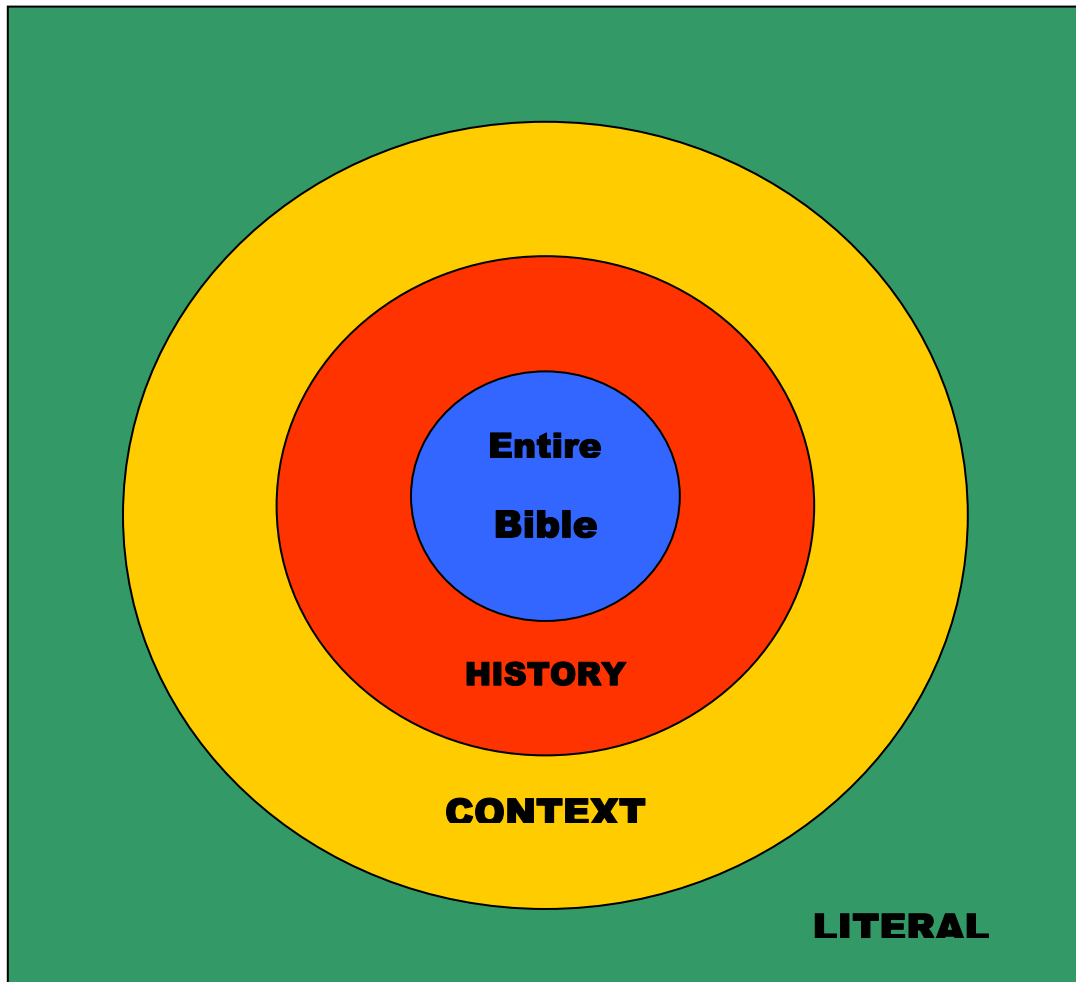


## INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE: FOUR LAYERS



- 1) **LITERAL:** What does the passage actually say?
- 2) **CONTEXT:** What does it mean in the context of the entire passage?
- 3) **CIRCUMSTANCES:** What were the historical circumstances (when the passage was written) that explain its meaning and intent?
- 4) **ENTIRE SCRIPTURE:** What is the underlying principle in light of other instructions on the same topic in Scripture as a whole?