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W | VINEYARD
Equip

**Understanding
The Word**



**How to read the bible to understand
the context of specific texts in the
broader biblical themes.**

Why

Colossians 3:16

‘Let the word of the Lord (Christ) dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...’ NIV

2 Timothy 2:15

‘Study to shew thy self approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth...’ KJV

2 Timothy 3:16 (read from 14 to 17)

..All Scripture is God breathed [*given by divine inspiration*], and profitable for instruction, for conviction [*of sin*], for correction [*of error and restoration to obedience*] for training in righteousness [*learning to live in conformity to Gods will, both publicly and privately - behaving honourably with personal integrity and moral courage*]; ... AMP

An open book with a bunch of purple grapes on a vine in the background. The book is open, showing text on both pages. The grapes are dark purple and clustered together. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a vineyard setting. The overall image has a slightly dim, artistic feel.

Romans 10:17

‘So faith comes from hearing , and hearing through the word of Christ...’ ESV

Acts 17:10-11

‘The Jews [in Berea] received Paul’s message with enthusiasm and met with him daily, examining the Scriptures to see if they supported what he said. A lot of them became believers...’ MSG

Not Alone

We stand on the shoulders of countless men of God who have done hard graft in the Word to give us great Resources

Some Resources

- Online Tools - <https://www.biblegateway.com> & <https://www.biblestudytools.com>
- 21 strategies to study & understand the Bible - <https://theblazingcenter.com/how-to-study-the-bible>
- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth - *Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart (275-pages)*
- Systematic Theology - *Wayne Grudem (1,586 pages)*
- Bible Doctrine - *Wayne Grudem (672 pages)*
- Christian Beliefs - *Wayne Grudem (180 pages)*

- **Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes - *Kenneth E. Bailly* (425 pages)**
- **Use a Study Bible**
- **Listen to Sermons & Studies (John Piper / Roger Price)**
- **Commentaries - *on books and topics***
- **Concordance - *Young's / Strong's***
- **Bible Dictionary / Encyclopaedia - *Vines***
- **Olive Tree Bible App**
- **Logos Bible App**
- **and more**

(Don't Believe Anyone - Be a Berean)

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of an open book and a bunch of dark grapes hanging from a vine. The book is open, showing two pages with text, and is positioned in the lower half of the frame. The grapes are clustered together and are in the upper right portion of the frame. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark filter. The text 'We have the Holy Spirit' is written in a large, bold, orange font across the center of the image.

**We have the
Holy Spirit**

The Written Word:

- 66 Books - 35+ Authors - 2000 years
- Canon - Rule - straight edge - plumb line
- 39 OT & 27 NT Books all are necessary
- God's untainted impartation, via people
- Either all truth or not reliable at all
- Conveys Infinite Reality to Finite Minds
- One missive from Genesis to Revelation
- It's for Everyone, Everywhere, Everywhen
- It's All About Jesus

IT's All Greek to Me

- The Inerrancy of the Scriptures In the Original Languages - Greek & Hebrew
https://www.etsjets.org/files/documents/Chicago_Statement.pdf
- The Septuagint (LXX) - Greek OT
- Koine Greek - Very Accurate Language
- Love - Greek 4 separate words (**Synonyms?**)
- The 4 I's in Greek - determined by the grammar of the words.

The 4 Ifs in Greek

1. If - and it is - **If your their father...**
2. If - and it is not - **If I were you...**
3. If - and it might be (perhaps is / is not)
- **If you don't behave, there's no TV tonight...**
4. If - only it were, but its not - (sarcasm)
- **If you kept your room tidy...**

Colossians 1:23

Key Principles

- Choose a Translation - most Accurate/Readable
- Read across other Translations - note differences
- Pray about reading - personal revelation not facts
- Approach Humbly, in Submission - be Biddable
- Context, Context, Context!
- Ask the what, when, where, whom, why questions
- Note Literary mechanisms Genre, Hyperbole, etc
- Investigate Seeming Contradictions
- Keep Reading - forward, backwards & sideways
- Always bring it back to Jesus

Context is Everything

- Where a verse falls within a chapter.
- Where a chapter falls within a book.
- Where a book falls within a chronology.
- Where a chronology falls within the story of the entire Bible.
- Where a section falls within a logical argument.
- Where one word falls in relation to other words.
- What, When, Where, Whom, Why being said.
- Etc, etc, etc.

The Word is Rich with Genre

- Prose / Narratives - Historical Accounts
- Poetry / Songs
- Wisdom / Sayings / Proverbs / Laments
- Prophetic [Short (now), Medium / Long (future)]
- Laws / Instruction
- Gospels [3No Synoptic (Matt, Mark, Luke) & John]
- Parables - Analogy
- Epistles / Letters - NT / OT
- Apocalyptic - Symbols & Imagery (hide meaning)
(Metaphor, Simile, Figure of Speech, Hyperbole)

Poetry & Song

Specific Books - Psalms & Song of Songs; In much of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah & Lamentations; also throughout the whole Word

- Has meaning and sense - not like 'Two Dead Boys'
- Not a cart blanch to mean anything we want
- Expresses what the writer wants to express
- The metre etc. is there (in the original) to aid understanding and learning.
- Truth is always being revealed not hidden.

Psalm 32 - Song of Songs 4-7

Laws / Instruction

for Good Living

Specific Books - Leviticus & Deuteronomy; In much of Exodus & Numbers; Also throughout the whole Word.

- **Applicable to specific Times, Places, Cultures**
- **Application to All Times, Places, Cultures**
- **May change / evolve through History**

Gen 1:29-30, 9:3-6; Deut 14

Apocalyptic

Symbols & Imagery

**Specific Books - Revelation; In much of Daniel & Isaiah
Ezekiel; also throughout the whole Word.**

- **Not done to Hide Meaning but to reveal it**
- **Trying to communicate the infinite to the finite**
- **If explanation not right there, it will be elsewhere**

Rev 4:2-11 v Eze 1; Rev 12:1-2 v Gen 37:9

Epistles / Letters

Letters in both NT (Epistles) and OT

- Ask - Who from, Who to, Why written
- Often Answering Questions
- Making Statements and Using argument
- Giving Instruction
- Gospel Track

Romans; Dan 4

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is all over the place

- Its very much of the Culture of the times
- If it seems an exaggeration it probably is
- But it's there to to make a point

Mark 6:22-23; Matt 18v23-25

Seeming Contradictions

- Embrace them they actually provide greater insight
- The nature of the Truth in Word is that it is often revealed within Tensions that exist between Opposite Statements.
- The Now and the Not yet of the Kingdom.

Prov 26:4 v 26:5;

Dan 1:1 v Jer 25:1

Matt 1 v Luke 3:23-37 (Jere 22:30)

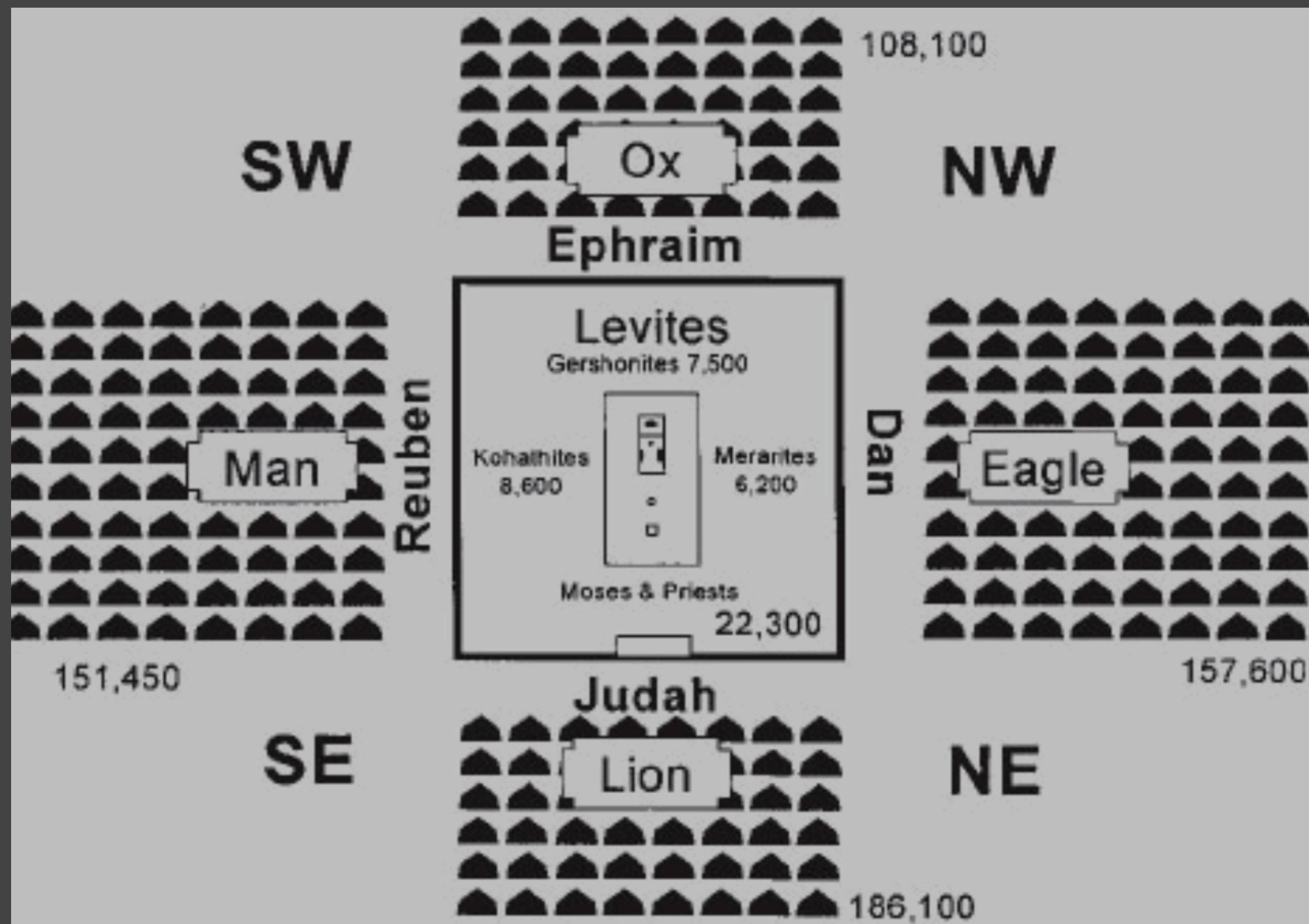
Keep Reading

- Read what's in front and behind a text, but also where similar text appears elsewhere.
- Read the whole Bible Sequentially - get a feel for the overall arc of the Scriptures
- Try to Structure your knowledge, see the flow
- Follow a train of thought or topic through Scripture.
- Read other good books about the Word - but be aware of peoples prejudices.
- Compare and Contrast different trains of thought in the Word and on other writings.

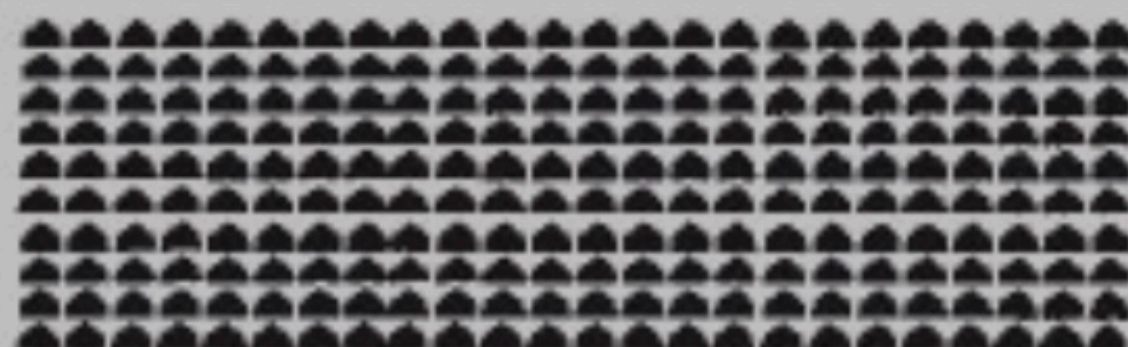
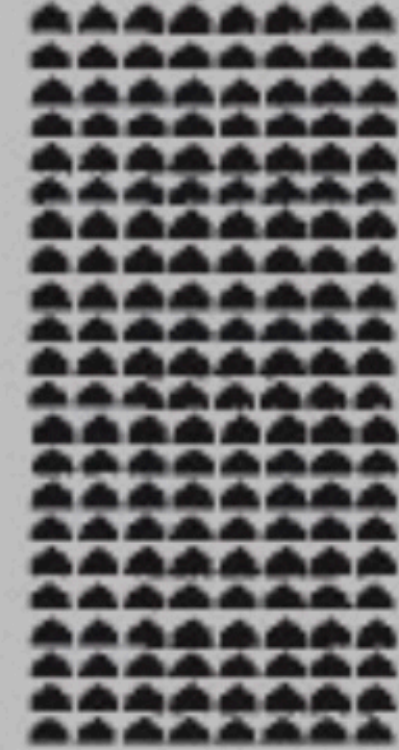
It's all about Jesus

- From Genesis to Revelations it's all about Jesus and the redemption of His creation, wrought by Him in unison with the Father and the Holy Spirit .
- Look for signs of Jesus in the most unlikely places
- But don't force into being what isn't really there.

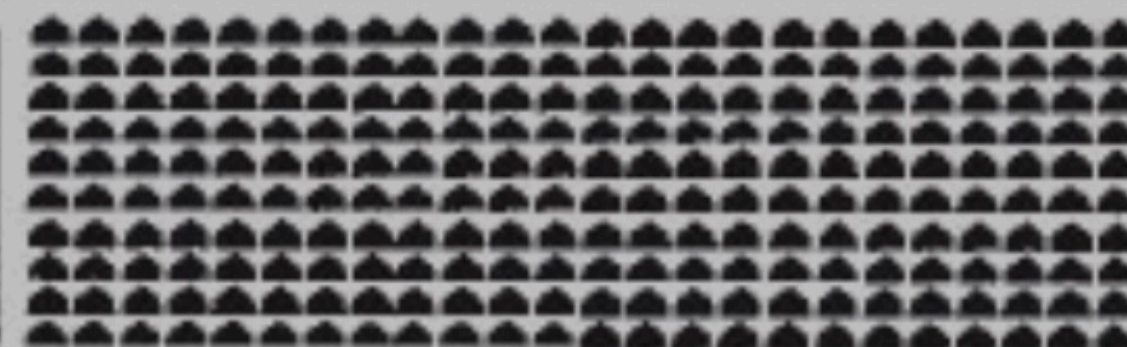
**Luke 24:25-27 ;
Num 2**



108,100



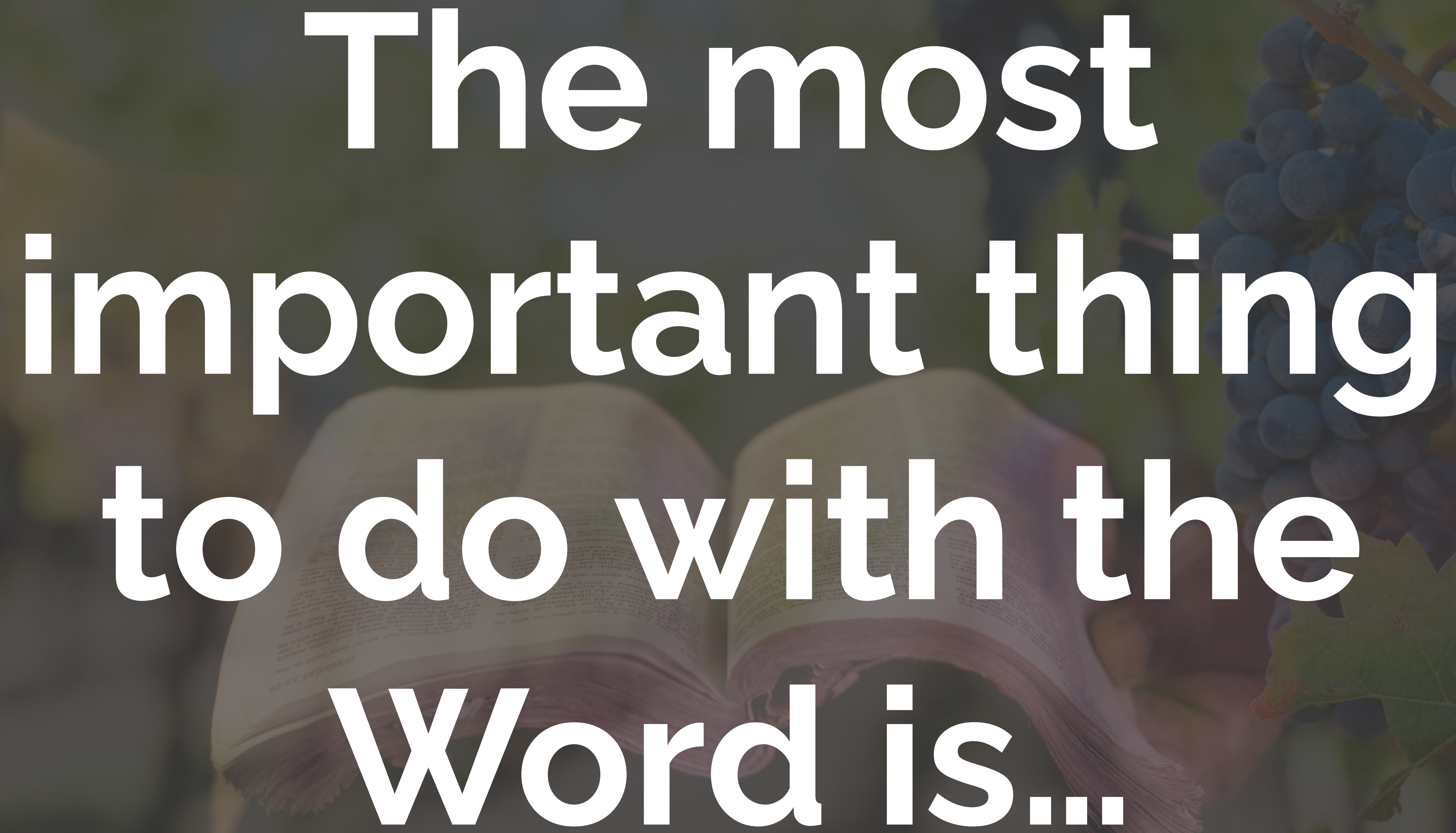
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157,600



186,400



**The most
important thing
to do with the
Word is...**

READ IT

