

Eliminate: IT'S ALL ABOUT ME

(In search of the Center of God's Will)

*This study is adapted from the book *Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*, by E. Randolph Richards and co-authored with Brandon J. O'Brien*

Context _____ meaning!

Understanding context begins with four principles:

1. _____ meaning (what it says),
2. _____ setting (the events of the story, to whom is it addressed, and how it was understood at that time),
3. _____ (the immediate sentence and paragraph within which a word or phrase is found)
4. _____ (comparing it with other parts of Scripture for a fuller meaning).

Jeremiah 29:11 (NET) — 11 For I know what I have planned for you,' says the LORD. 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV 1900) — 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

5. Therefore, "Context is _____," which means that the context often _____ the meaning of a phrase.
6. To ignore context is to put ourselves at a tremendous _____.
7. Taking phrases and verses out of context always leads to _____.
8. In **Jeremiah 29:11**, God, first of all, was speaking to the _____ facing exile.
9. It's clear this verse is about ancient Israel and not "_____."
10. This occurs because our culture has a tendency to _____ this promise for high school graduates or people in general.
11. Western Christians, especially _____ Christians, tend to read every scriptural promise, every blessing, as if it necessarily applies to us—to each of us and all of us _____.
12. We are confident that "us" always includes _____ specifically. It, therefore, _____ the way we read the Bible.
13. Self at the _____.
14. Self and _____.
15. We assume that the Bible _____ to us.