

²³ From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. "Get out of here, baldy!" they said. "Get out of here, baldy!" ²⁴ He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the LORD.

2 Kings 2:23-24a (NIV)

23 From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. "Get out of here, baldy!" they said. "Get out of here, baldy!" 24 He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.

2 Kings 2:23-24 (NIV)

under reconstruction



Rebuilding a Lasting Faith



God giveth thee.
13 Thou shalt not
14 Thou shalt not
15 Thou shalt not
16 Thou shalt not
17 Thou shalt not
18 Thou shalt not
19 Thou shalt not
20 Thou shalt not

Construction: We build some faith or belief in God or the Bible.

Deconstruction: Some expectation that we have about God or the Bible is not working for us anymore, so we begin to dismantle it.

Reconstruction: We get some help from others and a new and stronger faith emerges that helps us on our spiritual journey – and spiritual transformation takes place.

January 7: Under Construction

January 14: What if I love Jesus but Struggle
with Christians?

January 21: Suffering

January 28: Science & Faith

February 4: What if I disagree with the Bible?

February 11: How do we process the exclusive
Claims of Christ?

Punishing entire cities, nations, and people groups

Commanding his people to commit genocide

Slavery

Misogyny

Sexual ethics

Intolerance of other religions

It is entirely expected that you would disagree
with some parts of the Bible

Constructed Belief: Following Jesus should feel natural, easy, and right.

Constructed Belief: Following Jesus should feel natural, easy, and right.

False Premise: God should agree with me.

Constructed Belief: Following Jesus should feel natural, easy, and right.

False Premise: God should agree with me.

Deconstruction

1. Our views are shaped by the world around us.

Constructed Belief: Following Jesus should feel natural, easy, and right.

False Premise: God should agree with me.

Deconstruction

1. Our views are shaped by the world around us.
2. Human cultures are broken, sinful, and flawed.

Constructed Belief: Following Jesus should feel natural, easy, and right.

False Premise: God should agree with me.

Deconstruction

1. Our views are shaped by the world around us.
2. Human cultures are broken, sinful, and flawed.
3. God disagrees with us on most things.

It is entirely expected that you would disagree
with some parts of the Bible

Relationship
Transformation
Mission

23 Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ...
25 Far be it from you to do such a thing — to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Genesis 18:23-25 (NIV)

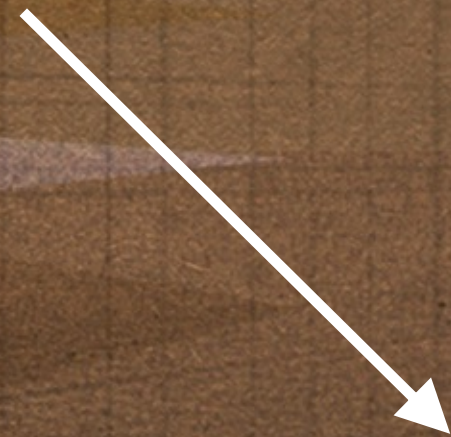
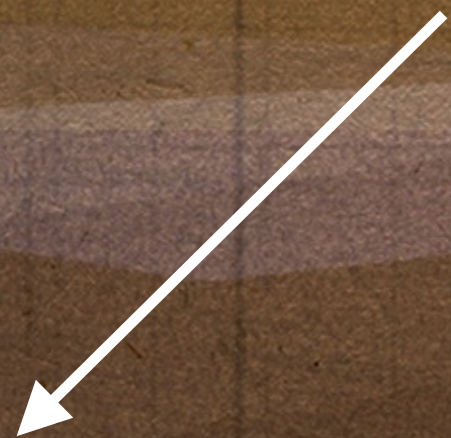
¹¹ "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² ... Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people...." ¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Exodus 32:11-14 (NIV)

יִשְׂרָאֵל
yisrā'ēl

יִשְׂרָאֵל

yisrā'ēl



"He struggles" (with) "God"

Relationship
Transformation
Mission

Unhelpful ways to handle disagreements with the Bible

1. Just believe

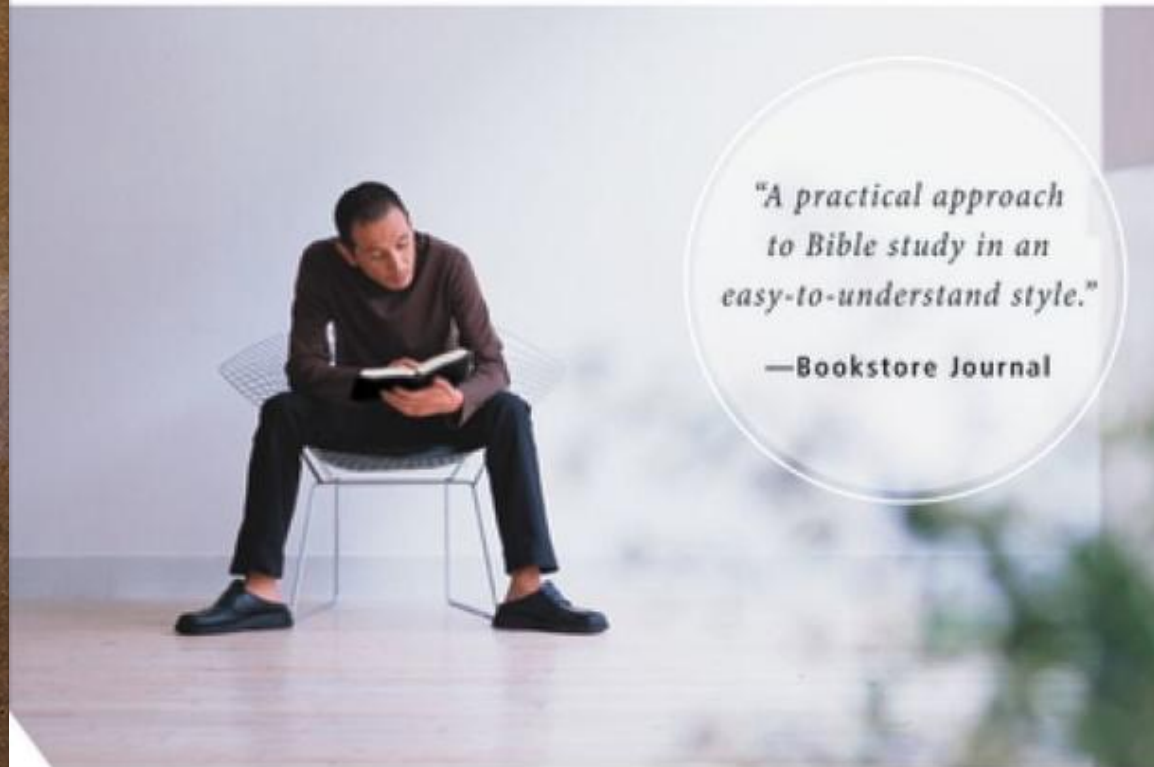
Unhelpful ways to handle disagreements with the Bible

1. Just believe
2. Make the Bible agree with you

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Douglas Stuart

Unhelpful ways to handle disagreements with the Bible

1. Just believe
2. Make the Bible agree with you

Unhelpful ways to handle disagreements with the Bible

1. Just believe
2. Make the Bible agree with you
3. Walk away

When you disagree with the Bible...

1. Relax

When you disagree with the Bible...

1. Relax
2. Study the disagreement

When you disagree with the Bible...

1. Relax
2. Study the disagreement
3. Remember that God wants to engage

When you disagree with the Bible...

1. Relax
2. Study the disagreement
3. Remember that God wants to engage
4. Maintain trust in God's love and goodness

When you disagree with the Bible...

1. Relax
2. Study the disagreement
3. Remember that God wants to engage
4. Maintain trust in God's love and goodness
5. Stay in community

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