

Cultural, Historical, Geographical, and Political Context of the Biblical Text





Practice due diligence to verify your resources are credible

Tegan George's CRAAP Test –

- **Currency:**
 - Is the source up to date?
- **Relevance:**
 - Is the source relevant to your research?
- **Authority:**
 - Where is the source published? Who is the author? Are they considered reputable and trustworthy in their field?
- **Accuracy:**
 - Is the source supported by evidence? Are the claims cited correctly?
- **Purpose:**
 - What was the motive behind publishing this source?
- For a further look into the CRAAP test, see the following:
 - George, T. (2023, May 31). *Applying the CRAAP Test & Evaluating Sources*. Scribbr. Retrieved October 24, 2023, from <https://www.scribbr.com/working-with-sources/craap-test/>



Guard yourself from deriving conclusions based on being fanciful, fascinating, and new.

- Camels and Needles

- Matthew 19:24, Mark 10:25, and Luke 18:25
 - The "Needle's-Eye Gate" was a small, narrow entrance for pedestrians, which remained open after the main city gates were closed for the night.
 - For a camel to pass through this gate, it would need to be unloaded of its goods and crawl on its knees.
 - The spiritual analogy is that a rich person must unburden themselves of their worldly possessions and humble themselves (kneel) to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.



Clearly and meticulously distinguish between supportive information versus foundational information when trying to discover the authorial intent of the Biblical Text.

- 1 Peter 2:14
 - Persecution from Nero
- Mark 7:9-13
 - Corban
- 1 Kings
 - Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel



Accumulate and/or become acquainted with reliable resources in each of these contextual subjects.

- The Best Resources are those:
 - Written experts in the field of the Ancient Near East and the Middle East of the 1st Century
 - Peer Reviewed Sources
 - And those recommended by trusted individuals
- Some of the types of resources for cultural, political, geographical, and historical context are the following:
 - A good Bible Atlas, such as Beitzel or the ESV Atlas.
 - Bible Encyclopedias such as the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible.
 - Study Bibles that focus on a particular discipline of study such as The Archeological Study Bible or The Cultural Study Bible.
 - Theological journals such as Bibliotheca Sacra or those published by recognized and accredited seminaries and Christian colleges/universities.
 - History books & resources recommended by credible historians, particularly those who have written or taught on subjects such as the Roman Empire, the Ancient Near East (particularly the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, & Assyrian Empires), the Bronze & Iron Ages, the Intertestamental Period, and credible sources on manners and customs in 1st century Israel.
 - Numerous materials (books, articles, etc) have been written on these various contexts. Look for credible documentation in footnotes, annotated bibliographies, and indexes. A source that lacks these should be held in suspect of being reliable.