

“ NEVER READ A BIBLE VERSE* ”

Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock! Psalm 137:9

One: Does The Bible Make Atheists?

*Without Context.

TODAY'S VERSES:

- Psalm 137:9
- Hebrews 11:1
- John 14:1
- John 14:6
- John 5:39-40
- James 2:19
- Numbers 23:22
- Job 39:9
- Psalm 29:6

RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:

There are some Christians who say that those who don't believe the Bible or trust in Jesus, "just need to read the Bible," but what happens if they do read the Bible and it has the opposite effect? Could the Bible make people atheists if they read it cover to cover? Penn Jillete (from Penn and Teller fame) is an atheist and once said, "Reading the Bible is the fast track to atheism." Instead of being outraged by the comment, we should instead ask what he means and why he said it.

There are many things in the Bible that are hard to understand without a clear cultural context; many Christians even assume the Bible says things that it does not because we fail to understand the context. There are helpful and unhelpful ways to think about approaching Scripture. Improving our Biblical literacy often means taking a look at the narratives throughout Scripture, understanding the cultural context, and considering single verses in the context of the whole passage. God calls us to be able to reason about the faith (the trust) we have. We must take our faith seriously enough to know what is in the Bible and **(more importantly) WHY.**

- How often do you think people (including Christians) misunderstand the Bible?
- Have you experienced, either with yourself or others, a skepticism toward what is in the Bible?
- What does it mean to you to have faith (trust)?
- How is your faith practiced, and not just informational?
- What is God's grace, and how do you explain it to others? *Do you explain it to others?*
- Who in your life needs to hear of God's grace?

ASK US: ***What questions do you have that you want to ask us about this topic/verses covered?***

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