



How Scripture Interprets Itself

Continuing with the fascinating biblical subject of Keys to the Words Interpretation, I have shown you that punctuation is completely devoid of authority. Those silly commas change everything. But, if you desire to discover a greater depth to how the Word of God interprets itself, there's more.

Knowing this first

(2 Pet 1:20 KJV) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

It says, 'knowing this first'—following is the first thing that you MUST know. No prophecy, not one verse of scripture, is of any private interpretation. Did you know that all scripture is prophecy? Either its forth telling [present events] or foretelling [future events].

Have you ever attended



Sunday school? You're handed the Quarterly, which is your study guide, but not the Bible; people wouldn't want others to think that they had a religious bug. Everybody reads one verse. Then, the teacher asks what you think it means. Everyone is allowed to give their private interpretation. It's not what you think, rather, 'what does the Word say?' We cannot give our private interpretation.

What about my denomination? When it writes about a certain verse, it's private interpretation.

This is why there are so many different Christian

religions. What does the Word say? We have to ask this time and time again. What about the Pope in Rome when he speaks ex cathedra? It's still private interpretation.

The Word of God is of no private interpretation. The Greek word *idios* is translated 'private' and occurs in the Bible over a hundred times. Here, its translated 'private'. In other instances, it is translated 'one's own' or 'his own', or 'apart'.

(Mat 17:19 KJV) Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

'Apart' conveys separation as in a complete lack of ownership or communion.

(Mat 24:3 KJV) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us,

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when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Idios is translated 'privately'. This was a private meeting, their own meeting. Further study of the word idios is key to a greater understanding.

The Bible did not originate out of men's minds.

(Num 16:28 KJV) And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

Notice the words, 'mine own.'

(Gal 1:11-12 KJV) But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. {12} For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Bible did not originate from men's minds. It was received by revelation.

(2 Pet 3:15 KJV) And account *that* the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

The Bible, God's wisdom, was given to man. God revealed his word to Paul. The Bible is God's divine word. Not one word of it is of man's private interpretation.

(Luke 1:3 KJV) It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

Luke tells us that he had 'perfect understanding of all things'. Only with God's intervention was this possible. What Luke wrote came from God. Another key lies in the words, 'the very first'. This phrase means, 'from above.' Luke's perfect understanding came 'from above'.

The three ways all scripture interprets itself

Fence-sitting isn't allowed in reference to Keys to the Bible's Interpretation. Either no interpretation is possible, or it must interpret itself, and the latter is exactly the case.

The Bible interprets itself in a threefold way:

- In the verse
- In the context
- Used elsewhere

Look for the interpretation in the given order. If it does not interpret itself 'in the verse', then 'in the context' must be considered. I must never say what I think it means without applying these keys. If the Bible does not interpret itself 'in the context', the final option is 'used elsewhere'. Common-sense rules apply. For instance, I have a wedding ring today, it was a wedding ring yesterday. If I'm holding an ink pen and tell you that it is an ink pen, I don't have to tell you that it will be an ink pen tomorrow. The entire Bible follows these interpretation rules. Let's delve into 'in the verse'.

In the verse means, right

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where it is written.

80 - 90% of the Bible interprets itself right where it is written. If the majority of God's word interprets itself like this, why haven't so many understood it? The answer is simple; they haven't read it, or they haven't remembered what they've read. The beauty of this key is that you don't need a commentary to provide understanding. I'll provide four vivid examples.

(Phil 4:13-14 KJV) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. {14} Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

(Acts 8:8 KJV) And there was great joy in that city.

"Lo, I am with you always." You don't need a commentary to understand this; it interprets itself right where it is written.

"Come unto me all that labor and are heavy laden." No commentary, or even a dictionary, is

needed. It interprets itself in the verse.

Let's take it a step further:

Interpreted according to biblical usage

We must understand the words of the Bible according to their biblical usage. All words must be interpreted according to their biblical usage and we must be aware of semantic changes—when usages of words change. Did you know that we are never quite current on any translation because languages evolve? I'd recommend that you purchase an old dictionary, one you'd find in a used book store, one dated at least 80-100 years old. In these will you find outdated meanings.

Meaning of a word or words

(Luke 13:19 KJV) It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

What does 'wax' mean? 'Wax' is an older word meaning, 'to become'. It became a great tree.

(Mat 25:15 KJV) And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

What does 'several' mean? 'Several' is an older word meaning, 'own'. He gave talents to every man according to his [the worker's] own ability.

(Mat 4:24 KJV) And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

What does 'divers' mean? 'Divers' is an older word meaning, 'many, different'. The people were taken with many diseases and torments.

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(2 Cor 1:22 KJV) Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

What does 'earnest' mean? 'Earnest' is an older word meaning, 'token'. He gave us a token of the spirit in our hearts.

(Luke 2:49 KJV) And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

What does 'wist' mean? 'Wist' is an older word meaning, 'know'. He asked, 'know you not that I must be about my father's business?'

(Heb 1:1 KJV) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

What does 'sundry' mean? 'Sundry' is an older word meaning, 'several or various'. God, who at various times and in many manners . . .

(Mat 13:20 KJV) But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

What does 'anon' mean? 'Anon' is an older word meaning, 'quickly or immediately'. . . . And immediately with joy received it.

(1 Pet 2:18 KJV) Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

What does 'froward' mean? 'Froward' is an older word meaning, 'perverse'. . . . But also to the perverse . . .

In order to understand these verses, we must understand their biblical usages. It is key to always use the biblical usage. If it is old enough, a dictionary can provide a proper synonym, but we must understand the usage of a word or words in light of their biblical usage.

To be continued . . .

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown