

Misreading Scripture With a “ME” Mindset

Here are some key points to remember:

1. The Bible is rooted in an Ancient History and Culture.
2. The Bible is not trying to be modern (or postmodern), which is something it is not designed to be. It's simply what it is—an account of the beginning of God's interactions with mankind, namely a family-turned-nation (through Abraham) that is crucial to accomplishing his divine intentions for the whole world.
3. We must be careful to begin our Bible reading by doing all we can to understand what and why it is saying what it is to those people (the original hearers) first and foremost.
4. We must remember that **CONTEXT** is the most important aspect of Bible study.
5. The Bible is not really a single book. It's a collection of very different kinds of writing that were spoken, sung, written, and edited over a long period (4000 years) of time.
6. A critical element of good Bible reading, and interpretation is to ask: What kind of book is this? and What are the rules for understanding this kind of writing?
7. The entire Bible is written for us, but not every verse is addressed to us or written about us. All scripture is profitable, but not every passage is for our participation or obedience.
8. The good news is that we don't have to pretend that we're supposed to read the Bible and simply do everything it says, or be like the people we read about. James A. Sanders is right when he says: “Biblical characters are not primarily models for morality, but mirrors for identity.”
9. Jesus is at the center of the Bible story, however, everything written in the Bible is not about Jesus.
10. We must focus on the redemptive and restorative actions of God in His involvement with human kind.

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NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

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PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

MAJOR PROPHETS - 5

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JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

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1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

MINOR PROPHETS - 12

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JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

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LUKE
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2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

HISTORY - 1

ACTS

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS

GENERAL LETTERS - 9

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION