

Two-Step Bible Study

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The Second Rule of Hermeneutics

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Moving to the Small Context



**What was the
first rule?**

There are no contradictions in the Bible.

All verses are reconciled to fit the whole.

There can be no private interpretations.

The whole Bible teaches one body of truth.

We first get rid of what it does not mean.

We are slaves to context.

We must serve this master.

“I beat my wife last night.”



**I love being a slave to
context, and I need
you to also love it!**



A text used out of context is a pretext!

**A text ...
used out of context
... is a pretext.**

A Text out of Context Is a Pretext!

- **TEXT** ... is a word, clause, verse, paragraph to study!
- **CONTEXT** ... is information around it showing intent.
- **OUT OF CONTEXT** uses words against author's intent.
- **PRETEXT** is a false impression designed to hide truth.
- We find the context and doctrine of the whole Bible.
- Then and only then do we move to the small context.

A text used out of context is a pretext!

We are slaves to context.

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“I beat my wife last night.”

A Text out of Context Is a Pretext!

- So we make the small context our second rule!
- All writings of all kinds require context for meaning.
- Words are worthless without context ... *spelling bee*.
- You do not like your words being used out of context.
- A verse outside its intent is a lie even from the Bible!
- The wrong verse for a true point is a step to heresy.



**What is
context?**

Context is surrounding information that tells us what an author means by individual words, sentences, or paragraphs within a passage.

Without grasping the author's viewpoint and intent, we will face words and phraseology that we will confuse or corrupt.

Every word in the Bible is part of a verse.

Every verse is part of a paragraph.

Every paragraph is part of a chapter.

Every chapter is part of a book.

Every book is part of a testament.

Each testament is part of the whole Bible.

**Which of the
previous sentences
was Rule #1?**

We cannot and must not isolate single words and sentences.

Their setting determines their meaning – not the words that make them up!

Your own words have been used out of context.

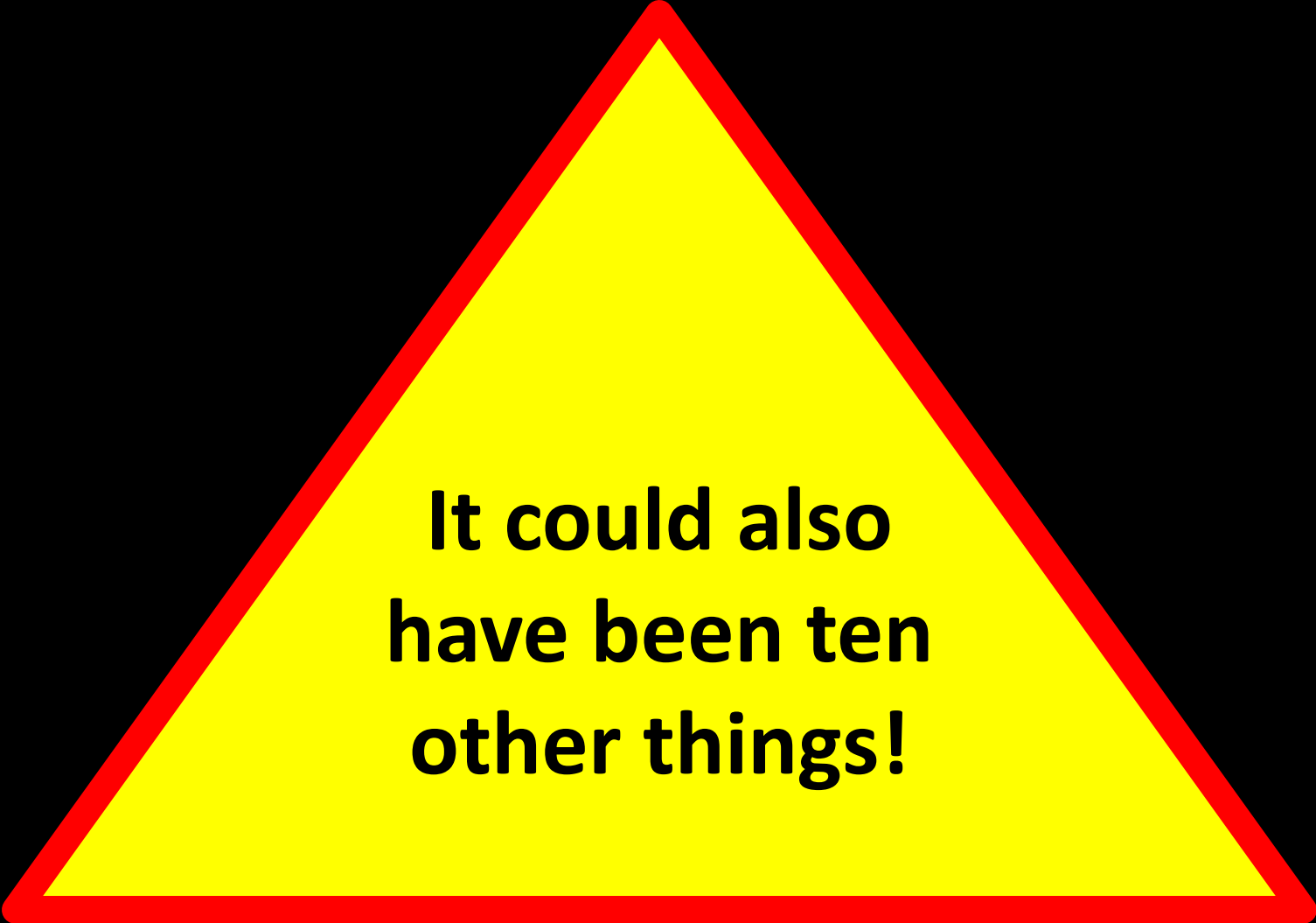
A single word, sentence, or document was singled out and given a meaning that did not agree with all the words, expressions, tones, circumstances, audience, acts, or facts surrounding it!

You were offended! So is the Lord when we do it to Him by misusing His words in the Bible!

Isolating individual words or verses is like giving an impression of a Rembrandt from looking at one square inch of it or Handel's MESSIAH by listening to a few bars of it.

If you hear me say, “I beat my wife last night,” please inquire further than the word “beat” and this one sentence to find out what I actually did to her!

We don't play monopoly, so it was HIIT, baby!



**It could also
have been ten
other things!**

It is a shame and sin that much preaching today uses words and verses as mantras, mottos, or sound bites without regard to their context!

The Bible Says:

Judas: “went and hanged himself” (Matt 27:5).


Jesus: “Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37).

Jesus: “That thou doest, do quickly” (Jn 13:27).

***Should we do it right now
or later tonight?***

How Do I Remember Context?

- **WHO?** ... can solve heresies like Daniel 3:25.
- **WHOM?** ... can help Lev 10:9; Mark 16:15; Jas 5:20.
- **WHAT?** ... can help Luke 16:1-8; Daniel; Revelation.
- **WHY?** ... can help Mal 2:16; Matt 7:1; Luke 10:29-37.
- **WHEN?** ... for Mat 23:1-3; Act 2:40; 15:20; Rev 17:18.
- **WHERE?** ... for Acts 15:1-2; Hebrews; I Peter 5:13.



**Heresies due to
ignoring small
context are
Legion.**

**The word of God in
Hebrews 4:12 must be
Jesus by the content
and next 2 verses!**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 4:13-14

**Shaking in Hag 2:6-7 is
now long past by the
temple in context!**

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:6-7

8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:8-9

**“But I say unto you,”
in Matthew 5 is not
against the law but
against the scribes!**

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:22

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

Matthew 5:21

**Falling from grace in
Galatians 5:4 is only
from the knowledge
of grace in context!**

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

Galatians 5:4

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

Galatians 5:4

**The temples of God in
I Cor 3:16 and 6:19
are different – church
and physical body!**

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I Corinthians 6:18-20


14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

I Corinthians 3:14-17

A yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "Greater glory is found by the small context." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and vertically.

**Greater glory is
found by the
small context.**

**Words “more sure”
take on greater value
when compared to
God’s voice!**

II Peter 1:16-21

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:


II Peter 1:19

**Charity is greater
when seen as more
excellent than being
an apostle.**

(I Cor 12:28-31)

**Paul used “therefore”
and “Amen” to create
useful divisions and
focused emphasis.**

(Romans 12:1-2; Eph 4:1)



**Pronouns and
antecedents
are related by
small context.**

**Thou through thy commandments hast
made me wiser than mine enemies: for they
are ever with me.**

Psalm 119:98

**35 And did eat up all the herbs in their land,
and devoured the fruit of their ground.**

**36 He smote also all the firstborn in their
land, the chief of all their strength.**

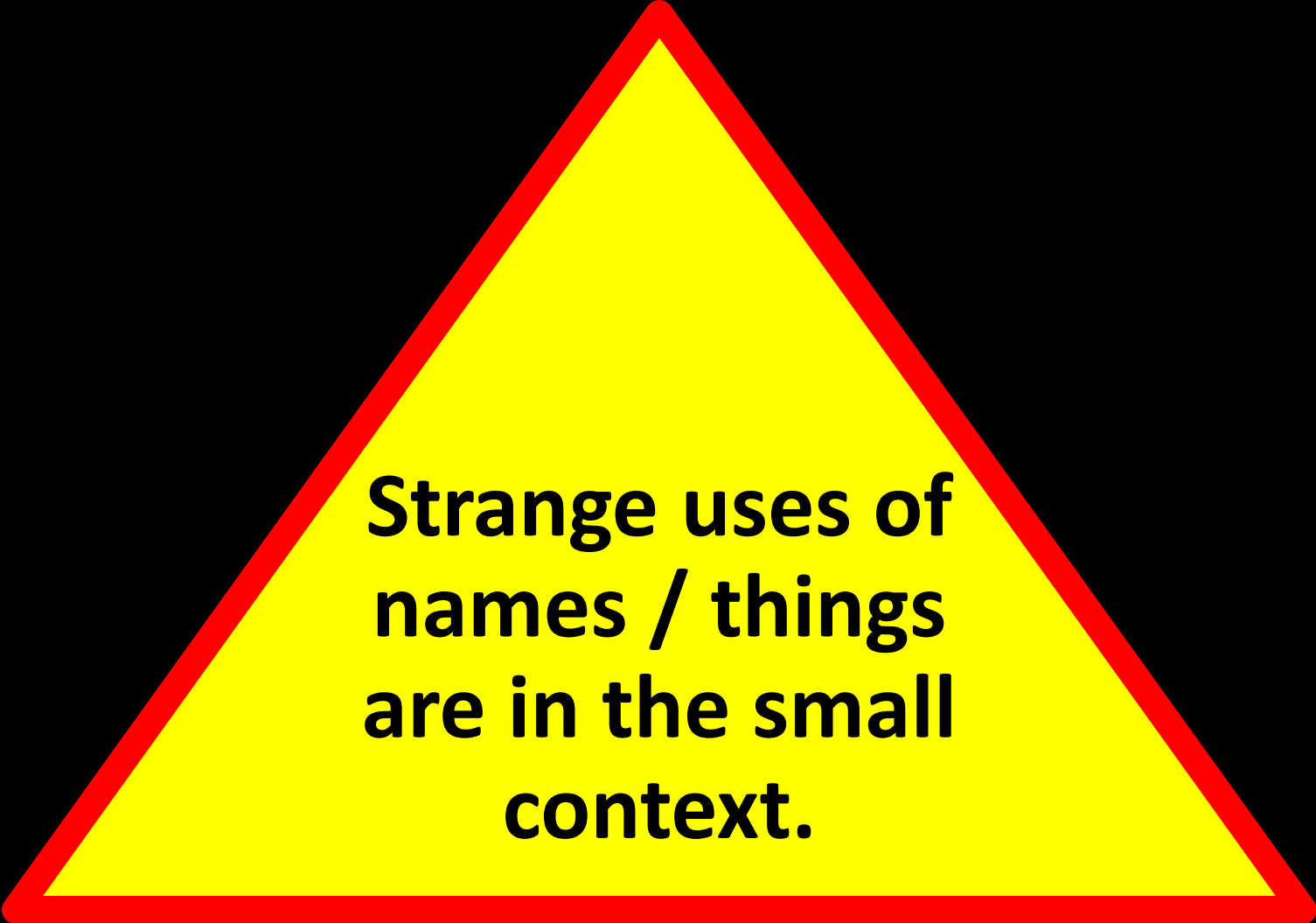
**37 He brought them forth also with silver
and gold: and there was not one feeble
person among their tribes.**

Psalm 105:35-37

85 The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

86 All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

Psalm 119:85-86

A yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "Strange uses of names / things are in the small context." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and vertically.

**Strange uses of
names / things
are in the small
context.**

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

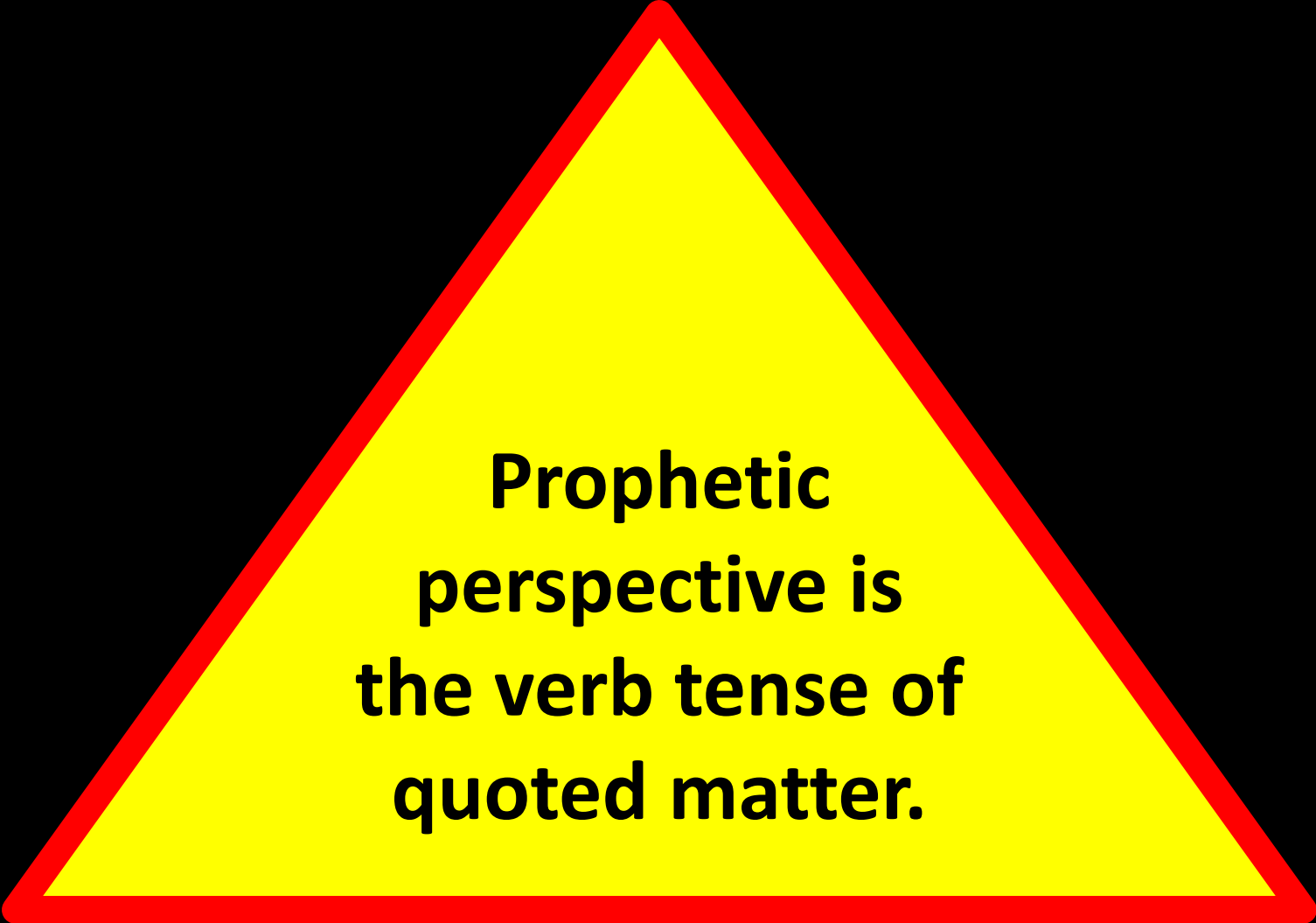
Hebrews 4:8

**This is the generation of them that seek him,
that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.**

Psalm 24:6

**Afterward shall the children of Israel return,
and seek the LORD their God, and David
their king; and shall fear the LORD and his
goodness in the latter days.**

Hosea 3:5

A yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "Prophetic perspective is the verb tense of quoted matter." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

**Prophetic
perspective is
the verb tense of
quoted matter.**

And it shall come to pass in the last days,
saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon
all flesh: and your sons and your daughters
shall prophesy, and your young men shall
see visions, and your old men shall dream
dreams:

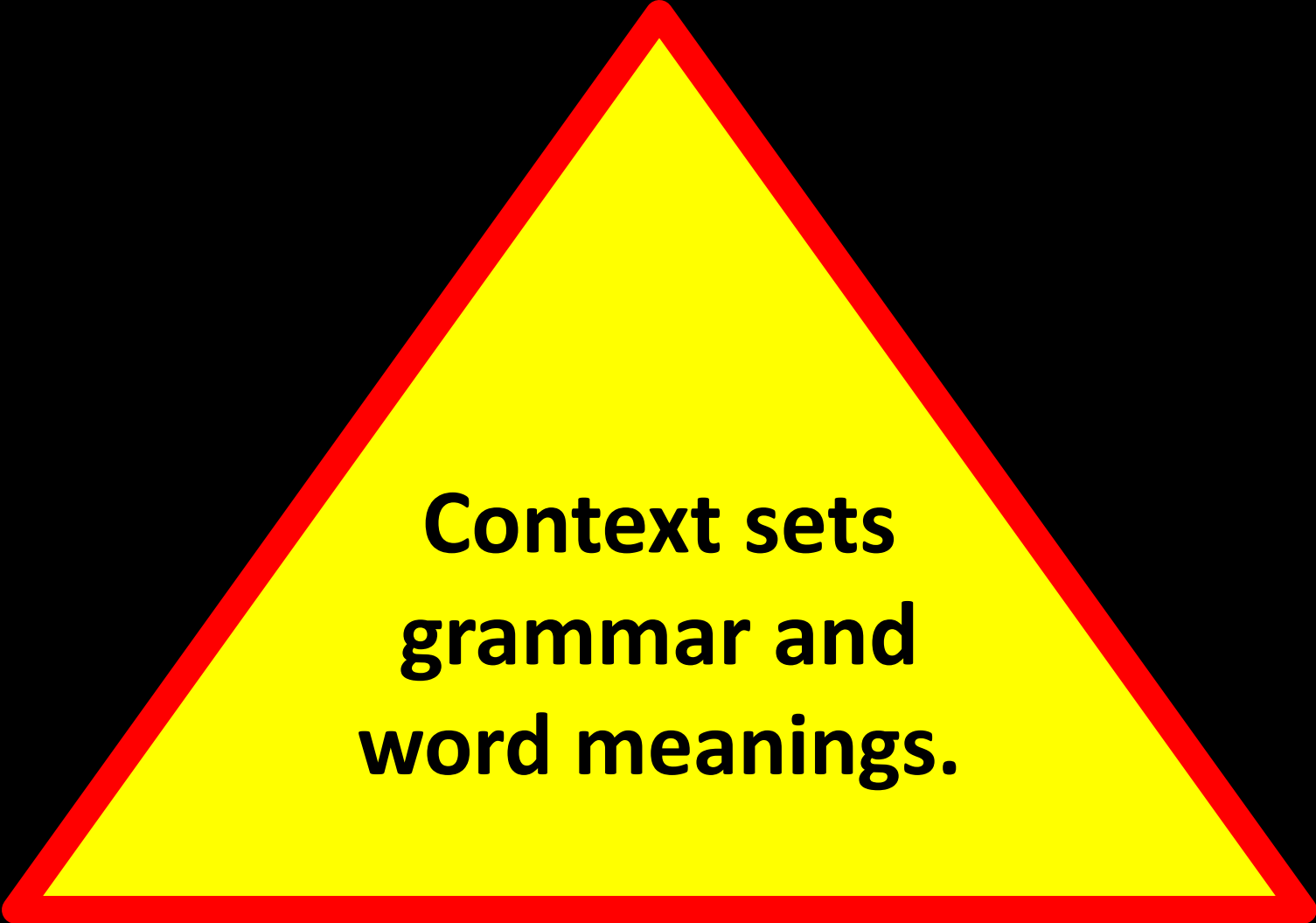
Acts 2:17

After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

Acts 15:16

**Whose voice then shook the earth: but now
he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I
shake not the earth only, but also heaven.**

Hebrews 12:26




**Context sets
grammar and
word meanings.**

**But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe
mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and
pass over judgment and the love of God:
these ought ye to have done, and not to
leave the other undone.**

Luke 11:42

**Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing,
and obtaineth favour of the LORD.**

Proverbs 18:22

A large yellow equilateral triangle with a thick red border is centered on a black background. Inside the triangle, the text "The sense of scripture needs the small context." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

**The sense of
scripture needs
the small
context.**

Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 23:18

17 There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

18 Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 23:17-18

**I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then
should I think upon a maid?**

Job 31:1

9 If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door;

10 Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.

11 For this is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.

Job 31:9-11

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

**Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
praise him with stringed instruments and
organs.**

Psalm 150:4

9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isaiah 13:9-10

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

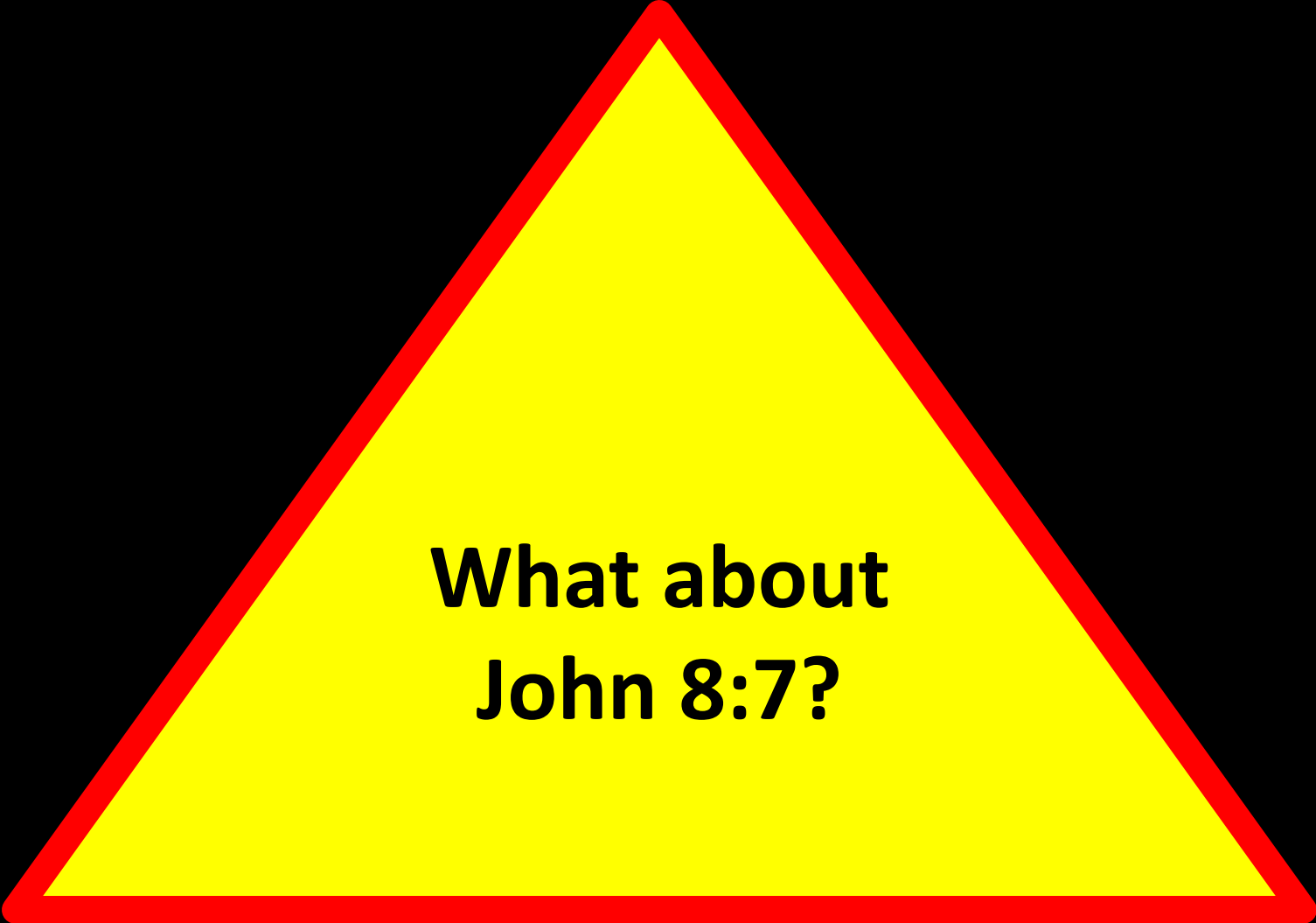
Matthew 24:13

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:9

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

**[http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/slaves-
to-context.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/slaves-to-context.pdf)**



**What about
John 8:7?**

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

**It cannot mean what
most everyone says it
means by the large
context of Rule #1.**

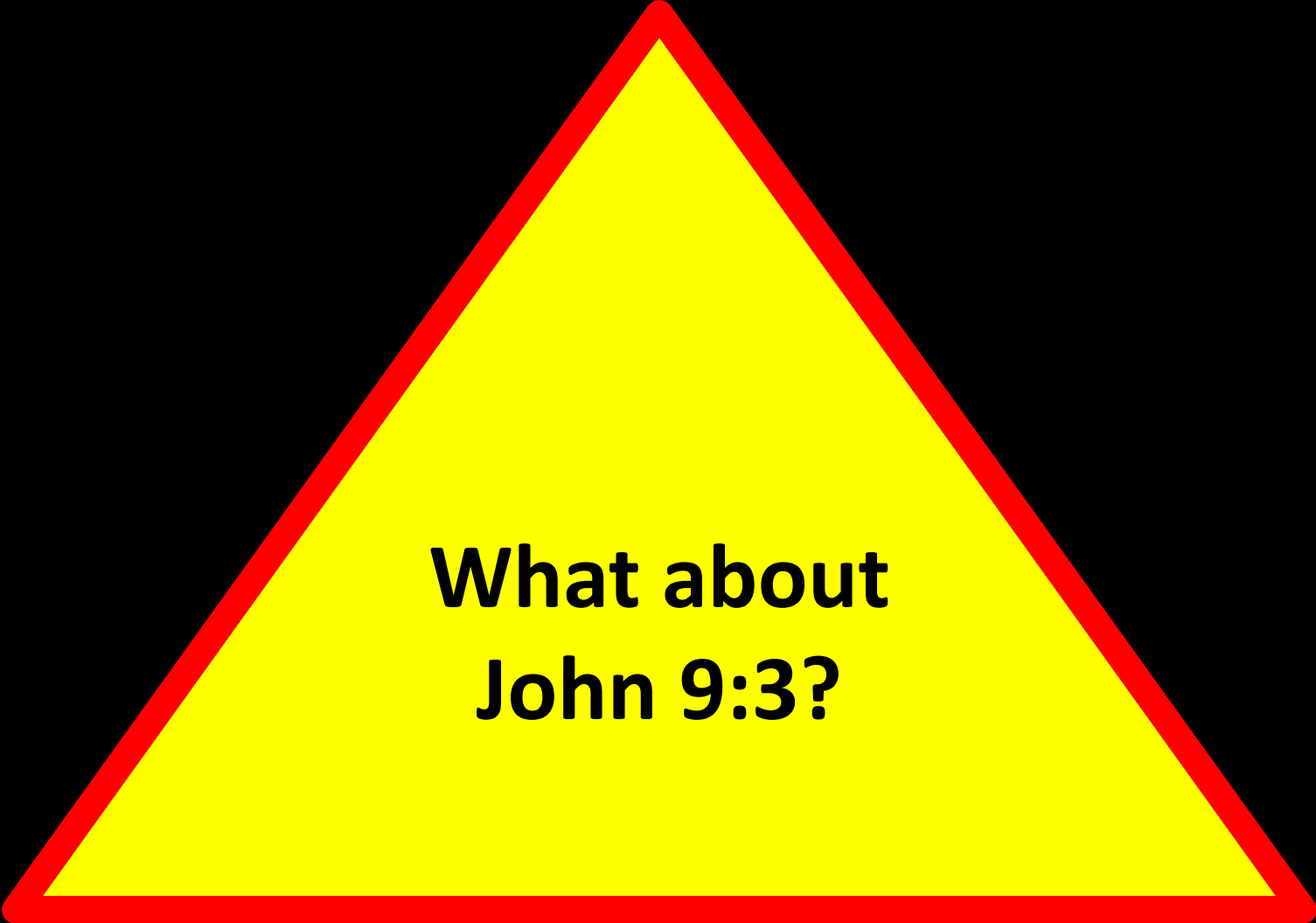
**It means without sin
against due process
for capital punishment
by *who, whom, when,*
and *why* of the small
context of Rule #2.**

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

John 8:7

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

John 8:7



**What about
John 9:3?**

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

John 9:3


**It cannot mean what
it sounds like it means
by the large context
of Rule #1.**

**It means the man
born blind was not
born that way due
to his sins or his
parents' sins.**


2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

John 9:2-3



**We first get rid
of what a verse
does not mean.**



**We then find
what it does
mean by rules
like context.**

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.

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>.

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