

They will take complicated passages like Daniel 12, parts of Revelation, and Matthew 24 and form an absolute interpretation of the verses. Their confidence in the meaning of these texts is intended to make the rest of us feel ignorant. We have studied those verses for years and we are still unsure what they mean. But they know beyond any shadow of a doubt the one and only meaning of the passage. Then they force all other verses into compliance with their view. The passages that clearly contradict their interpretation are changed to mean something that agrees with their doctrine.

1 Corinthians 15 cannot be talking about a bodily resurrection because they have concluded the resurrection has already happened. The resurrection was not an event people could see. It was the transference of souls out of Hades into Heaven or Hell. This view of the resurrection is necessary to maintain their doctrine which says nothing lies ahead of us. All things were fulfilled in AD 70 at the destruction of Jerusalem.

They contend *Jesus has already returned* and will not come again. They claim *the world has already ended*. The world has to mean the Jewish economy to make this view work. *The resurrection is passed. Final judgment has already taken place.* All the passages stating such a judgment are referring to the destruction of Jerusalem to them. All prophecies have been fulfilled and are only described as futuristic because all the books of the Bible were written before AD 70. This is another “truth” that only they know. Many scholars date John’s epistles as later than 70 AD. Most students accept the dates are unsure. But these brethren are absolute in their defining of the dates. It is necessary to make all their doctrine fit together. I admonish you to be careful with such devices that are circulating around our congregations.

Mooresville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooresville, IN 46158

April 29, 2018

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Announcements

We will have a singing night tonight due to our meeting being last week. We are grateful to Dempsey Collins and his wife, Deena, for a great and edifying meeting.

There is a sign up sheet for all who wish to volunteer in teaching or assisting with the classes downstairs.

Our next meet up study will cover Acts 13. We will meet at the library at 12:30 if the Lord wills on May 5th.

Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for area meetings. We need to encourage our brethren in other congregations as well as edifying ourselves through hearing the Gospel.

Keep Dewey in your prayers. He has had much pain in his legs and has undergone surgery to correct the problem. Pray for Jessie too as she strives to care for his needs.

**Keep God's
word in your
heart and in
your head**

Why They Do Not Understand The Bible

Ron Roberts

The right way to approach the Bible is to learn the simple and obvious truths first. Then, armed with that knowledge, you address the more complex Scriptures. The verses that have a variety of possible meanings must be interpreted in a manner that does not contradict the simple clear truths you have already learned.

The plan of salvation is one of the easiest things to understand. There are direct commands to *repent* and be *baptized* after *believing* (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38). We should learn these first, and then obey them. After this we can wade into more complicated verses. It does not help us to understand the 4th vial in Revelation 16:8 if we have not even yet become a Christian.

What makes some verses difficult? **1.** One thing may be our resistance to obey them. We want to find an interpretation that does not require us to give up the things we lust after, so we seek alternative ways of seeing what the verse teaches. **2.** Another thing that makes a passage difficult is the changes in culture from ancient Canaan to our modern day America. The parables of Jesus require us to explain His physical story as well as the spiritual meaning. To His original hearers the details of the net, the sower, and the sheep were obvious. We need to learn about the culture before we can get all of the spiritual application. **3.** One other thing that makes a Bible verse complicated to us is our ignorance of other Bible passages. The more you learn of God's word the more the pieces will fit together. The person who does not understand the authority of the Scriptures will not comprehend the reason we do not use instrumental music in our worship to God.

Perhaps the most difficult thing in understanding certain Bible verses is figurative language. Not all passages are meant to be taken literally. What this means is some verses are direct concrete instructions while others use words that represent something else. When Jesus said *this is my blood* He was using a figure of speech. The fruit of the vine

was not His blood. It represented His blood for His disciples. When should a verse be taken figuratively instead of literally? There are rules.

1. When the **context** is all figurative then the verse should also be taken as figurative. We should not see a figurative lamb, dragon, and vial in Revelation and then demand that the 144,000 be a literal number, or that the 1000 year reign of Christ be a specific period.

2. The literal interpretation is **impossible**. Herod was not a literal furry animal with a red tail. Jesus called him a fox (Lk. 13:31), but He was using a figure of speech.

3. The verse is **wrong** if taken literally. Think of Micaiah telling Ahab he would win the battle. The wicked king did not take the words literally. He could tell they were said to mock him, his false prophets, and the messenger who ordered Micaiah to say whatever the king wanted to hear (1 Kings 22:6-28). The prophet spoke sarcastically.

4. When **the definite is used for the indefinite**. "*The Day of the Lord*" does not require a literal 24 hour period. It is an undetermined time of judgment. God's **day** of judgment may take months or years to reach its fulfillment. It is not a literal day.

5. When we are **told** it is figurative. The clearest examples are when we are told Jesus spoke a parable to His audience. The Lord told a story. The characters were fictional. The situation was not a news report but a tale with a lesson.

Certain false teachers like to make the literal figurative and the figurative literal. They like to start with the most complex passages, render their interpretation of these verses, alter all the plain passages that contradict their view, and then enforce this doctrine on others.

The AD 70 doctrine follows the pattern I have described. They take passages that are *representative* like Jesus coming at the destruction of Jerusalem and make it *literal*. They then take passages that say Jesus will come again to judge all and say they are *figurative*. They claim He will not return because all has been fulfilled in AD 70.