

HISTORY & HERITAGE OF THE BIBLE

SESSION FOUR: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Week	Date	Subject	Hayden	Due
4	Mar 8	Syllabus, Chronology, Glossary, WHAT IS THE BIBLE? When Was it Written and by Whom?	43-72	

INTRODUCTION

Amos 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

We have more churches in America than we deserve, we have seminars and conferences, we have everything possible in our Christianity to make church attendance enjoyable. But even in churches that are culturally relevant there is an absence today of the word of God.

We have people who think Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. They think the children of Israel murmured after they left Egypt because they had to leave their mummies behind. They think the first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. They think the fifth commandment is to humor thy father and mother. They think the seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery. They think the greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him. They think David fought the Finklesteins, that Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines, and yet Christians should have only one spouse—and this is called monotony. They think Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption, and Jesus gave us the Golden Rule, which says: do one to others before they do one to you. Why do you need this course? Because

Statement of Need: If you do not know the word of God you don't know God, and when you do not know God you do not know how to live for God.

The problem is not that we do not know the Bible that we have. My contention is much more serious than that. The problem is we do not have a Bible to know, or we do not know that we have a Bible. Because if you do not know where to find the word of God, you do not know where to find God. And if you do not know where to find God, you do not know how to live for God. So consequently most American Christians in our postmodern generation do not know God and are not living for God. They are looking for God because they lost the Bible in history. They never took the time to consider its history and heritage, and so they lost its line. So we're going to travel back to the basics and get the history and heritage on the Bible, because

Thesis: Everything we have rises and falls on our relationship to the Bible.

Ho 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

They were perishing, but they were going to church every Saturday. They were destroyed, but they were singing in the choir. They had a church but did not know where to find it in the Bible. God wants his people to get involved in his divine purpose, and the only thing that will get them involved is understanding the divine heritage and providential history of the Bible.

There is great value to actually having scripture, and knowing that you have it. That is what this course is all about. The Bible itself is a plain person's book. It does not take a scholar or a philosopher to understand it. John Watson said the Bible is so simple that a wayfaring man or a fool need not err therein.

It is shallow enough so that the most timid swimmer may enjoy its waters without fear, and yet deep enough for the most expert swimmer to enjoy it without touching the bottom.

—John Watson

John Cumming wrote:

The Empire of Caesar is gone; the legions of Rome are rotting in the dust; the avalanches that Napoleon hurled at Egypt have melted away; the pride of the Pharaohs is fallen; Tyre is but a rock bleaching fishermen's nets; Sidon has scarcely left a wreck behind; but the word of God still survives.

All those that have threatened to extinguish the Bible have only added to its glory. Remember the pictures of the Iraqis toppling the image of Saddam Hussein? Every day God proves how transitory is the noblest monument man can build, and how enduring is the least word he has spoken.

The death knell of the Bible has been sounded a thousand times over, and I could say specifically, the death-knell of the King James Version. For 140 years people have been saying that it is antiquated, it is too old, its vocabulary is too hard to understand, its reading grade level is too high, the manuscripts it came from were bad, and it has to be replaced. Every semester another professor (like Bart Ehrman or Marcus Borg or Dominick Crossan) publishes a new book that purports to debunk the Bible as merely the work of man. And every semester more and more honest students at more and more churches discover it to be the word of God. Every year a new publisher forms a new funeral procession for the King James Version. The inscription is cut on the tombstone and the eulogy is read, but to the great chagrin of their investors, somehow the corpse never stays buried.

Thomas Paine, the noted American political theorist and English agnostic, thought that within a few years there would be no Bible in America. He boasted when he wrote, *The Age of Reason* in 1795, that

I have now gone through the Bible, as a man would go through a wood with an axe on his shoulder, and fell trees. Here they lie; and the priests, if they can, may replant them. They may, perhaps, stick them in the ground, but they will never make them grow (1795, p. 151).

Poor Tom crawled into a drunkard's grave fourteen years later and the forest lives on.

- * Everything Homer had to say is preserved in 20 languages
- * All Shakespeare wrote was translated into 40 tongues
- * Tolstoy's works appear in 60 versions
- * But the Bible, in whole or in part, has been translated into over 2000 languages and dialects

It has endured all the curses of infidelity. It has survived all the edicts of tyranny. It has conquered the gnawing teeth of time. In spite of that, a Russian dictionary gives this definition for the Bible:

The Bible is a collection of fantastic legends without any scientific support. It is full of dark hints, historical mistakes and contradictions. It serves as a factor for gaining power and subjugating unknowing nations.

Yet Marxism lies mortally wounded and the gospel of Mark rides nobly on. We know that

- The Bible was written by forty different human authors over a period of 1600 hundred years
- They came from 20 different occupations and lived in ten different countries
- They were separated by 6000 miles while writing in three different languages
- There are 2,930 characters mentioned in the Bible and 1,551 places, and yet these 66 books are authored by one mind—the mind of God through the Holy Ghost.

1A WHAT IS THE BIBLE? DEFINITION

In learning the history of the Bible, let's start at the beginning. Luke 4 will help us get out of port and under way.

Luke 4:14-17 (14) And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. (15) And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. (16) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day,

and stood up for to read. (17) And there was delivered unto him the **book** of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the **book**, he found the place where it was written,

Two times in verse 17 we see the word, *book*. Luke originally wrote in Greek. The Greek word translated book is *biblios*. We see it again in chapter three.

Luk 3:4 As it is written in the **book** of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by **books** the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

So the basic root of the Bible's name is this Greek word, *biblios*. It was used to refer to the cellular part of the stem of the papyrus reed. Way back, 1100 years before Christ, the Egyptians discovered a process of stretching and weaving those pithy strips until they could put together a scroll. At the longest, the scrolls were about 30 feet (or nine meters). A roll of papyrus scroll was called a *biblos*. Then as early as the second century AD, Christians adopted that word and used it with reference to their scriptures. So,

Defn.: The word Bible is from the Greek word *biblion* and means book; the term Holy Bible is used for the Christian scriptures because it is the Book by way of preeminence.

To get to a clear picture of the history and heritage of the Bible, we have to recognize that the Bible is a covenant between God and the men and women he created. As we have it now our Bible, the Book, consists of two parts based on those who covenants: the Old Testament (39 books), and the New Testament (27 books).

Defn.: The Latin word *testamentum* was a translation of the Greek word for "covenant."

There is an old covenant God made through Moses, and a new covenant God promised while talking to Jeremiah. What is the nature of these two covenants? This tells us what the Bible is. The Bible is four things, but mainly the Bible is a message from God to man that carries an agreement, or stipulates the terms of a covenant. Watch!

WHAT THE BIBLE IS	
1. A BOOK	3. A REVELATION
Because of its consistency	It is delivered with absolute authority
Because of its progressive revelation	It tells us things we could not otherwise know
2. A RECORD	4. A MESSAGE
OT = the record of a called-out nation	Of a present salvation
NT = the record of a called-out church	Of a coming kingdom

1. The Bible, even though it is 66 writings, it is still one book. How do we know that these 66 separate writings all form just one book? There are two lines of evidence:

A. Because of its consistency

There is an overall pattern that unifies all the separate parts into one symmetrical whole. You see this when you do a Bible survey.

B. Because of its progressive revelation

There is an unfolding of doctrine that progresses as you go throughout those books. In topic after topic, you see doctrine progressively unfolded as you go from Genesis to Revelation, without backtracking or breaking. Other religious writings are anthologies, but the Bible is a book.

2. The Bible is a particular kind of book, because it is a record. That record is a duality. There is the assembled books of the Old Testament ratified through the blood of the lamb specified by Moses, and then the assembled books of the New Testament ratified through the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament gives us the record of a called-out nation: Israel. The New Testament gives us the record of a called-out people: the church. The first record tells us about a physical seed taken from Abraham. The second record gives us a spiritual seed taken from Jesus Christ. The first record is an old covenant based on the Law of Moses. The second record is a new covenant based on the grace of God in Jesus Christ. They are different from, but necessary to each other to be complete. So it is a book that is a record of types and antitypes.

3. The Bible is a particular kind of record because it is a divine revelation—it claims to be, it seems to be, and it even proves itself to be—by two lines of evidence.

A. The record is delivered as a revelation with divine authority

It is not only genuine in its authorship, it is not only authentic in all its claims, but it is also absolutely authoritative. Why? Because secondly,

B. That record tells us things we could not know through any other means

It is a revelation of God. It is unfolded in history, and it matches science with accuracy.

4. But the Bible is not just a book to be preserved. It is not just a record to be believed. It is not just a revelation to be received. It is a message to be proclaimed from a holy God to fallen humanity. It is the message of a present salvation as the requirement for entrance into a future coming kingdom.

In order to accomplish all that, God sealed his covenant up in scripture. In the middle of the fourth century, the priesthood of believers (that means the true Christians in the churches) began to officially recognize which books were inspired by God and which books were not. Or put it this way. They began to recognize what the apostles and prophets had given them. They began to make an official list of the books that the believers who died during the Roman persecutions gave their lives for. And the books they knew to be inspired they started to collect into one manuscript. When that happened, Christians began to call this collection, not just a Bible (which means a book), but the Holy Bible; God's writings, the sacred writings because they were scripture. So just like holy ground or a holy nation, this was the holy Book. That is why Paul says to Timothy about thirty years after Christ's resurrection,

2 Tim 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Before it was called the Holy Bible it was called the Holy Scriptures. Since Christians do not have a number of sacred books but only one, and it is a library of 66 books, the term "Bible" was applied to the scriptures when they were assembled as a completed whole. Our Holy Bible contains, in one spot, the collected writings deemed sacred down through the centuries of time and considered authoritative by the priesthood of believers. Scripture is the words from God that contain a unique property and nature as being authoritative.

Defn.: *Biblical authority* refers to the fact that the authority of God himself is mediated through the holy Scriptures, which are the mind of God to his creatures, and therefore God's word as contained in the Bible should be received as God's voice and accepted as the final and absolute guide on all matters of faith and practice.

It is because preachers are not teaching this and Christians do not believe it, that there is a famine in the land. We have to know its history and heritage in order to know we have it, and then in order to have a divine effect it has to be applied as authoritative. Why can we apply it as the absolute, infallible, and final authority? Let me give you four and I raise up out of here.

1B THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN REVELATION OF THE MIND OF GOD

Proof Text: 1 Corinthians 2:16

1CO 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ; it is available. Where do we find God's mind? We know God's mind only from God's words. Communication is the key, and the Holy Spirit has communicated the mind of God in word packages. The Lord reveals himself by his word. So the collected words of God represent the mind of God to men and women today. Before we can study it we first have to find and define it accurately. So

Point 1. Our estimation of the Bible has to be based upon our assessment of its nature.

We have to recognize it has a divine nature as the very words of God. So what is the Bible? Not only is the Bible the written revelation of the mind of God, but also,

2B THE BIBLE IS THE PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF THE LIFE OF GOD

Proof Text: John 1:1

JOH 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

When we read that verse we immediately interpret it in our minds as saying,

In the beginning was the Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God.

I do not disagree with that interpretation, but it says the Word was God, and because that is true, there are other verses in the Bible that corroborate the proposition that the Bible on the table is somehow mysteriously a physical representation of the invisible God to you. I know you don't believe me, so be a real scholar and look the verses up and deal with what they say and the implications of their truth. Here is what we find.

1C ROMANS 9:17 CF. EXODUS 9:13,16—THE BIBLE SPEAKS IN THE PLACE OF GOD.

ROM 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

EXO 9:13,16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

What kind of idolater is Paul, anyway? Does he worship ink and papyrus? Does he have a paper Pope? What type of confused thinking is this trailblazing theologian from Tarsus, the articulate apostle to the Gentiles teaching us? Doesn't he know that even the original authors did not claim inspiration? Doesn't he know that they had many faults and flaws in their own lives? Well, while the Exodus account says plainly that the Lord spoke to Pharaoh through the mouth of Moses, Paul says that scripture spoke it. Here's an even better one.

2C GALATIANS 3:8 CF. GENESIS 12:3—THE BIBLE CARRIES THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD (E.G. FOREKNOWLEDGE).

GAL 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

GEN 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Paul ascribes to the written revelation the foreknowledge of its author. Also he says the Bible speaks for God by preaching to Abraham. Paul says scripture preached, when in actuality the Lord preached. Now, you've got to do something with those verses. This is evidence; this is data. Based upon the evidence you have a choice to make. Two men stood at the Grand Canyon. One of them marveled at the greatness of God's creation and the other one spit in the ditch. You can either make the Bible everything God makes it to be, or you can spit in the ditch! But that's not all.

3C HEBREWS 4:12-13—THE BIBLE HAS THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD.

HEB 4:12-13 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there

any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Here, Paul ascribes even more of the attributes of God to the word of God. The Bible is said to see our motives and will judge us. Let me give you one last proof.

4C 2 CHRONICLES 14:4—TO BE WITHOUT GOD'S LAW IS TO BE WITHOUT GOD.

2CH 14:4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.

The cumulative effect of the evidence is to prove the proposition that the Bible is in at least some sense the physical representation of the invisible God to you. The Bible is not God. There is no fourth member of the trinity. You can tear up and burn a Bible and you cannot tear up and burn God. And yet it is clear that

Point 2. God intends for you to see your Bible as representing God to you.

That makes it the written revelation of the mind of God. That's what it is. Secondly, the Bible is the physical manifestation of the life of God. I said I would give you four, so what else is it?

3B THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN THROUGH MEN, BUT IS GOD'S WORD

Proof Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:11-14

1TH 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1CO 2:11-14 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Regardless of what you may know, or think you know, about how the Bible was written and inspired through men, it came out God's word. Whether you can understand it, comprehend it, or rationalize it, if you do not believe that the Bible is God's word—in spite of the frailty of its human instruments—then you do not believe the Bible. Do not put forth patronizing nonsense about how you believe the Bible is God's word, but since it had imperfect penmen, it therefore is imperfectly recorded. Either you are a Bible-believer or you are not. If you are, then you understand the supernatural nature of its inspiration. If scripture is not still just as fully the word of God as Jesus Christ is, then all Christians are in real big trouble because

Point 3. If scripture is not the word of God through human penmen then it cannot accomplish what it claims.

Today's Bible scholars are guilty of a modern Docetism where it comes to the word of God. Docetism was an ancient heresy in the early church. It starting before 200 AD. Certain people could not intellectually rationalize and understand how God could die; therefore they reasoned that Jesus could not really have been God in the flesh. They could not accept the Bible as literally teaching what it says. What was denied was that Jesus had a real body, and sometimes it was denied he had a human nature. They said he only appeared as man. It was all an illusion.

The problem with that is if Jesus did not have a human nature, then he did not redeem fallen humanity. But his human nature did not confuse or corrupt his divine being. Likewise, the word of God is not a tainted natural production just because human penmen were used to record it and human scribes were used to preserve it.

4B THE BIBLE STANDS IN THE PLACE OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE

GOD IS...	THE WORD OF GOD...
Spirit	Reveals Spiritual Truth
Infinite	Transcends Time and Culture
Eternal	Has 3 Simultaneous Applications
Unchangeable	Teaches Absolute Principles
GOD'S CHARACTER IS...	MIRRORS GOD'S PERSONALITY
Wisdom	Reflects His Foreknowledge
Power	Reflects His Works
Holiness	Reflects His Perfection
Justice	Reflects His Administration
Goodness	Reflects His Mercy
Truth	Reflects His Consistency
THE LIVING WORD (CHRIST) IS...	THE WRITTEN WORD (BIBLE) IS...
God Unfolded	God Enveloped
Life	Letter
Spirit IN the Soul	Spirit TO the Soul

There are two perfect things according to the Bible, and they are both called the living word of God. One is the written word of God; it is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. The other is the incarnate word of God, Jesus Christ. The inscripturated word and the incarnate word can be equated in at least 54 particulars. This is where the same thing that is said of one is said about the other within the pages of the Bible itself. (Available upon request) So the Bible is

- 1) The written revelation of the mind of God
- 2) The physical manifestation of the life of God
- 3) God's word written through men
- 4) The thing that stands in the place of God in your life today

3A HOW DOES THE BIBLE LOOK? DESCRIPTION

We've talked about what the Bible is; now let's see how the Bible looks. The Bible is one book, made up of 66 writings, arranged in specific divisions. It is further divided into 1,189 chapters. Finally, it is divided into 31,102 verses. There are 39 books, 929 chapters, and 23,145 verses in the OT and 27 books, 260 chapters and 7,957 verses in the New. Oxford University Press took the time to number the words and found there are 783,137 words. Others have used computer word count programs on our current version of the King James Bible and found 788,280 words. In computer language, that is about 4.5 megabytes. It sounds like a lot—about four times the length of the average classical work. But you can read through the Bible at a slow pace in 72-78 hours. Most of you could get through it in 60. My personal preference is to read ten pages a day (stopping on the next page that ends in a zero) and get through three times a year.

The first five books, all by Moses, were originally written on one scroll. Likewise, the two books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles were originally one book. Somewhere along the line, two things happened, and this is part of the history of the Bible.

THE CHANGING FACE OF SCRIPTURE

- 1) The books got divided into their proper sections
- 2) The books got arranged in the dispensational order in which we now find them

Since we don't know the name of the person who did this, the Holy Spirit did it. Some people say our current Bible is arranged this way because the Septuagint Greek translation of the Old Testament was laid out that way. All we know is that the Jews have it divided one way for them, and we have it divided another way for us, and the way it is divided for us corresponds to a dispensational understanding of scripture.

The chapter and verse divisions are different. We know who did those: the Holy Spirit. In addition to the Holy Spirit we also know the names of human instruments he used. My point is that God arranged your Bible into the way it looks right now, using the instruments and the means that I am about to describe, showing how God was operating through the priesthood of believers to correct and compensate for the touch of even a lost person on the word of God. In other words, people don't like to believe the Bible they hold in their lap is authoritative. They want to say the chapter and verse divisions are not inspired because Paul and Moses didn't use them. But the question is not whether Paul and Moses used them, the question is whether God uses anybody—Paul, Moses or the men we are about to describe—to give us his word the way he wants us to have it. And the answer is yes, he did.

In the middle of the thirteenth century there was a Cardinal by the name of Hugo. He wanted to prepare a concordance (meaning a list of scripture parallels) for the Vulgate (that's the Latin version of the Bible). So he divided the Vulgate into numbered chapters, and subdivided the verses according to the letters of the alphabet. All the truly born-again Bible believers thought this was so useful that all subsequent editions of the Vulgate, plus all later versions of the Bible used those same chapter divisions.

Then, about two centuries later there was a Jewish Rabbi named Mordecai Nathan. Mordecai wanted to prepare a concordance to enhance the study of the Hebrew Bible. So he

divided the Old Testament into verses that followed Hugo's chapter divisions. So your English Old Testament has Hugo's chapter divisions and Nathan's verse divisions.

But this is where it gets good. Until the middle of the sixteenth century the whole Bible was divided into chapters, but only the Old Testament had verses (and in a Jewish Bible, the content is the same but some books are combined, the books are in a different order, and some few verse divisions are a little bit different, like in Psalms). There was a French printer who published Greek New Testaments named Robert Stephens. As he began publishing Bibles, he adopted Hugo's chapters, took Rabbi Nathan's verses, and added himself numbered verses for the New Testament, and published it in 1551. About fifteen years after that, the English Archbishop Parker published an entire English Bible with all the chapters and verses.

So get the picture. God gave your English Bible in its present format—that means chapter and verse divisions, the postscripts to the epistles and the superscriptions of the Psalms—by using a Catholic Cardinal, a Jewish Rabbi and a Protestant Archbishop. So you can't say God is not ecumenical. This was providential. It is how God operates when he wants to give people with bad hearts an excuse to trip and fall. And I think God is showing us his humor also.

There is another thing that causes your Bible to look the way it does. The Bible was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic (sometimes called Chaldean, Aramean, or Syriac) and Greek. Heber was the last of Seth's line before the tower of Babel. Heber is the one from whom the name, Hebrew, comes. Hebrew probably preserves the original language God gave Adam and Eve, which would make it the oldest known language.

Matthew wrote the gospel to the Jews; James wrote to the twelve tribes scattered abroad; Peter wrote to the Jews of the dispersion, and Paul wrote to the Hebrews. But while any of those books may have either been originally in Aramaic (the language of the Jews under Gentile dominion), or simultaneously written in Aramaic, the only evidence we have of these books is in Greek. So the entire New Testament comes from the common Greek language of the first century known as Koine Greek, to distinguish it from Classical Greek. Why?

1 Cor 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Now we're going to go deep so get your diving bell on. Hebrew is the language of God's heart. The strains of Isaiah, the weeping of Jeremiah, the abruptness of Ezekiel—these are all expressed poetically with Hebrew. Greek is the language of God's mind. It expresses things analytically.

Point 4. The Hebrews required a sign and God gave them his heart in Hebrew, but the Gentiles sought after wisdom so God gave them his mind in Greek.

When God's people went into captivity, Hebrew died. Aramaic is then the language of the Jews when they are out of fellowship with God. There are three books, and only three books in which Aramaic is used, where

ARAMAIC IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- 1) Jer 10:11—the triumphing Gentiles are informed in their own language that their false gods are doomed to complete destruction

- 2) Ezra 4:8-6:18 and 7:12-26—the proud Gentile conquerors are informed in their own language of God’s continuing interest in his people, who are just emerging from captivity
- 3) Dan 2:4-7:28—God informs the reigning Gentile monarch in his own language of the rise and fall of Gentile world dominion

That’s why some of the Old Testament is not in Hebrew. Greek is the common language of the Gentile people and shows them God’s mind. Aramaic (and then Latin in the New Testament) is the language of the reigning imperial power and gives them God’s judgment. Hebrew is the language of the rulers of Israel and shows them God’s heart. That tells you how the Bible looks.

CONCLUSION

You need to have a CSI eye, and there are three things you will have to train in order to be a Christian Scripture Investigator.

CSI CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE INVESTIGATOR

1. Train your heart—by preparing it, Ezra 7:10

What we are trying to get to you through this course is two things: preparation and progress. First, he prepared his heart, which is where you also have to start. We want to impart a shepherd’s heart. Then, his progress came in three degrees.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

HOW TO PROGRESS IN THE BIBLE

- A. Seek it out in the word (“to seek the law”)
- B. Live it out in your life (“and to do it”)
- B. Tell it out in ministry (“and to teach”)

2. Train your mind—by renewing it through bringing every thought captive and casting down your own limited human reasonings, Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 10:5

3. Train your eye—by seeking out and setting in order what you see, Eccl 12:9-10

Ec 12:9-10 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was written was* upright, *even* words of truth.

If you want to progress, then don’t just get this information down regarding manuscript evidence. Go about to seek out the Lord in his word. Then live out the word in your life. And finally you’ll be able to tell it out of a life lived in his word.

Next time we’ll start giving you God’s honest details in the history of the Bible, about exactly how it was originally written and subsequently preserved.

NEXT CLASS

Week	Date	Subject	Hayden	Due
5	Mar 15	A CODEX MOMENT: How the Bible Was Written and Preserved	73-104	Quiz 1

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOK	Date (BC)	HUMAN AUTHOR	Date (BC)	EVENTS	HISTORY
Job	1520	Elihu (32:15-17)	4004	Creation of Adam	Yao & Shun Dynasties (China) Indus Civ. (India)
Genesis	1451	Moses	2349	Flood of Noah	End Egypt Old Kingdom
Exodus	1451	Moses	1921	Call of Abraham	Shang Dynasty, Huan-gho Culture, China
Leviticus	1451	Moses	1728	Betrayal of Joseph	Beginning New Kingdom (Egypt) <i>Book of the Dead</i>
Numbers	1451	Moses	1520	Life of Job	18th Dyn. (Egypt) Chou Dyn (China) Upanishad Rigveda
Deuteronomy	1451	Moses	1491	Exodus of Moses	21st Dyn. (Egypt) Ganges Civilization (India)
Joshua	1420	Joshua (24:26)			
Ruth	1312	Samuel 1 Sam 10:25			
Judges	1096	Samuel (Talmud)	1096	Death of Samson	Vedic Religion
1 Samuel	1056	Samuel & Nathan	1063	David Slays Goliath	Paganism-Greece Pantheism (India)
2 Samuel	1017	Gad (1 Chron 29:29)			
Song of Solomon	1014	Solomon	1004	Solomon Temple	22nd Dyn (Egypt)
Ecclesiastes	977	Solomon	975	Kingdom's Civil War	Rome Founded First Olympics
Jonah	862	Jonah			
Joel	800	Joel			
Amos	787	Amos			
Hosea	725	Hosea	721	Israel into Captivity	Mayan Civilization in Mexico
Nahum	713	Nahum			
Micah	710	Micah			
Proverbs	700	Hezekiah, ed. (25:1)			
Isaiah	698	Isaiah			
Zephaniah	630	Zephaniah			
Habakkuk	626	Habakkuk			
Lamentations	588	Jeremiah	588	Judah into Captivity	70 Years Captivity Confucius Lives Buddha Lives
Obadiah	587	Obadiah			
Ezekiel	571	Ezekiel			
Jeremiah	562	Jeremiah			
1 Kings	562	Jeremiah (Talmud)			
2 Kings	562	Jeremiah	536	Cyrus Says "Return"	Rome Declared a Republic
Daniel	534	Daniel			
Haggai	520	Haggai	519	Darius Says "Rebuild Temple"	Temple of Zeus Built
Zechariah	517	Zechariah			
Esther	495	Mordecai (9:20)			
Ezra	456	Ezra	454	Artaxerxes Says "Rebuild City"	483 Years Daniel's 69 Weeks
1 Chronicles	456	Ezra (Talmud)			
2 Chronicles	456	Ezra			
Psalms	444	Ezra, ed.			
Nehemiah	434	Nehemiah			
Malachi	397	Malachi	4	Birth of Christ	Han Dyn. (China)

**3A WHEN THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN AND BY WHOM
CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

Dates are based on the "received chronology" of Archbishop James Ussher's *Annales Veteris et Novi Testamenti*, published in 1650-54 and adopted by printers of the Authorized Version in 1701. This chronology can be found in the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge and most Scofield Bibles. Human authorship is based on scripture itself or reliable Jewish tradition.

NEW TESTAMENT

BOOK	Date (AD)	HUMAN AUTHOR	Date (AD)	EVENTS	HISTORY
Matthew	37	Matthew	29	Death of Christ	Han Dynasty in China
1 Thessalonians	54	Paul, Silvanus & Timothy	35	Salvation of Paul	Romans Invade Britain
2 Thessalonians	54	Paul, Silvanus & Timothy	41	Salvation of Cornelius	London is Founded
1 Corinthians	59	Paul & Sosthenes	45	Paul's First Missionary Trip	Claudius is Emperor
Romans	60	Paul	53	Second Missionary Trip (Paul & Silas)	Claudius Poisoned by Wife, Succeeded by Nero
2 Corinthians	60	Paul & Timothy	56	Third Missionary Trip	Chinese Emperor Ming-Ti Introduces Buddhism
James	60	James	60	Paul to Jerusalem	Nero Has Mother Killed
1 Peter	60	Peter			
Mark	63	Mark	62	Paul to Rome	Nero Kills Wife to Marry Another
Galatians	64	Paul & all <i>et al</i>			
Ephesians	64	Paul			
Philippians	64	Paul & Timothy			
Colossians	64	Paul & Timothy			
Philemon	64	Paul & Timothy			
Luke	64	Luke			
Hebrews	64	Paul			
Acts	65	Luke	65	Paul is Freed	Nero Orders Seneca to Commit Suicide
1 Timothy	65	Paul			
Titus	65	Paul			
2 Timothy	66	Paul	66	Paul is Arrested	First Persecution of Christians
2 Peter	66	Peter			
Jude	66	Jude	67	Paul is Beheaded	
John	90	John			
1 John	90	John			
2 John	90	John			
3 John	90	John			
Revelation	96	John			