***Introduction***

In Chapter 8 we focused on Rule #6 – Bible Context. The goal of Bible context is to make a meaningful connection between two passages of the Bible in order to use one to help clarify the other.

Jesus once stated that his death on the cross would be like Moses lifting the serpent in the desert (John 3:14). This is a reference to Numbers 21.

Rule #6 – Bible Context, would help us study this Old Testament reference in order to make sense of what Jesus was saying.

***How do you find connections between similar passages?***

1. Cross-references in a study Bible
2. Introductions to a book in a study Bible or Bible dictionary contain cross-references
3. Specific articles in a Bible dictionary on a topic – An article on Lord’s Supper would likely provide a reference to the Passover festival
4. Your own word studies would uncover passages that have the same terms / ideas
5. Over time, you will discover many connections between parts of the Bible based on your own knowledge

***What connections exist between passages?***

#1 - The New Testament points back to the Old Testament

* This can be in the form of an Old Testament quotation (Matt 2:5-6 quoting Micah 5:2) or an allusion to something in the Old Testament (1 Cor 10:1-11 references Israel’s wanderings in the desert.)

#2 - The Old Testament anticipates elements, events and figures in the New Testament

* This includes predictions or types of Christ (King David, priests) or elements of the gospel (Passover feast anticipating Lord’s supper)

## #3 – An element in one testament is clarified or developed in the same testament

## The curses in Deuteronomy 28 are fulfilled in Israel’s exile in 2 Kings.

## Christ as a new creation (John 1:1), is personalized in God’s people as a new creation (2 Cor 5:2) and ends with a literal new creation (Rev 21:1, 5)

***Example of Rule #5 – Bible Context***

Our 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 passage revealed the following principles:

1. Paul wishes to use the Lord's second coming as a way to encourage those who have lost a loved one. He wants to give them hope.
2. Death is described as “being asleep”
3. Jesus is coming back to earth to take away his saints
4. Several events will precede Jesus coming down from heaven: voice, command, trumpet.
5. Those who have died in Christ will be resurrected

Based on our word study in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (“sleep”) we discovered that 1 Cor 15:50-58 contains similar themes to our passage.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 adds the following details to our passage of the Lord’s coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

1. At the resurrection, we will receive new glorious bodies
2. Paul mocks death saying, “where is your sting?” Man’s last enemy, death, has been defeated at the cross.
3. Paul encourages the Corinthians to stand firm and to be motivated by doing the Lord’s work.