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Week #6

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Define the following terms in one well-developed paragraph. One line sentences are not acceptable. Define or explain, and respond accordingly.

The most important reason to study the bible in context is to obtain a correct understanding of the scriptures. When scriptures are taken out of context, there is the temptation to make the bible say what we want instead of what is originally meant. Misunderstanding the scripture also leads to the misapplication of scripture to our lives and to the errant teaching to others. For example, some have taught that slavery was biblical because the practice can be found in the bible. However, the New Testament does not teach Christians to enslave one another. A form of status among monarchy was the ownership of slaves. The United Jewish Monarchy formed by King Saul, King David and King Solomon found itself the subject of a great divide as the kingdom separated and formed into two nations, Israel to the north and Judah to the south. The Northern Kingdom was comprised of Asher, Dan, Ephraim, Gad, Issachar, Manasseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin made up the Southern Kingdom. Many of the Jews in living in Judah were carried off to exile in Babylonia. Babylon, is the most famous city from Mesopotamia. The many references the bible makes to it are all unfavorable. In the book of Genesis, the 11th chapter, it is featured in the story of the Tower of Babel. The Hebrews claim the city was named for the confusion which ensued after God caused the people to speak different languages so they would not be able to complete their tower to heaven. Babylon also appears in the books of Daniel, Jeremiah and Isaiah and most notably the book of Revelation. King Cyrus, who had become ruler of Persia, conquered Babylonia in 539 B.C.E. and issued a decree permitting Jews to return to Judah from exile. King Darius I appointed the Jewish leader Zerubbabel to be governor of Judah, who would preside over the rebuilding and dedication of the temple in Jerusalem. Establishing rule over Greek city-states such as Athens, Sparta and Corinth, Phillip of Macedon consolidated a power platform from which his son, Alexander the Great was able to launch a campaign of rapid expansion, to include acquiring control over Judah. To Alexander, Palestine was, as to many before him, a corridor leading to Egypt, the outlying Persian province, along with Jerusalem and Hebron.