

# Two-Step Bible Study

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The First Rule of Hermeneutics

# Two-Step Bible Study

The Bible Has No Contradictions

# Two-Step Bible Study

Starting with the Large Context

KJV

Holy  
Bible



KING  
JAMES  
VERSION

Holy  
Bible

KING JAMES VERSION

**We are  
Bible Christians!**

**19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

**II Peter 1:19-21**

# The B-I-B-L-E

The B ... I ... B ... L ... E,  
Yes, that's the book for me,  
I stand alone on the word of God,  
The B ... I ... B ... L ... E.



Inspiration



Canonicity



Preservation



Interpretation

**16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

**II Timothy 3:16-17**

**15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;**

**16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**

**II Peter 3:15-16**

**6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.**

**7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

**Psalm 12:6-7**

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a  
workman that needeth not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.**

**II Timothy 2:15**

# ***We Are Bible Christians ... Four Ways!***

***We believe what it claims about its inspiration!***

***We believe 66 books of the KJV by canonicity!***

***We believe word-level truth by preservation.***

***We give the sense by its rules of interpretation.***

**Our confidence in all  
four facts of faith are  
by the power of God!**

**17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**

**18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken,  
So shall thy seed be.**

**Romans 4:17-18**



**19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:**

**20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

**21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

**Romans 4:19-21**

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The Bible Has No Contradictions

# Two-Step Bible Study

Starting with the Large Context

**We first prove what a  
verse cannot mean!**

***Then and only then do  
we try to find its true  
and proper sense.***

**We used this rule of  
Bible study at least  
twice on Sunday.**

**19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

**II Peter 1:19-21**



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**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**II Peter 1:19-21**



**This is our first  
rule of Bible  
study.**

**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**II Peter 1:19-21**

# No Contradictions – II Peter 1:20

- We accept this as the first rule, for God gave it to us.
- Private. Separate, alone, individual, peculiar, special.
- No part of scripture can contradict the whole Bible.
- There are no contradictions. We reconcile all parts.
- Why? Because its 40 writers wrote for One Author!
- We assume at all times that every part fits perfectly.

**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**II Peter 1:19-21**

**God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.**

**Romans 3:4**



# No Contradictions – Romans 3:4

- We start interpretation trusting God's truthfulness.
- Any contradiction is man's ignorance or confusion.
- We accept the premise the Bible is totally perfect.
- Interpretation finds solutions exalting Bible integrity.
- Any contradictions remaining are our fault, not His.
- We reject any thoughts that the text is the problem.

7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

Proverbs 8:7-9

# No Contradictions – Proverbs 8:7-9

- There is nothing untrue, froward, or perverse in it.
- Knowledge and understanding make all plain / right.
- Confusion or problems are always our ignorance.

**34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?**

**35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;**

**John 10:34-35**

# No Contradictions – John 10:34-35

- Jesus said that scripture cannot be broken. Glory!
- Every word may be confidently trusted without error.
- We use this verse to show arguing individual words.
- No matter what we find, we trust it to be fully true.
- Anything that looks like a contradiction is our fault.
- We love false Bibles, since they are so easy to break!

**I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.**

**I John 2:21**

# No Contradictions – I John 2:21

- The trust is just that ... the truth! It cannot have a lie.
- God's word is truth ... and it does not have any lies.
- What appears to be a lie is just that – an apparition.
- It is our job to always reconcile any apparent lies.
- We cannot help the NIV with Goliath or Mark 1:2!

**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**II Peter 1:19-21**



# No Contradictions – II Peter 1:20

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**Why is this our first  
rule of Bible study?**

# Why Is This Our First Rule?

- Because we were told it is by God in II Peter 1:20!
- Each verse must be limited to only possible solutions.
- If we do not start here, then possibilities are infinite.
- The single greatest restraint on heresy is this rule.
- This rule limits possible senses for the other rules.
- With all obvious errors rejected, verses get plainer.

**What can happen if  
we ignore this rule?**

**I am distressed for thee, my brother  
Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto  
me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing  
the love of women.**

**II Samuel 1:26**

**II Samuel 1:26 could  
be used to prove  
David and Jonathan  
were sodomites!**

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:44

**John 8:44 could be  
used to teach Satan  
had sex with Eve for  
British-Israelism!**



Look not thou upon the wine when it is red,  
when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it  
moveth itself aright.

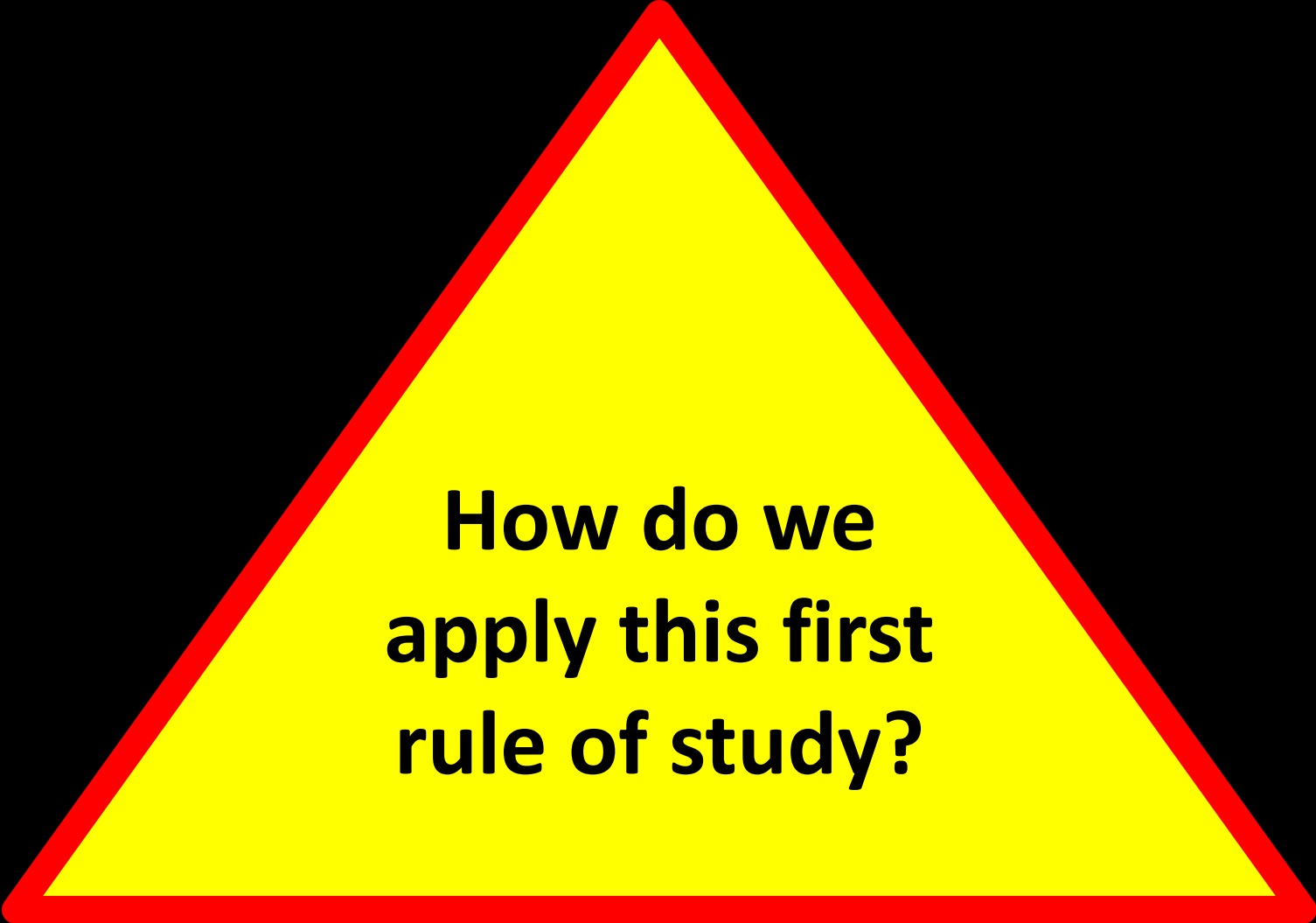
Proverbs 23:31

**Proverbs 23:31 could  
revive a Temperance  
Movement against  
all alcohol!**

**So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

**John 8:7**

**John 8:7 could end all  
judgment, since no  
one is without sin!**




**How do we  
apply this first  
rule of study?**

***All verses for any subject must be reconciled.***

***We do not value some verses over others, like Martin Luther rejecting the book of James.***

***Our two-step method first rules out what a verse cannot mean by the rest of the Bible.***

***Then and only then do we apply the rest of the rules of hermeneutics to find its positive sense.***



**Did you catch  
our two-step  
method?**



***Our two-step method first rules out what a verse cannot mean by the rest of the Bible.***


***Then and only then do we apply the rest of the rules of hermeneutics to find its positive sense.***

***We must always reject the dishonest tendency to choose only scriptures agreeing with us.***

***Arminians do this with John 3:16 and Rev 3:20.***

***This is the road to heresy on any subject.***

***It is the total message of scripture that is truth.***



**Heresies due to  
ignoring this  
rule are Legion.**

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Genesis 17:8

**Genesis 17:8 cannot  
teach God owes  
land to Israel!**

**And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

**Acts 22:16**

**Acts 22:16 cannot  
teach baptismal  
salvation of Saul!**

**And when they saw him, they were amazed:  
and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast  
thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father  
and I have sought thee sorrowing.**

**Luke 2:48**



**Luke 2:48 cannot  
teach Joseph was  
Jesus' father!**

**Else what shall they do which are baptized  
for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why  
are they then baptized for the dead?**

**I Corinthians 15:29**

**1 Corinthians 15:29  
cannot teach baptism  
for dead relatives!**

**Christ is become of no effect unto you,  
whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye  
are fallen from grace.**

**Galatians 5:4**

**Galatians 5:4 cannot  
teach you can lose  
eternal life!**

**But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**

**I John 2:27**

**I John 2:27 cannot  
teach that teachers  
are unnecessary!**

A yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "This rule is ignored and abused even worse." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

**This rule is  
ignored and  
abused even  
worse.**



***Baptismal regenerationists assume the heresy by their private interpretation of Acts 22:16.***


***Then they change filth of the flesh in I Peter 3:21 to dirt of the body to force agreement!***

***Some believe baptismal membership by their private interpretation of Acts 2:41.***

***Then they force the poor Ethiopian eunuch into the Jerusalem Church he knows nothing of!***

***Those obsessed with God's love for all men do so by their private interpretation of John 3:16.***

***Then they force Romans 9:13 to mean that God just loved Esau a little less than Jacob!***



**Do you see  
how neglecting  
this rule leads  
to heresy?**

***They find a sound bite in the Bible and put a meaning on it against the rest of the Bible.***

***Then they read every verse on that subject in the “light” of their one corrupted verse!***




**We do the very  
opposite of  
them!**

***We study all Bible verses for any subject and  
limit every Bible verse to that overall doctrine!***

# Are there Difficulties with this Rule?

- We study the whole Bible for right presuppositions!
- All verses on a given topic must be honestly studied.
- God inspired sufficient obstacles to save from heresy.
- After all, He put this rule first. He will bless its use.
- God's providence will provide an Elihu or Philip.
- Consider how God saved us from foot washing.



A yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "We have only learned what a verse cannot mean!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

**We have only  
learned what a  
verse cannot  
mean!**

# Only what a Verse Cannot Mean?

- That is true! You grasp the purpose of the first rule!
- But it limits study to just a few possible solutions.
- With possibilities limited, the other rules work well.
- Do not forget this first rule of interpreting verses.
- We find the context and doctrine of the whole Bible.
- Then and only then do we move to the small context.

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**John 8:7**

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**This cannot  
mean sin in  
general or  
sexual sins!**

A yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "Or no man should judge in any of the five spheres!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

**Or no man  
should judge  
in any of the  
five spheres!**

**For lots more on the  
first rule of Bible  
study, go here:**

**<http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/scripture/knowning-the-scriptures.php>**



## ***We Are Bible Christians ... Four Ways!***

***We believe what it claims about its inspiration!***

***We believe 66 books of the KJV by canonicity!***

***We believe word-level truth by preservation.***

***We give the sense by its rules of interpretation.***

Inspiration



Canonicity



Preservation



Interpretation

# For Further Study

Knowing Scripture ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/scripture/knowning-the-scriptures.php>.

Slaves to Context ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/slaves-to-context.pdf>.

Hermeneutics (#1 Slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/hermeneutics-lesson-one.pdf>.

Hermeneutics (#2 Slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/hermeneutics-lesson-two.pdf>.

Hebrews 4:12 (word of God) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/questions/word-of-god.php>.

One Shall Be Taken ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/prophecy/one-shall-be-taken.php>.

Genitive Case Phrases ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/genitive-case.pdf>.

Every Word of God ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/one-word-arguments-titus.pdf>.

Salvation Problem Texts ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/salvation-problem-texts/sermon.php>.

Grammar of Regeneration ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/grammar-of-regeneration.pdf>.

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)