

## STUDY YOUR BIBLE USING LOGIC:

There are two basic concepts of logic that must be employed whenever you study, debate or discuss anything. They are:

**THE LAW OF AFFIRMATION = A thing is what it is. For example, a Bible is Bible. A boy is a boy.**

**THE LAW OF NEGATION = A thing is not what it is not. For example, a Bible is not a hotel. A boy is not a girl.**

Without logic and its basic laws nothing has meaning. When studying your Bible it is important to remember that Israel *is* Israel, and Israel is *not* the church. Circumcision *is* circumcision. Circumcision is *not* baptism. A millennium, by definition, *is* 1000 years. A millennium is *not* a generation, nor does it refer to some unspecified time period.

Of course when the context implies a figure of speech is being used, or the words "like" or "as" are used, or the subject would be impossible if understood literally, then we must look somewhere in the passage to see if something else is in view. As we have taught above we do believe in figures of speech even though we interpret the Scriptures literally.

**ILLUS.:** Today in theology there is a move abroad to remove Israel's future as a nation and apply the promises given to the nation of Israel to the Church. This is called **Replacement Theology**, i.e., replacing Israel with the Church..

In some circles some have understood the 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth as taking place now during the church age, thus *spiritualizing* the 1000 years, or denying there is any reality to the Millennial teaching at all. This is known as **Amillennialism**, i.e., "no millennium" - or one thousand year reign of Christ on the earth after the Tribulation Period.

Reformation or **Covenant Theology** teaches that *Israel = the Church* and *circumcision = (infant) baptism*. Covenant Theology steals the promises of God to Israel and applies them to the Church.

**In all these systems a literal interpretation of Scripture must be abandoned and the Bible either has to be spiritualized or its teachings disregarded. Either God has spoken and He meant what He said or He has spoken to confuse us by using words without meaning.**

**The allegorical or spiritual approach to the Bible eliminates all logic and words no longer mean what they say.**

**ILLUS.:** The **Neo-Evangelical** approach to the Bible eliminates anything it cannot accept *by faith* by reinterpreting or spiritualizing the people and events in Scripture. Thus the miracles of our Savior were simply stories He used to illustrate a principle, not actual events. He didn't walk on water – that would be impossible. If you can't explain it – explain it away! The Ark of Noah couldn't possibly handle representatives of all the creatures on earth, therefore the flood was just a story to teach a moral lesson; and since it would be "impossible" to have a worldwide flood, it must have been only a local phenomenon.

The **Neo-Orthodox** approach to the Bible says that the Bible is Scripture if it speaks to you. So if you get a blessing out of reading Psalm 23 today, it is God's Word, but if you read it tomorrow and you do not get something from the very same passage, it is NOT God's Word.

The **Liberal** approach to the Bible simply views it as a religious curiosity and denies anything supernatural contained within. They deny the resurrection, Christ's atonement for sinners, His sinless life, His miracles, etc. They are very close to being **Atheists** which deny God's very existence and therefore the Bible as being inspired and preserved by Him. Realistically speaking *Liberals are practical atheists*.

The **Cultists** approach to the Bible ignores the principle of "**rightly dividing the word of truth.**" They may "believe" the Bible, but they distort its teachings by refusing to apply this principle of Bible study. "*A cultist is a cultist because he does not recognize or simply refuses to accept God's method of Bible study. By going to just any part of the Bible and ripping verses out of their context, the application of the truth becomes perverted.*" - One Book Rightly Divided, Dr. Douglas D. Stauffer

The **Roman Catholic** approach to the Bible makes the Scriptures subservient to the dictates and teachings of the "Church." Tradition, church dogma, and the "magisterium" (continuing teaching ministry of Catholicism) takes precedence over the Bible. From the fifth to the fifteenth centuries the study and examination of Scripture was almost non-existent due to the authority of Catholicism. This period is known as The Dark Ages.