

Why “Taking the Bible Literally Until you Can’t” is Important

Taking the Bible **literally until it clearly isn’t meant to be** is not just an academic exercise—it’s **foundational to our faith**. Why? Because **our approach to Scripture directly impacts how we understand the core teachings of Christianity**.

Here’s why this **matters** for the biggest doctrines:

Creation

Genesis 1-2 describes the origin of the universe, life, and humanity.

- If we **treat Creation as purely symbolic**, we **lose the foundation** for understanding:
 - **Why humanity is unique** (*made in God’s image* – Genesis 1:27).
 - **Why sin entered the world** (*the Fall of Adam and Eve* – Genesis 3).
 - **Why we need a Savior** (*Jesus as the second Adam* – Romans 5:12-19).
 - Even if some aspects of **Genesis 1** have poetic elements, the **truth of divine Creation is essential**—without it, the gospel falls apart.
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Prophecy

Hundreds of prophecies in the Bible were fulfilled literally.

- Isaiah **prophesied Jesus’ birth** from a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and His crucifixion (Isaiah 53:5-7).
 - Micah **predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2).
 - If **past prophecies were fulfilled literally**, why would **future ones (like Jesus’ return) be only symbolic**?
If we don’t take prophecy seriously, we risk missing God’s plan for the future.
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Miracles

The Bible is full of **miraculous events**—should we assume they are just metaphors?

- **Jesus literally walked on water** (Matthew 14:25).
- **He physically rose from the dead** (Luke 24:39-43).
- **Moses actually parted the Red Sea** (Exodus 14:21-22).

If we **reduce miracles to allegory**, we lose **the power of God’s intervention in history**.

If God is real, supernatural events should not surprise us.

Heaven & Hell

Jesus spoke of eternal destinations in very real terms.

- Heaven: *“In My Father’s house are many rooms...”* (John 14:2-3).
- Hell: *“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* (Matthew 25:46).

Some try to **reinterpret Hell as symbolic** or Heaven as a **state of mind**—but Jesus **never treated them that way**.

If Heaven and Hell aren’t real, then why did Jesus die to save us?

Most Major Doctrines

Christianity stands on key truths that must be taken literally:

- **The Resurrection** – If Jesus **only "symbolically" rose**, we are still in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17).
 - **Salvation by Grace** – If **Adam and Eve’s Fall wasn’t real**, then what are we saved from?
 - **Jesus as God** – If Jesus’ **deity is just a metaphor**, then **who paid for our sins**?
If we don’t take the Bible literally where it clearly intends to be,
we risk losing the foundation of our faith.
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Final Thought: The Bible’s Truth Is Bigger Than Us

- Many **skeptics doubt God’s Word** because they assume **it must align with human reasoning** before they accept it.
- But **faith is trusting God’s revelation** even when **we don’t fully understand it**.
- The Bible has been **right over and over again**—why should we doubt it now?
Taking the Bible seriously—literally when it’s meant to be—is key to holding onto the truth.