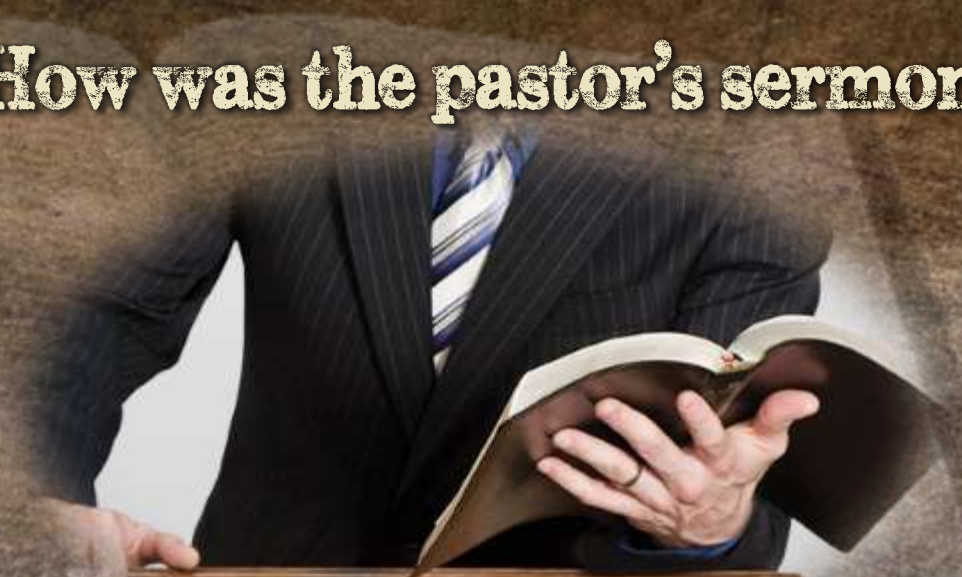
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deceptive

ambiguous

encoded

**“It was great.”**





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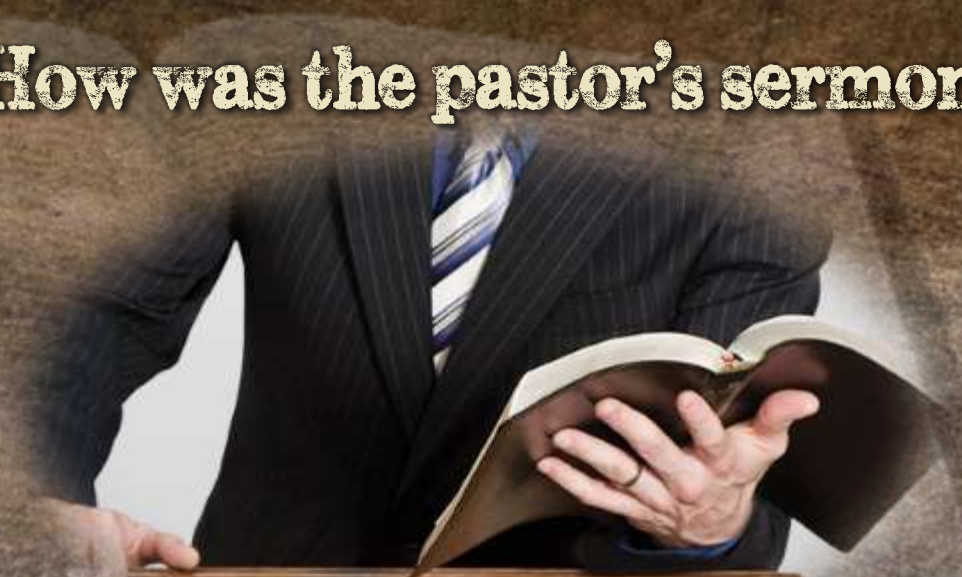
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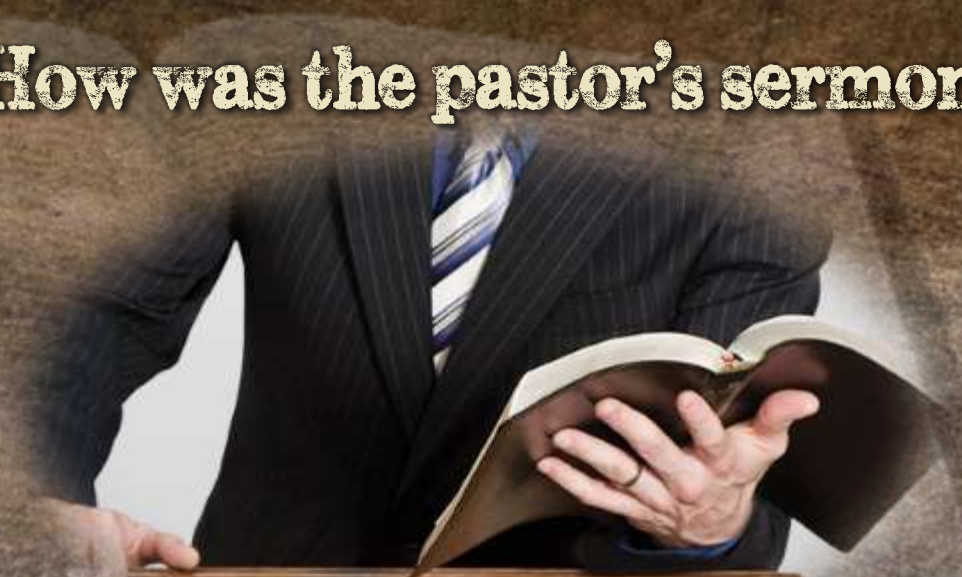
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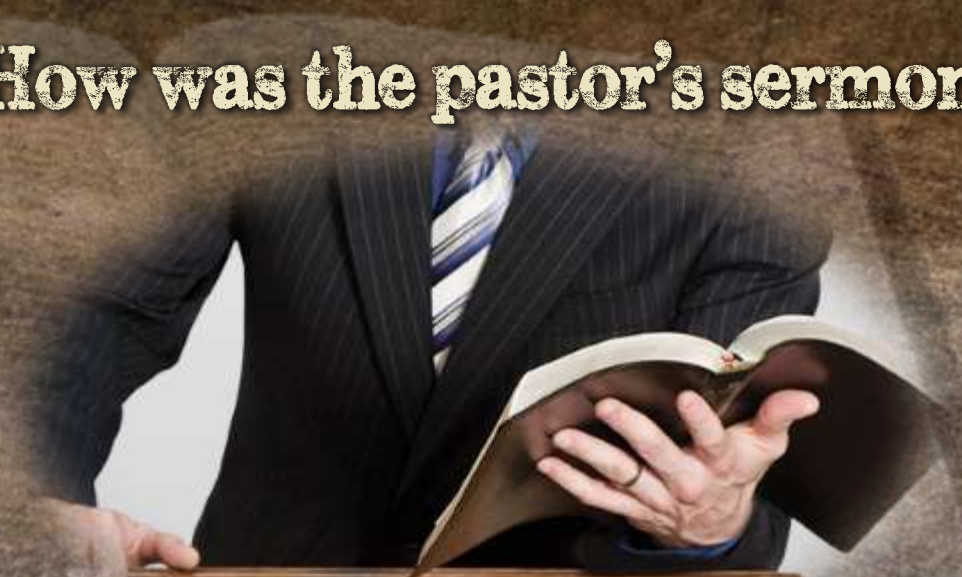
“How was the pastor’s sermon?”

deceptive

ambiguous

encoded

“Like last **week’s.**”





# THE NEED FOR

literal  
grammatical  
historical

# INTERPRETATION

to bridge the  
gap between  
the **author's**  
mind and  
ours





# THE NEED FOR

literal  
grammatical  
historical

# INTERPRETATION

what does  
this mean?

Dave,

Ken called again - the situation is worse. He's down in the dumps and doesn't know what to do. Any tricks up your sleeve?

K.



selected

# **GUIDELINES FOR**

literal  
grammatical  
historical

# **INTERPRETATION**

normal reading...

historical context...

literary context...

figurative usage...

*Dave,*

*Ken called again - the situation is worse. He's down in the dumps - doesn't know what to do. Any tricks up your sleeve?*

*K.*



basic principles of

# NORMAL BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

**“normal” reading gives the most accurate results**

grammatical rules determine a **word's** function in a sentence

lexical (dictionary) definitions provide all possible meanings

broad literary and historical contexts establish a range of possible meanings

the immediate literary context establishes a **word's** single specific meaning

the context determines if words are used in a literal or figurative sense

**if it's not in the text, SOMEBODY MADE IT UP**



meaning

**FIGURATIVE**

vs

**ALLEGORY**

tied to the text

vs

independent of the text

objective

vs

subjective

singular

vs

possibly multiple

determined  
by the author

vs

determined  
by the reader



# interpreting **APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE**

meaning is

tied to the text

objective

singular

determined  
by the author

sometimes conveyed  
through symbolism





# QUESTIONS FOR

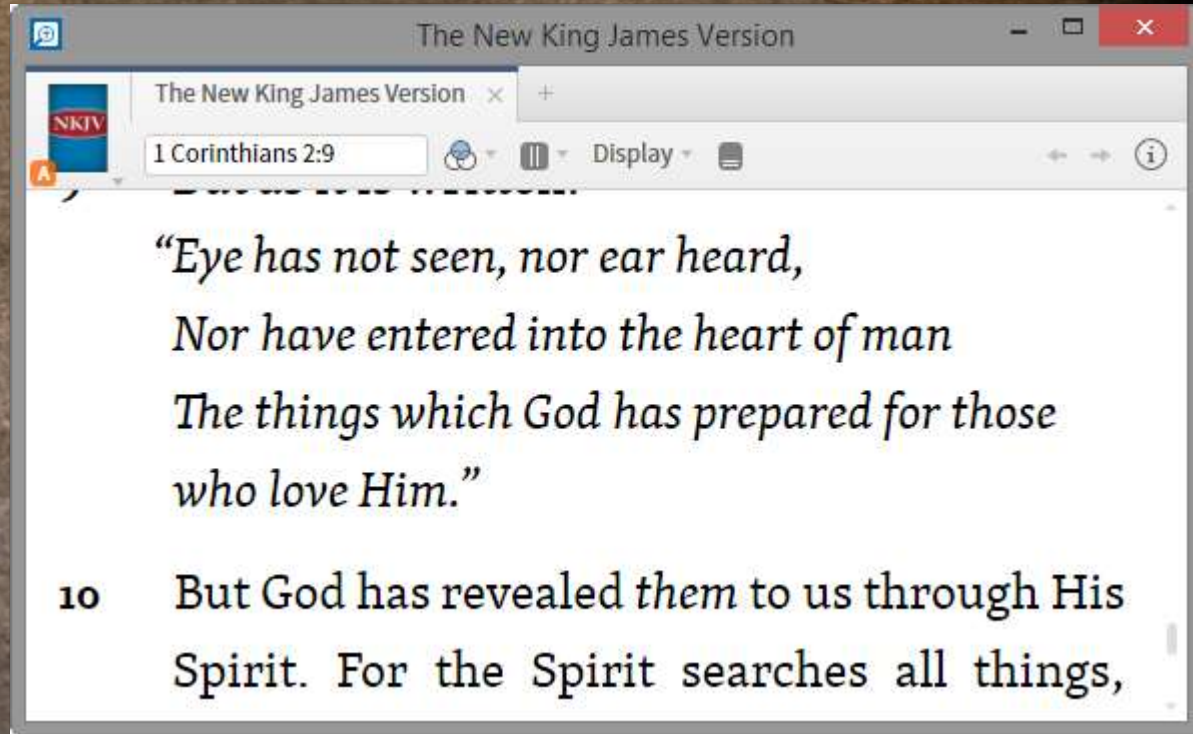
literal  
grammatical  
historical

# INTERPRETATION

what did the author say?

what did the author mean  
by what he said?

what would the recipients  
have understood?



# QUESTIONS FOR

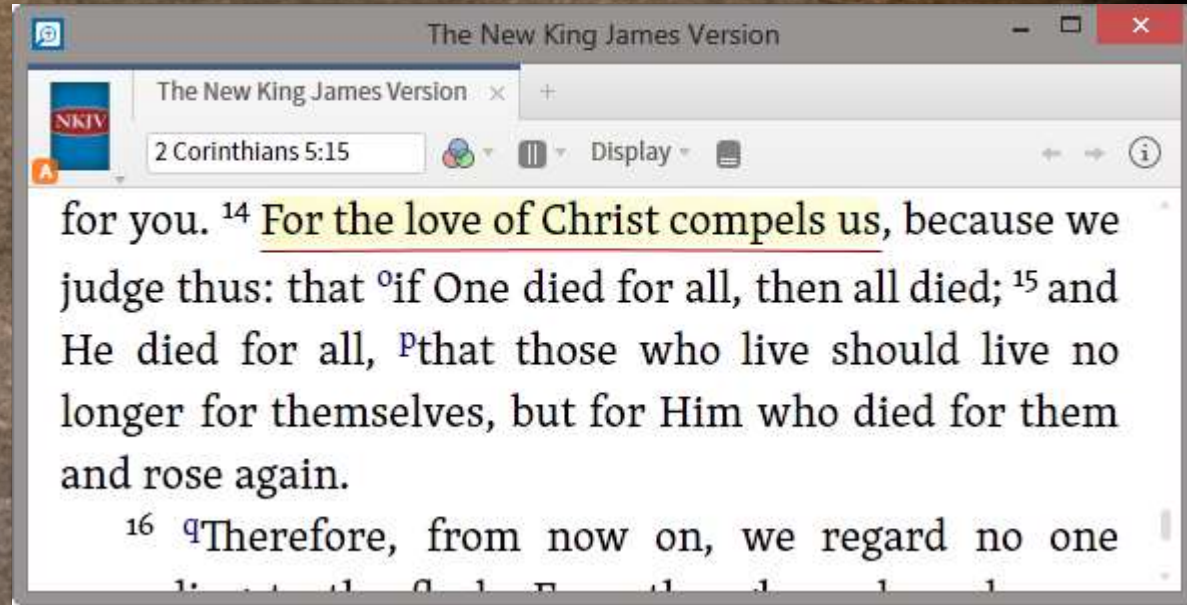
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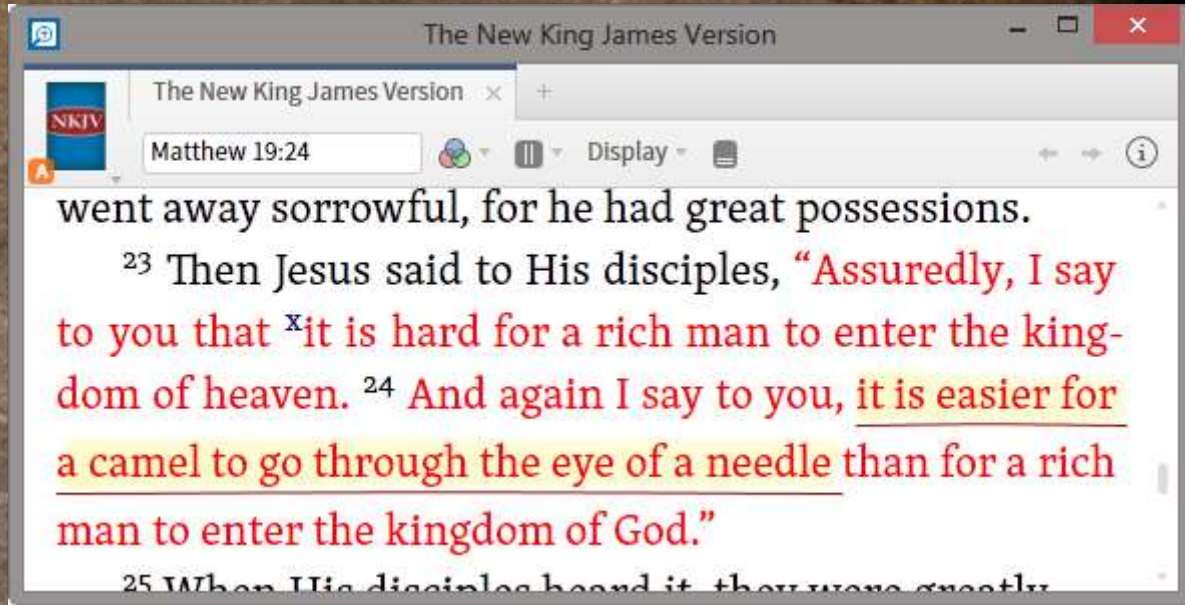
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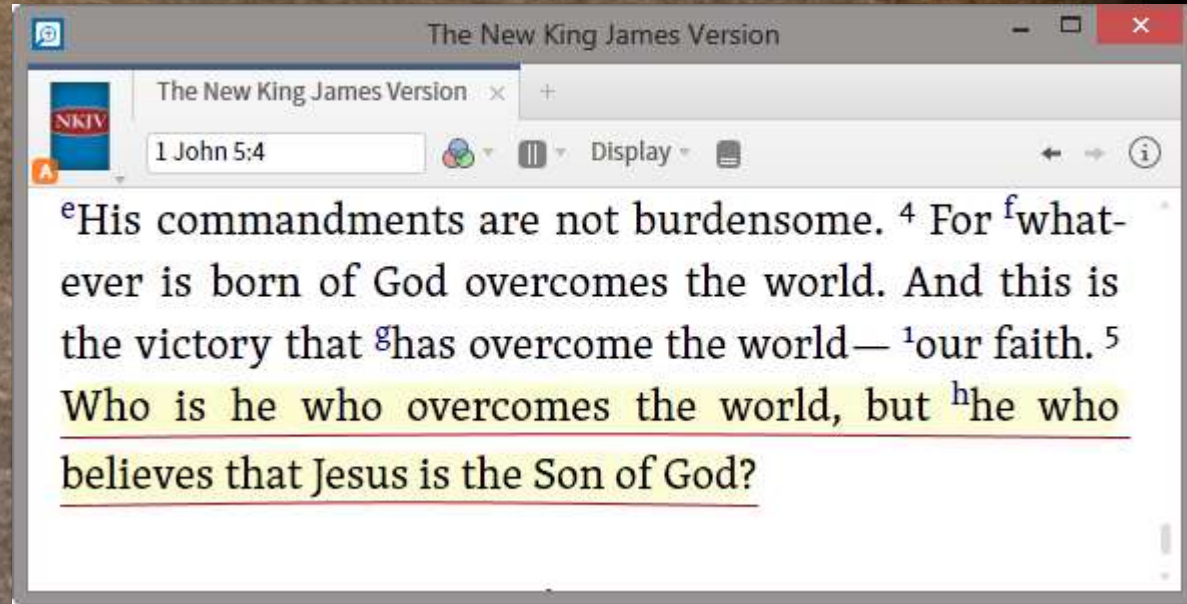
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what did the author  
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what did other  
authors say?





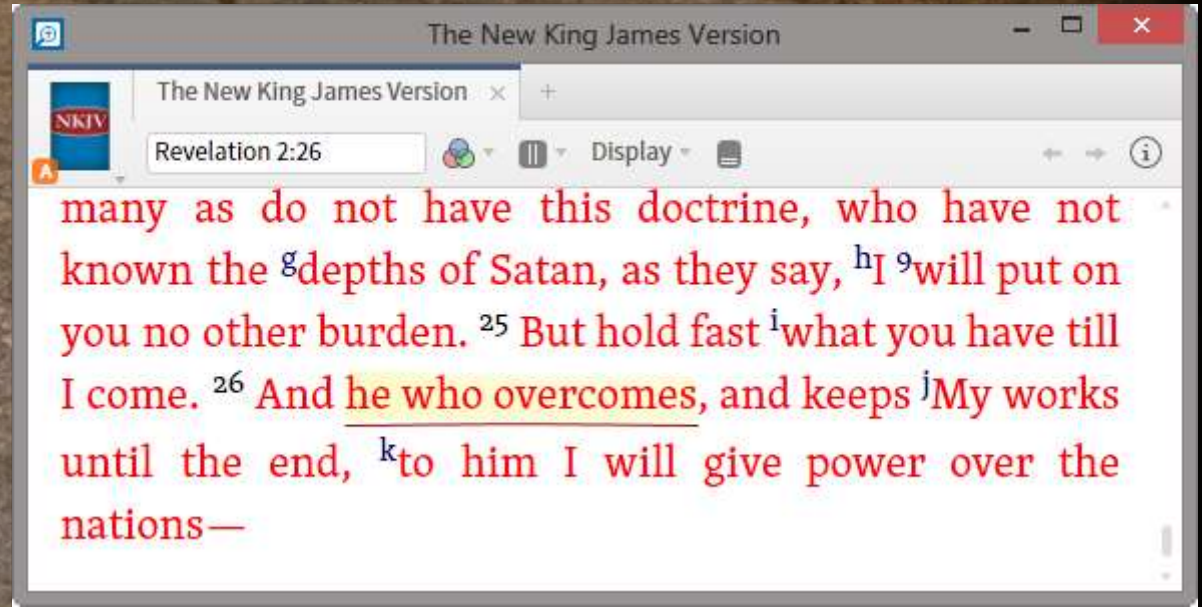
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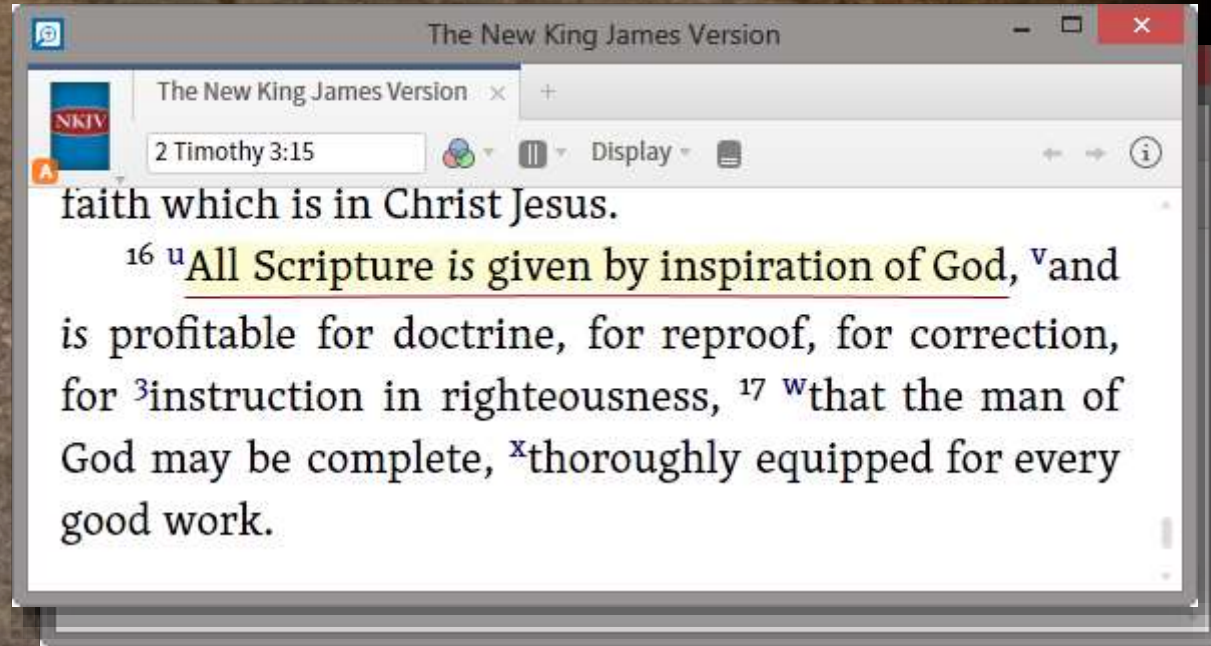
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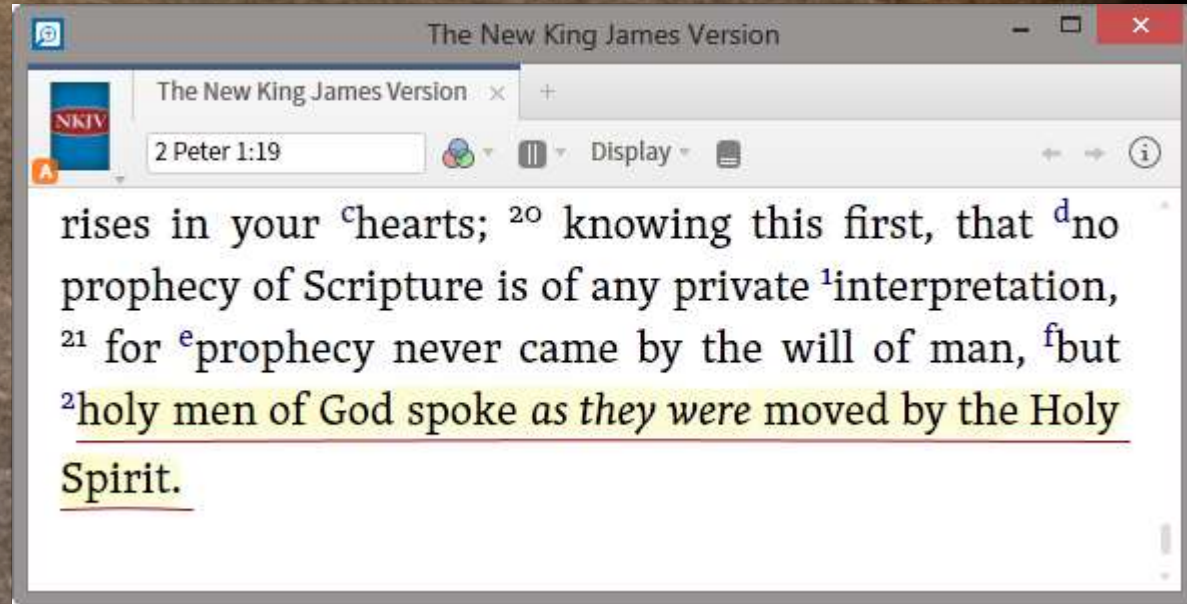
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# INTERPRETATION

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ultimate  
**QUESTIONS FOR** literal  
grammatical  
historical

**INTERPRETATION**

what does this mean  
TO ~~me~~ God?

what does this mean  
FOR me?





the role of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT IN** literal  
grammatical  
historical

**INTERPRETATION**

to enlighten hearts and minds  
so that we might see,  
understand **and accept God's**  
revealed truth

to persuade us to act upon  
**God's revealed truth**

to convict us when we depart  
from **God's revealed truth**

