Pastor Mark Schmechel | August 23, 2026
Series: Summer in the Psalms | Psalm 119:105-112

THE WORD, part 3

Question #1: Why is the Bible is full of Contradictions and Discrepancies?

- SOM is on a mountain (Matt 5:1). SOM is on a level place (Luke 6:17)
- Triumphal Entry--2 donkeys or 1?
- One Angel or two?
- Jesus is equal to the Father (Phil. 2:5-6). The Father is greater than the Son (John 14:26).

Tips for Interpreting:

- **Purpose.** look at the genre, purpose, writing style.
- **Context.** Understand the full context, culture, history, who the author is writing to
- **Meaning.** Discover the literary meanings of words (in original language) and placement of words.
- **Study.** Use word studies, study Bibles, commentaries, cross references, Bible dictionaries.

Question #2: Why is the Bible full of Violence and Oppression?

A few tips on violence/oppression.

- **God has never intended** for it to be like this.
- **The ancient world was about survival**. Sin, violence and the ancient world was barbaric and about survival
- **Israel as a nation needs to survive** because the Savior Jesus Christ, would come from Israel.
- **We follow Jesus.** Now that Jesus has come, we do follow His teaching on violence, such as "turn the other cheek" and "love your enemies."
- **There is a spiritual battle involved.** *"Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities, and spiritual forces of evil."* (Eph 6:12).

Revelation 20:10 (NIV) *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Revelation 21:3 (NIV) *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' u or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

Question #3: Why does the Bible have conflicts with science?

Romans 1:20 (NIV) *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

3 Benefits of the Bible

1). The Bible lights up our path.
Psalm 119:105 (NIV) *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.*

2). The Bible gives us Purpose
107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word!
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

3). The Bible gives us Joy
108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules. 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. …111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

RULE OF 4
- Viewing pornography drops by 59%
- Gambling drops by 74%
- Feeling lonely drops by 30%
- Anger and lashing out drops by 32%
- Feeling spiritually stagnant drops by 60%
- Memorizing Scripture increases by 400%

-Center for Bible Engagement

My Next Step
- I will study the life of Jesus in one of the Gospels
- I will start a reading plan
- I will listen to a podcast on apologetics (Sean McDowell)