

# Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

## #4 - Context is king.

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- Maybe the most frequent mishap in hermeneutics
- Context: everything preceding and following a passage

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- What are we looking for?
  1. literary context
  2. geographical context
  3. historical context
  4. cultural context

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- Questions to Ask?
  1. How does the passage relate to surrounding passages?
  2. How does the passage relate to the rest of the book?
  3. How does the passage relate to the rest of the Bible?
  4. To the culture and background in which it was written?

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
Jesus is the King of the Jews.	Jesus is the Servant of the Lord.	Jesus is the Son of Man.	Jesus is the Son of God.
Audience: Jews	Audience: Romans	Audience: Greeks	Audience: World
1 <sup>st</sup> Gospel written	Shortest Gospel	Longest and most detailed Gospel	7 signs, 7 “I Am’s,” and 7 discourses
Genealogy of Jesus	No genealogy of Jesus	Genealogy of Jesus	No genealogy of Jesus

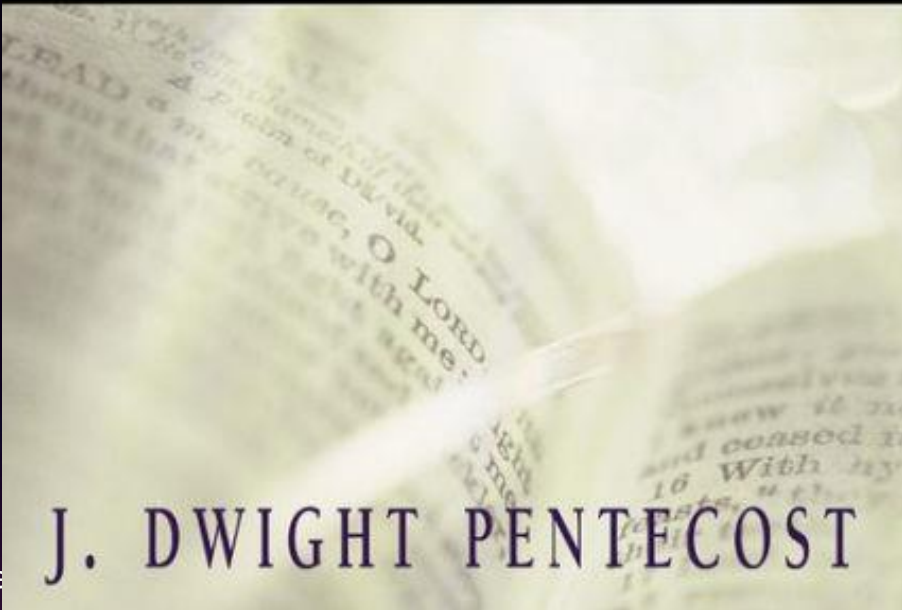
# The Exorcism of Legion – Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Reference	Potential meaning or symbol
Legion	The largest Roman military unit (5,000-6000 soldiers)
Herd (of pigs)	A word normally used for military forces
Rushed (into the water)	A word used to describe the charge of soldiers
Pigs	A Roman legion in Palestine carried the image of boars on their shields.
Son of God	Sometimes used a title for the Emperor

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THE WORDS & WORKS OF JESUS CHRIST



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# A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS

Robert L. Thomas  
and  
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New American Standard Version

# Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

## #5 - Refuse to spiritualize the text.

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- Scriptures don't need to be overanalyzed.
- Example: "Goliaths in your life"