

Where Does the Text End and Interpretation Begin?

READ • OBSERVE • INTERPRET • DISCUSS • APPLY

Book reading	Introduction + Chapters 1-3
Primary texts	Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 22:34-40

Why This Conversation Matters

The series begins with method. Before defending or rejecting a theological conclusion, the listener learns to separate a speaker's direct words, claims made by others, reasonable inference, possibility, and later interpretation.

Seven Questions for This Episode

1. Where does the text end and our interpretation begin?
2. Why does the book deliberately use the name Yeshua, and what can the history of the name establish - or not establish?
3. What changes when Yeshua is first heard inside his Jewish/Hebrew scriptural world rather than through later theological categories?
4. Why does it matter to distinguish what Yeshua directly says from what other people say about him?
5. What are the book's four levels of evidence, and how do they keep possibility from being presented as proof?
6. When does a reasonable inference become an overstatement?
7. How can later tradition be tested without assuming that "later" automatically means wrong?

Evidence Map

As you listen, place important claims in the category that best describes the evidence. A claim may move categories when better evidence appears.

Direct text	Reasonable inference	Possible explanation	Later interpretation

Discuss

1. Name one conclusion about Yeshua you inherited before you personally examined the underlying text.
2. Which of the four evidence levels is hardest for you to keep separate?
3. What would fair disagreement look like if both sides agreed to identify where interpretation begins?

Choose Life

Before accepting or rejecting one interpretation this week, identify the exact sentence or passage that carries the weight of the claim.

Notes / Questions to Bring Back to the Conversation

NEXT: Track 02 • Why Did Yeshua Answer the Wilderness Tests from Deuteronomy?

Working study sheet • designed to become part of the full Discussion Guide. Website / download link to be inserted before public release.