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What the Bible is Not

Biblical Exegesis

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Strauss in How to Read the Bible in Changing Times starts off the chapter by explicitly stating what the Bible is not. By stating this it shows Christians not just those studying theology but those who daily study God's Word how to interpret and apply the scriptures to the context of the current time and culture. Instead of seeing the Bible as a magic answer book, a list of commands to obey, or a series of promises to claim Strauss reminds the reader that the Bible is an insightful book that is both complex and inspired that is full of truths that contain both relevant and life changing moments. At its core it is showing the reader how to determine the meaning of the text in its original context while identifying culturally relative topics. Its most primary quality and purpose however may be that it teaches the reader about God, his will, and his purposes for their lives and giving applicable truths to contemporary life situations It even shows readers how to discern God's will on the many modern issues that the Bible does not directly address. Two truths that I discovered and that stuck out to me where one the bible is not a list of promises to claim – I have honestly often read a promise and applied it to my life however according to Strauss that is incorrect. Strauss points out that we must look at the qualifications associated with the promise not just the promise itself. On page 28 Strauss states "Every biblical promise has a context and a recipient, and that

situation must be understood before any application can be made”. The second and honestly the hardest that the bible does not give answers to contemporary issues; although it explicitly does not it does seem to address many issues that we do face.