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Arrow 2, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

By Aaron Shamp

Introduction

- We are doing this series because you need the ability to read the Bible.
 - You cannot expect to excel athletically by practicing once a week.
 - We need the Bible daily because we believe that God's Word has the power to transform lives.

Foundational Truth: The Clarity of Scripture

- This morning, the Bible is being taught to adults and children. Not only in Lafayette but across the globe. Not only today but across decades and centuries.
 - Across time, location, culture, and generations... the Bible is understood.
- Point: The Bible is a **clear Word**.
- God's truth is able to be understood and known. It is not hidden nor incomprehensible.
 - Qualifications for understanding Scripture...
 - Understanding God's Word will still take time and effort.
 - Understanding God's Word will still take help and resources.
 - Understanding God's Word will still take the help of the Holy Spirit and a willingness to obey.

Arrow 2: "What Did this Passage Mean to Its Original Audience?"

- God had a clear message that spoke to the original audience, and his message still speaks to people today.

- Therefore, to guide our understanding of the Bible, we should make sure that what we think it's saying matches what the original audience would have understood.
- Beyond that, we can also receive a lot of insightful help from others who have done the work.
- Point: Arrow 2 asks, "What Did this Passage Mean to Its Original Audience?"
 - You must develop the skill of **research**.
- 5 Tools to Build Your Research Library
 - Study Bible
 - I recommend the *CSB Study Bible* or *ESV Study Bible*.
 - Commentaries
 - I recommend *The Bible Speaks Today* series.
 - Bible Dictionary
 - I recommend the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* edited by Mark Allen Powell.
 - Old Testament and New Testament Surveys
 - I recommend *An Introduction to the Old Testament* by Tremper Longman III and Raymond Dillard and *An Introduction to the New Testament* by Don Carson and Douglas Moo.
 - Systematic Theology
 - I recommend *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem.

Applying the Second Skill

- Psalm 1
 - The happiness described is the joyful result of one who is blessed by God.
- Matt. 21:1-11
 - Jesus sent his disciples from the Mount of Olives, which was mentioned as connected to the Messiah in Zechariah 14, in addition to Zechariah 9 being quoted in the text.

- Col. 1:15-20

- Scholars believe that these verses are an early church hymn that Paul employs.