3. The Literary Context

There are some serious concerns living in this era of earth's history with AI and the ability to make someone that looks like me sounds just like me – yet not be me, say and do something that I didn't do. AI generated singers and Doctors who look and sound real. We have the ability to take videos/reels of someone's talk and cut it up splice it together, make it look like it wasn't edited, so that they are saying something different from what they really said in the first place.
Even just being quoted out of context can completely change the meaning - Less techy, but just as damaging and distorting.
Distortion = the act of twisting or altering something out of its true, natural, or original state

Today's lesson - God's word and ultimately God's character - misrepresented, distorted.

Misrepresentation, distortion, all of it began in heaven with satan himself. Those same techniques he used in heaven to mislead the angels, he uses again in the garden of Eden and there dupes the smartest woman that has ever lived; twisting God's words – using partly what was said and partly not.
Insinuating suggestions = implying something indirectly rather than stating it openly. In this way an idea is planted in the listener's mind without making a direct accusation or claim – goes in more easily
These are powerful ways of misrepresenting someone or the facts.
The serpent questions; Has God indeed said? And then misquotes. Quotes God to mislead Makes transgression look like a blessing. Glosses over truth with falsehood.

The enemy distorts God's words intentionally, but often we do it unintentionally by fitting them into our own narrative or not seeking to understand God and His word in its context.

The word of God provides us with guidance as to how to read and understand it;
Is 28:10 Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little. – comparing Scripture with Scripture, understanding in context

Daniel 12:4 -many will run to and fro and knowledge will be increased – running to and fro in the Scripture allows it to be its own interpreter
Psalms 119:130 -The entrance of Your words give light. It gives understanding to the simple.
- when we receive the word of God allowing it entrance to heart
- when we listen to it with the desire of connecting with the Author and
- when we study it making connections between books and passages then we receive light and understanding
Jn 5:39 – Jesus said - Search the Scripture- not meant to just be read – it is an investigation, digging with inquiry. Search as for hidden treasure
Jn 7:17 - Those who are willing to do God's will shall know of the doctrine – willing to lay down our preconceived ideas, with humble and teachable spirit to know and do God's will?
Jn 16:13, 14:26 – The HS will teach us and guide us into all truth – Scripture must be read with the HS guidance as He is the Great Expositor and can personally reveal to us the truth in it.

I find this extremely helpful in approaching the word of God.
here a little there a little – running to and fro, digging and investigating to understand the context what does the whole Bible say on a given topic and truth? In our day we have the advantage of having things like concordances, and yes even computer tools to help us find key words or phrases, are there verses that address a particular topic, or where is the Bible verse that says – let's say you wanted to know what the Bible teaches on the state of the dead- you could look up words that go along with that – death die, and find all the verses that collectively provide understanding. Or let's say you're reading through the Bible and you're like wow it talks a lot about circumcision what's so important about that? You would read both old and NT verses and come to understand its spiritual meaning and that literal circumcision is no longer a practice of faith, but that it always represented circumcision of the heart. What if you wanted to know more of God's character- maybe you read a verse on His anger and you wanted to understand what that means and not what your own picture of anger

People wonder why there are so many varied beliefs within Christianity when there is one text book, all claim to believe the Word of God – The author of the lesson: distortions of Bible messages come "from the common practice of isolating

passages from their literary context. This approach opens the Scriptures to all kinds of artificial interpretations."

in a courtroom, Opposing attorneys can misrepresent facts or arguments in a variety of ways. Some are intentional and unethical; others stem from mistakes, differing interpretations, or zealous advocacy. Here are some common forms of misrepresentation, - show how important the context is:

Misstating the evidence: Claiming a witness said something they did not, exaggerating testimony, or omitting important qualifying statements.

Taking statements out of context: Quoting a document or witness selectively so the meaning appears different than when viewed in full.

Misrepresenting an opponent's argument ("straw man"): Recasting the other side's position into a weaker or more extreme version that's easier to attack.

Leaving out material facts: Highlighting facts that favor one side while failing to mention other facts that significantly change the picture.

Misleading use of exhibits: Showing only portions of documents, videos, or communications without acknowledging relevant surrounding context.

Misrepresenting procedural history: Incorrectly describing prior rulings, discovery events, or what occurred in earlier hearings.

In the courtroom and in the Bible Context matters.