



# Contextual Questions you can ask of the Bible

(Adapted from [walkingthetext.com](http://walkingthetext.com))

## A. Historical

- What time period?
- What's happening in the world?
- What's happening in this region?
- What's happening in this location?
- What's happened in the past that's informed these present circumstances?

## B. Cultural

- What cultural aspects are below the surface?
- How are values shaping this story?
- What assumptions are we making based on our cultural lenses that may not be accurate?

## C. Geographical/Visual

- Where are we on a map?
- What do we know about this location?
- Are we dealing with mountains, desert, valleys, etc..?
- Is this an urban or rural setting?
- Who is the ruling authority?
- What's the flow of traffic like here?
- Has anything happened here before?
- What did the place look like? Are there photos or video?
- Reputable artist illustrations?
- What would it have been like to be there?

## D. Literary/Linguistic

- What words appear to be significant? (Repeated words)
- What do other translations say?
- What does word mean in its original language?
- Is the word communicating anything visual or of cultural value?
- Where else is this word used in the Bible?
- Where else is this word used in this book of the Bible?
- What genre of literature is this?
- What is the literary design?
- Are there parallel stories? (Does this have echoes in other stories?)