

## Misinterpretation

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1Co 1:22 for the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

The Jews understand through History as Signs were given, the Gentile wants to understand through Theology (*Wisdom*).

Let's take a brief look at some of the reasons Scripture is misinterpreted.

- Not Spirit filled and saved (the Spirit opens our eyes to the truth)
- Ignoring context
- Had an Experience
- Using scripture to try and prove a personal theological idea
- Ignoring who is being spoken to: believers, non-believers, Jews or gentiles, nations or individuals in the text
- Forgetting history: Judaic History
- Is the Scripture literal, allegorical or prophetic, can it be all three?
- Does the interpretation tie up with all other Scriptures along the same line.
- Satans Deceptions:
  1. New age/occultic integration with the Word
  2. False prophets and teachers

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.

It is in fact much easier to misinterpret Scripture than it is to correctly discern the truth. As our sinful nature does not wish to hear the truth, we have a tendency, no matter how much we don't like to admit it, to try and define Gods Word in a way that is comfortable to our ego or so that it sits right with our spirit.

The two most destructive forces working against us as students of the word are:

1. Not being saved and filled with the Spirit. - We have seen throughout this study that we cannot come into a correct understanding of salvation and who Christ is unless the father reveal it to us (Romans 8:15, 1 Corinthians 12:3). This leads us to the logical conclusion that if we are not saved our eyes are not opened.

If our eyes are not opened we cannot see or understand. Therefore it is not possible to interpret Scripture accurately. Examples of this can be seen by looking at the “Christian” religions that deny important issues, such as the Trinity or of Christs Divinity in relation to the Father.

- Mormons
- Jehovah Witnesses
- Christian Science
- Baha’i
- Unitarians
- Unity
- United Church of Jesus Christ (God is a force)
- Many apostolic churches
- Catholicism (Mary now co-redemptrix with Christ)
- Faith and Prosperity teaching (faith in your faith and in your words not in God)
- Third wave teachings
- Evolution or millions of years creation
- Etc...etc...etc

2. Had an experience - This is one of the most difficult scenarios when witnessing of the truth. An experience in the experiencee comes to outweigh biblical teaching and sound doctrine. What is usually used to defend the experience is: “don’t put God in a box”, or, “He is doing a new thing”, so don’t blaspheme the Holy Spirit by hindering His work.

The whole theology and doctrines of those that are experiencing or have had an experience are centered on out of context Scriptures to support the experience. These experiences are then spread rapidly and can and do deceive millions from the truth and correct biblical understanding. For example:

- Toronto Blessing
- Labyrinth Prayer walks
- Levitation
- Burning in the bosom (Mormons)
- Shaking
- Uncontrollable laughter
- Inability to stand or speak at a meeting

The brainwashing techniques used by the 'biblical teachers' to defend and promote this kind of behaviour puts fear into their followers effectively stopping them from checking the truth of their statements and doctrines. They do this by constantly telling them that God will judge them badly if they come against 'Gods anointed', them obviously being the 'anointed'. Very convenient doctrines to swindle millions of pounds (Dollars) from the frightened, spiritually abused followers who in some instances sell their house and give the money to an 'anointed' minister in the hope that God will bless them back ten fold.

All these above experiential deceptions come about because the experience takes precedence and the followers follow the teachers leading them further astray with the promise of further experiences.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

So many people are searching for a faith but are willing to accept any faith other than the truth, but we have been warned that there will be many christs for people to believe in, and that is exactly what we see.

Unfortunately it is not only the fringe churches that have accepted these teachings. (I call them fringe churches despite the fact they have millions of followers). These teachings have slowly moved into the mainstream. As these doctrines are slowly being accepted it is opening up the door for so many other deceptions. Churches are now lending their halls out to yoga and martial arts classes. Buddhist teachings and worship are slowly being integrated and called Christian.

Another way Scripture is misinterpreted is by ignoring context. We must, when trying to understand what is being explained realise: 'what' was said 'to whom' and 'by whom'. This is just as important as what was said. If we take a scripture for instance that is meant for Israel and decide it is for the church today, we get Joel's army theology (Amillennialism, Dominionism).

Whole churches and doctrines are based around the teaching that God has finished with the Jews and the church is the new Israel.

Unfortunately these teachings do something terrible and frightening to me as a believer. They say God changes His mind and takes back promises. He promised Israel salvation in the end, as they are His chosen people. If

He can take back that promise, how do we know we can trust Him not to take back the promise of our salvation at the last minute? If these teachings were true we could never take God at His word as He would be a liar. If He tricked Israel how do we know we are not being deceived?

As we have started to realise as we progress through this study is that one of the major contributors to the 'confused' church is the rejection of Israel and Judaism as the root of its faith. Rejecting the root leaves the branches unfed, and struggling to make meat out of milk. All that happens when this is done is you get soggy meat.

1Co 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear* it, neither yet now are ye able.

Heb 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Heb 5:13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

How much clearer could it be? If you are stuck at the milk you are unskilful in teaching, you can not progress to the meat. Unfortunately, many of, if not most of today's teachers are teaching from the milk as they have had no teaching themselves in how to understand the meat. This is done through an understanding of the Judaic root and the Judaic way of interpreting Scripture.

I would at this point like to iterate that I am not promoting Orthodox Judaism, but the Judaic way the Word was given to the culture and people to whom God gave His Word. After all Israel is His nation, created and moulded the way He wanted them, doing things the way they understood. He did not mould and shape gentiles to partake of these blessing without the root to explain it to us.

### ***Is the Scripture poetic, allegorical or literal?***

This is always a bone of contention amongst theologians. Depending on there point of view they will argue from on of these standpoints and debate the other views as wrong.

However, from a Judaic perspective all three can be equally valid. This is called Midrash<sup>1</sup>. It is the way the Jews interpreted Scripture. There are many types of Midrashic writings from the early Rabbis, however the one thing they have in common is the ability to use all three types of interpretation in their writings without contradiction. It is only with our western minds that we have decided it can only be one way at a time.

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<sup>1</sup> **Midrash** ([Hebrew](#): מדרש; plural *midrashim*) is a [Hebrew](#) word referring to a method of [exegesis](#) of a Biblical text. The term "midrash" also can refer to a compilation of Midrashic teachings, in the form of legal, exegetical or homiletical commentaries on the [Tanakh](#) (Jewish Bible).