



The 3 Circles of Context

Seeing the bigger picture of God's Word



Foundation

Every passage of Scripture lives inside a bigger story; the grand metanarrative of God's plan for redemption. The "Three Circles of Context" help you slow down, look around the passage, and see how the author's words fit within God's redemptive plan.

1. Historical Context — The World Behind the Text

- Identify the time, place, author, and audience.
- Ask: What was life like for the original hearers?
- Example: Understanding the Babylonian exile changes how we read Jeremiah 29:11.
- Hear what it meant to them before you apply it to you.

2. Literary Context — The World Within the Text

- Read the verses before and after the passage.
- Look for key themes, transitions, and tone shifts.
- Ask: What argument or story is unfolding here?
- Let the author's flow guide your interpretation.

3. Biblical Context — The World of the Text in God's Story

- Compare with other passages that teach the same truth.
- Ask: How does this passage fit into God's overall redemptive plan?
- Let Scripture interpret Scripture.

Context keeps truth clear and prevents misinterpretation. It protects faithful teaching and deepens understanding.

Because there's always Truth in the Text.