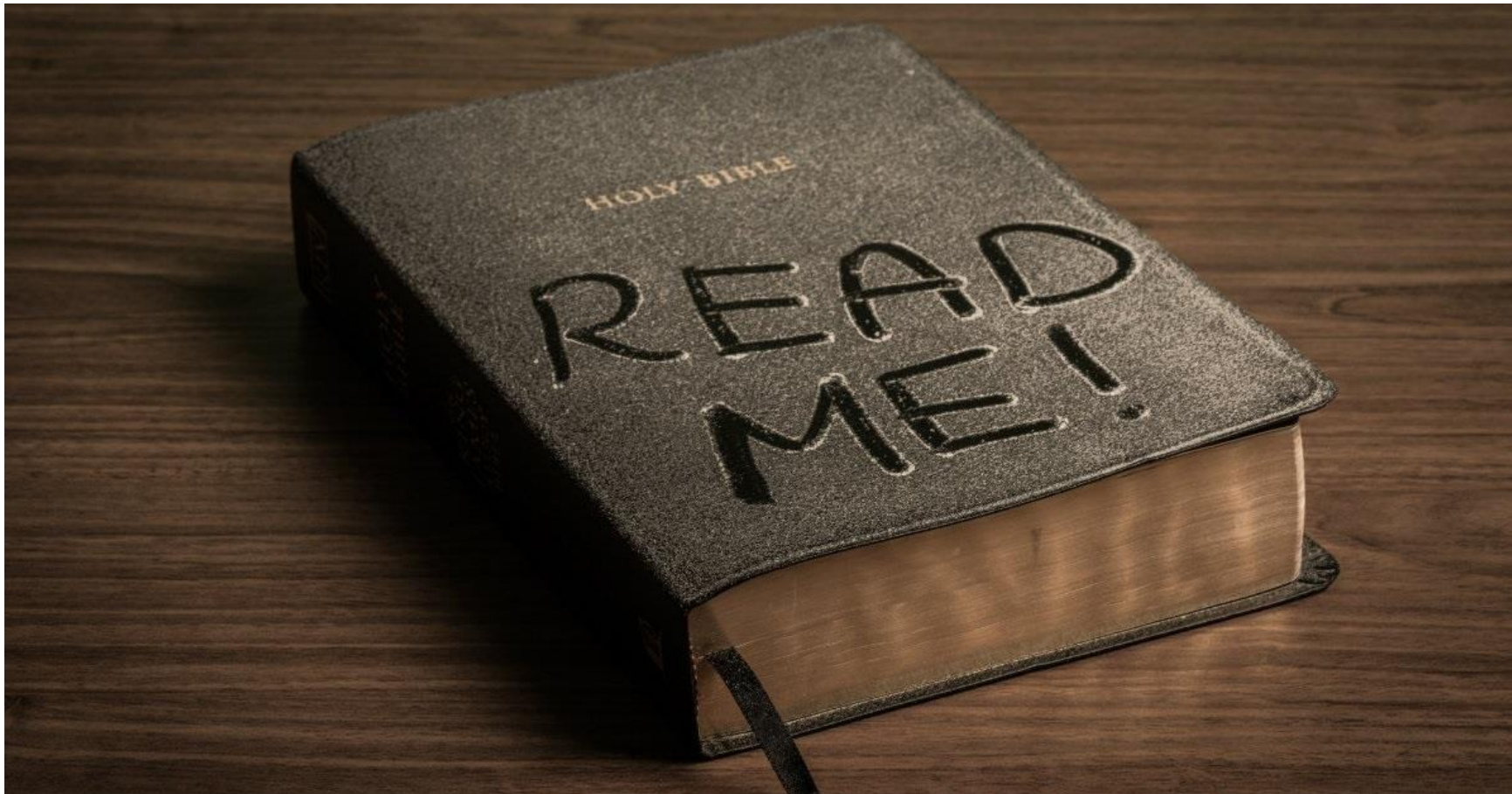


How to Read the Bible

© Wann Fanwar, PhD, 2018

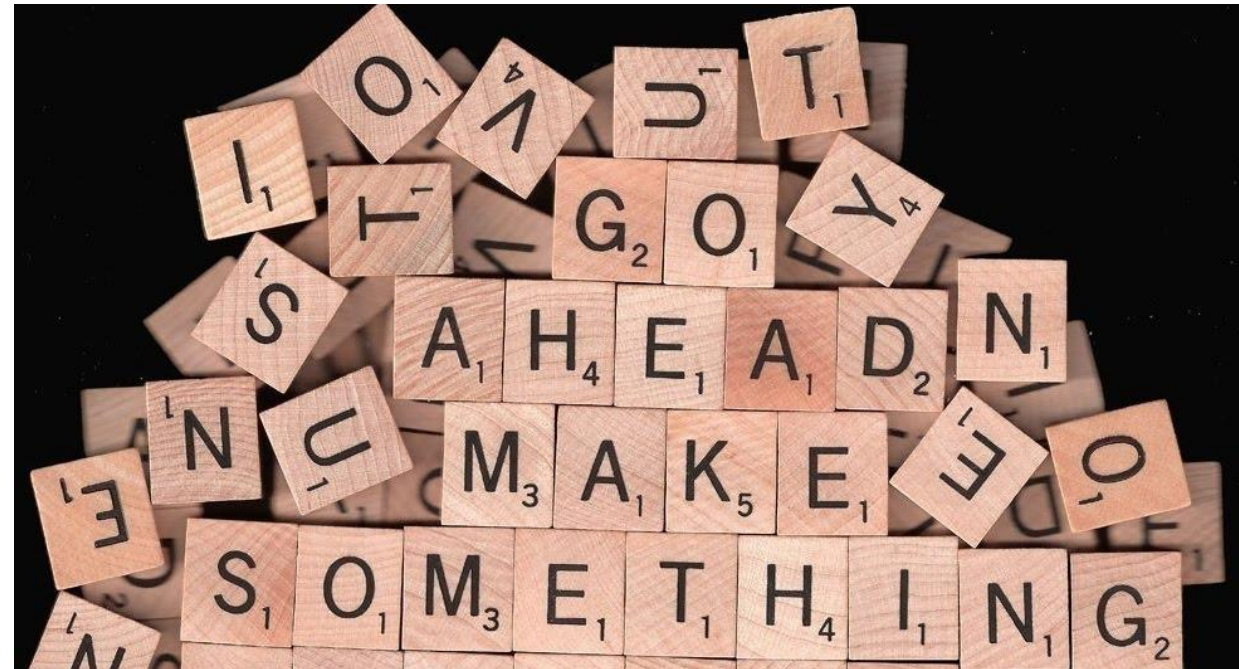


Reading the Bible

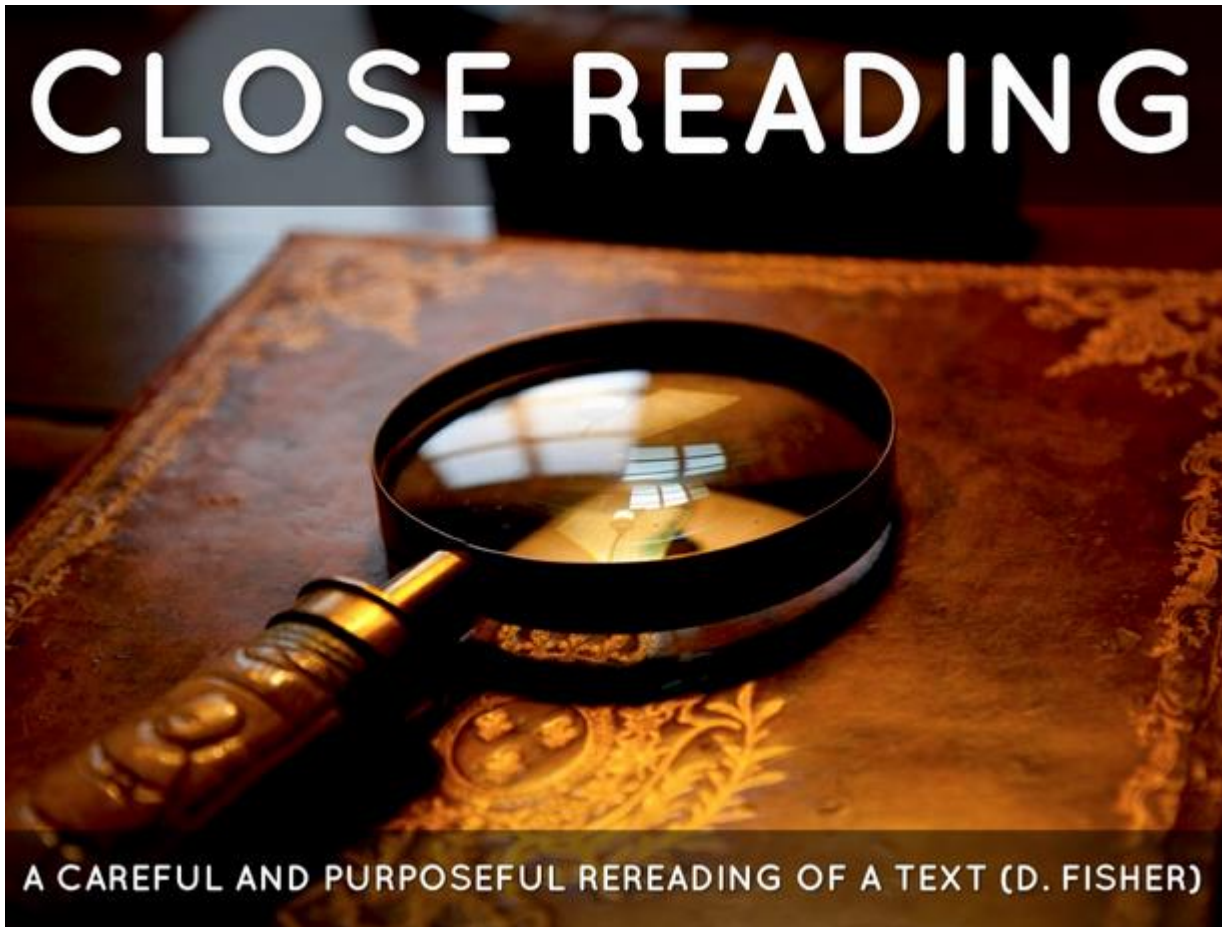


Reading/Study Pitfalls

- **Proof texting:** taking similar sounding texts out of context to validate a pre-conceived notion - male supremacy
- **Text manipulation:** to force a text to say what it does not say - Acts 10 Peter's vision
- **Doctrinal proofing:** to use Bible for proving a set of church doctrines or dogma
- **Collative techniques:** blending very different narratives to create an allegorical narrative - Mary Magdalene



Close Reading



A careful reading of the biblical text without ignoring, imposing or manipulating details

Also, it is about reading the biblical text with an open mind rather than through a creedal lens

Close Reading



Reporter's Questions

Close Reading

Genesis 37:5-11 ➡ 42:6 ➡ 49:8-10 – cf Psalm:78:65-68



Close Reading

Matthew 1:1-17 ➡ Luke 3:23-38
Abraham to Joseph -- ?? generations



Close Reading

Sample: Isaiah 7:10-16

- **Concepts**
- **Primary:** God promises a sign to signal deliverance
- **Secondary:**
 - Sign given through a prophet, Isaiah
 - Sign is specific - birth of a child
 - Sign is given even when not solicited



The Prophet Isaiah by Michelangelo

Isaiah's
Immanu-el

Isaiah 7:1-17

Close Reading

Sample: Isaiah 7:10-16

• Original Sense

- Received by Judah's King Ahaz
- Invasion by Rezin king of Syria (Aram) and Pekah king of Israel
- People of Judah feared the worst and were in mortal danger
- God sent reassurance that the invasion would not succeed
- Birth of 'Immanu-el' (God with us) was a guarantee of this fact
- Immanuel likely Isaiah's second son - compare 7:15-16 with 8:3-4



Close Reading

Sample: Isaiah 7:10-16

- **Application**

- **Messianic:** NT interpretation - Matt 1:23 applies Immanuel to Jesus
- **Personal:** Immanuel is an assurance that God does not abandon his people

