



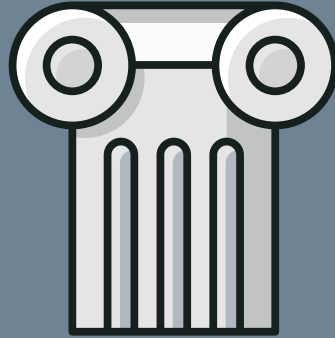
DISCIPLESHIP MASTERCLASS

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

Pastor Josh Mayo

April 2023

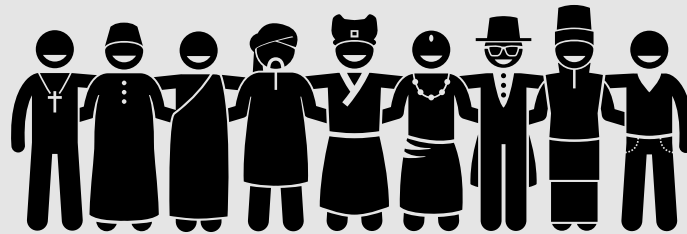
3. Historical Context



The Bible contains history and frames its literature around various historical periods.

Highlight any details connected to the historical context with your **blue highlighter**: names, people groups, or empires, and chronological markers.

4. Cultural context



Cultural Context pertains to things like (but not limited to):

- Marriage
- Birth and child-rearing
- Inheritance practices
- Death and burial
- Tribal and family structure

Cultural Context pertains to things like (but not limited to):

- Economic life
- Village life
- Shepherding and farming
- Laws, justice, and judgment
- Weapons and warfare

5. Spiritual context



Spiritual Context relates to:

- Anything religious
- Religious Practices - sacrifices...
- Places of worship—temples, synagogues, altars, and shrines
- Observances—dietary, sacrifices, circumcision, and holidays
- Beliefs

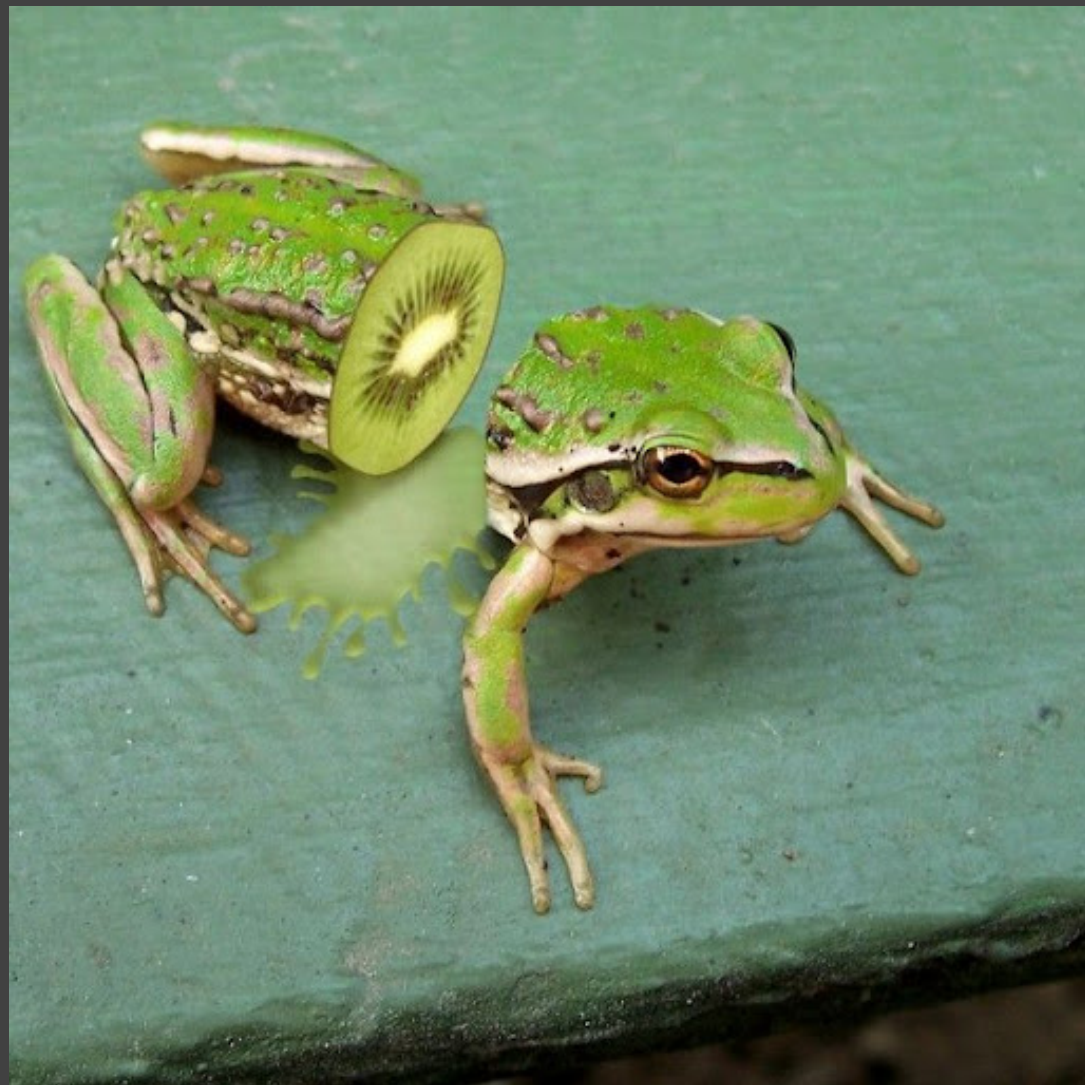


Luke 3:1-3

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of **Judea**, Herod tetrarch of **Galilee**, his brother Philip tetrarch of **Iturea and Trachonitis**, and Lysanias tetrarch of **Abilene**—

2 During the **high-priesthood** of Annas and Caiaphas, the **word of God** came to John son of Zechariah in the **wilderness**.

3 He went **into all the country around Jordan**, preaching a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**.



If you get too lost in dissection of the text, you can lose the life in the text.

The goal of reading scripture is to discover God, not dissect God.

1 Samuel 17:1-7

1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah.

2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.

3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.

5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels ;

6 On his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

Johann Albrecht Bengel, who lived in the 18th century, “Apply yourself totally to the text; apply the text totally to yourself.”

“You are not required to finish the work,
but you are not at liberty to desist from
it”—Rabbi Tarfon

ANY QUESTIONS?



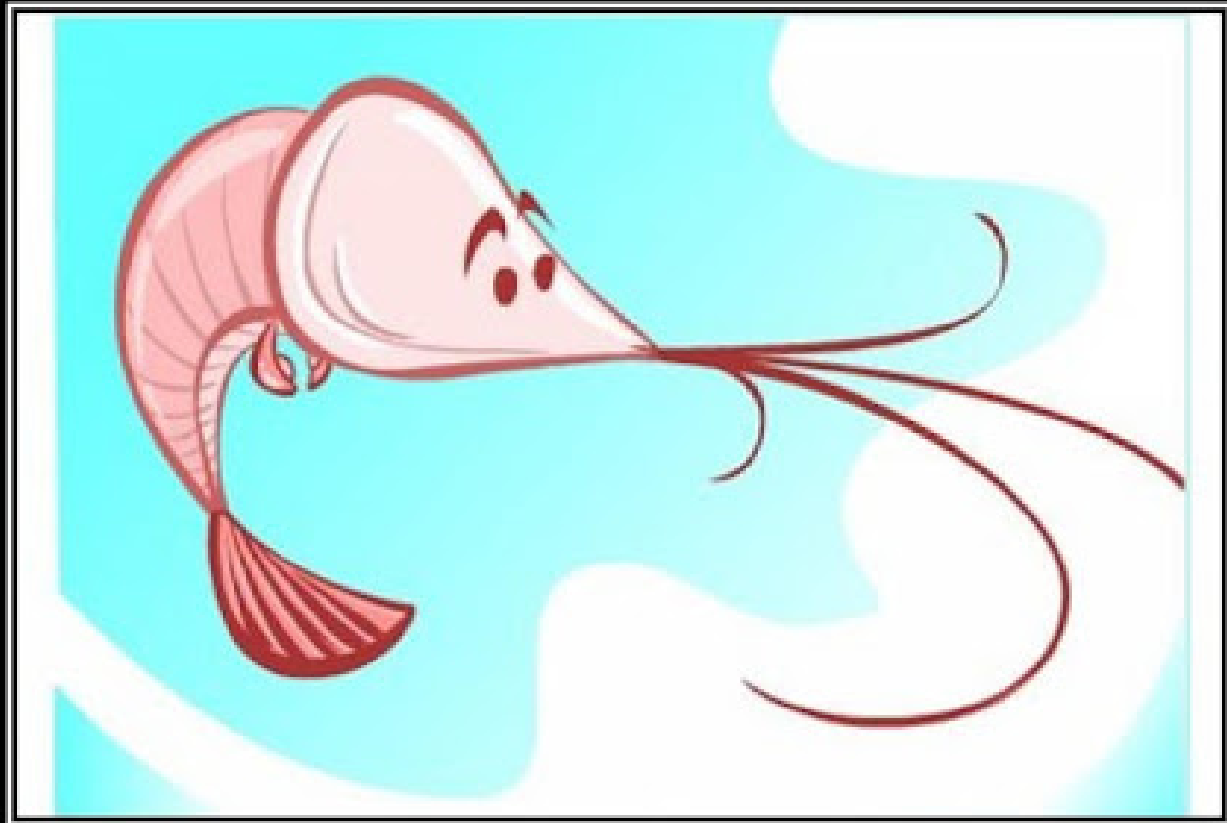


DISCIPLESHIP MASTERCLASS

STRANGE THINGS



STRANGER
THINGS



GOD HATES SHRIMP

Lev. 11:9-12, Deu. 14:9-10

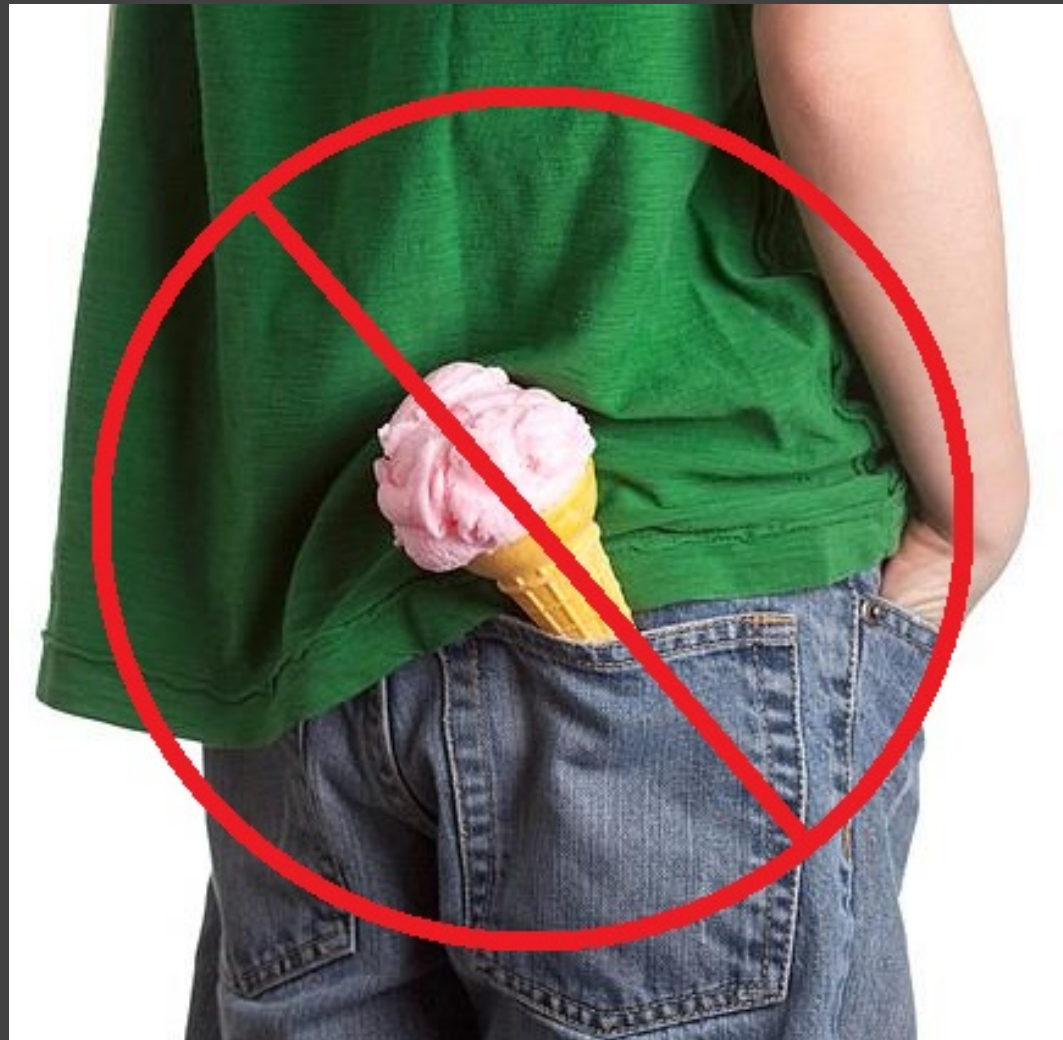
- Eating shrimp or lobster (Leviticus 11:10).
- Eating pork (Leviticus 11:7).
- Blending two types of fabric, such as a polyester blend (Leviticus 19:19).
- Getting a tattoo (Leviticus 19:28).
- Not getting rounded haircuts (Leviticus 19:27).



Exodus 21:7 says,
“If a man sells his
daughter as a
servant, she is not
to go free as male
servants do.”

Exodus 21:20–21, which says, “Anyone who beats their male or female slave with a rod must be punished if the slave dies as a direct result, but they are not to be punished if the slave recovers after a day or two, since the slave is their property.”





God wanted His people to be holy, distinct from the people groups who lived around them. The word “holy” means set apart, separated, and kept away from the evil and false worship of the neighboring nations. God was concerned that they would be too easily influenced by the surrounding people groups and turn away from him to worship and follow other gods (which, sadly, they did at times despite God’s warnings).

However, all these laws that God gave the Israelites were not intended to simply establish an ideal social system. It was God speaking into their ancient world and instructing them with codes of wisdom for them to know what living in the presence of God is like. So he used many things familiar to them in the ancient world which are unfamiliar to us today.

- “Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices.”* Exodus 23:24a
- “Do not let them live in your land or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.” Exodus 23:33

- “Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.”
Exodus 34:15-16

Deuteronomy 22:9–11:

"Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled. Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together. Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together."

There is a strong likelihood that the prohibitions against mixing different kinds of seeds, animals, and materials together were designed to discourage and prevent the Israelites from imitating the fertility cult practices of the Canaanites.

God talked about clothing because He wanted His people and His priests to have a distinct look about them. They were holy, and set apart in worship, farming, and in clothing practice.

Leviticus 11:9-11

**COULD HAVE BANNED
SLAVERY OR SHELLFISH**



SHELLFISH. HE CHOSE SHELLFISH

Most scholars agree that God gave the dietary laws to reinforce the same concept we discussed before—keeping the people distinct and separate from the other people groups. One of the most practical ways to make this distinction is by making their diet—the food they could and could not eat—distinct.

A very odd verse in Exodus 23:19, repeated in Deuteronomy 14:21, says, “Do not cook a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

What looks bizarre to us, when we study deeper, we understand, would make common sense to an ancient Israelite.

Leviticus 11:7-8

Do you see a pattern of God wanting to set apart his children from the rest of the world? Do you see how His ways made them holy instead of following foreign cultural practices?

The truth is that Christians today can enjoy shrimp all they want. They can wear all types of mixed fabrics. They can play football. Why? Because those Bible verses were written to a specific people group, in a specific place, for a specific time period, and for a specific purpose. When you study the entire Bible (rather than picking and choosing individual verses out of context), you see that many of these verses don't apply to followers of Jesus today.



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(Leviticus 19:28). The full Bible verse reads, “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves.

God was keeping his people from participating in the religious practices of the neighboring Canaanites. They would slash their bodies and mark them with branding or ink for ritualistic purposes related to the worship of their gods. Tattooing and the marking of the body was a rite for honoring their gods and the dead. God was prohibiting worship practices related to false deities.

Crazy-
sounding
Bible verses
all have
backstories.

Why don't these specific verses apply to Christians today? Aren't the Christians just picking and choosing what they want to follow?

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

We are now in a “post-Jesus” time period in the storyline, and the way God relates to people “pre-Jesus” is different from the way God relates to us “post-Jesus.” This, in part, is why understanding the total story of scripture is critical. It all points to Jesus.

Galatians 3:23–24

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:21

To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

Matthew 22:35-40

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

There are some things God established in the Old Testament that continue with Jesus in the New Testament, and there are some things that came to an end.

In short, the coming of Christ changed how we worship, but not how we live. The moral law outlines God's own character—his integrity, love, and faithfulness. And so everything the Old Testament says about loving our neighbor, caring for the poor, generosity with our possessions, social relationships, and commitment to our family is still in force.

The New Testament continues to forbid killing or committing adultery, and all the sex ethic of the Old Testament is re-stated throughout the New Testament (Matt. 5:27–30; 1 Cor. 6:9–20; 1 Tim. 1:8–11). If the New Testament has reaffirmed a commandment, then it is still in force for us today.

Matthew 19: 3-6

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason? "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' ? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Romans 13:8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." a Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

What about slavery?

In the Old Testament:

- “When you buy a Hebrew servant [slave] . . .” (Exodus 21:2).
- “If a man sells his daughter as a servant [slave] . . .” (Exodus 21:7).

In the New Testament:

- “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear” (Ephesians 6:5).
- “Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them” (Titus 2:9).

“Anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper’s possession.” And in the New Testament, in 1 Timothy 1:9–10, it says, “The law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers . . . for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.”

1. Slaves Who Lived at the Time of Moses
Were More like Servants or
Bondservants.

2. In Ancient Israel, It Was Common to Sell Yourself to Pay a Debt or Escape Poverty.

Exodus 21:7, "If a man sells his daughter as a servant [slave],"

And when we do find slavery being addressed in the Bible, it is generally speaking about the type of slavery that existed to help the poor survive in the ancient world, forms of slavery that were established for people to work off debt (Leviticus 25:39),

New Testament Slavery Was Common:
Even 30 Percent of the Population Were
Slaves.

Again, slavery
was not race-
based the way
we think of it
today.

It's clear that humans established slavery, not God. He was not establishing slavery or endorsing it. He was giving regulations to limit the evil that would spread from what humans had done. God was seeking better treatment for slaves in Israel than they would have received in the surrounding cultures outside of Israel. Leviticus 25:43 says, "Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God."

3. In the New Testament, we see God moving the people away from slavery.

Philemon 1:16

“no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.”

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

John 8:31-36

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?' Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'"

ANY QUESTIONS?

