

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church

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PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

6:30 pm



I. Suggested Direction

- A. "Introduction to the Bible"
- B. "What The Bible Says About..."

II. Helpful Class Hints

- A. Please be on time.
- B. This is Bible **"Study,"** not Bible **"Reading."**
- C. Bring a Bible you can write in.
- D. Basic teaching versions used are NIV (New International Version) or NRSV (New Revised Standard Version). Will use other versions as needed for comparison/contrast.
- E. Questions are welcome at any time. No such thing as a stupid question.
- F. Teaching Methodology – highlighting principle vs. literal interpretation. Not just what the Bible **"says,"** but what does it **"mean."**
- G. Use of Extra-biblical resources
- H. Advance reading, homework

"A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text."

III. What You **Should** Know (By Now) About the Bible: A Review of Bible Basics

- A. **ERASE ANY PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE BIBLE!**
- B. Holy Bible = "holy book" (byblio)
- C. Most read and purchased book in the world (150,000 copies purchased per day)
- D. Not one author. Written by more than 30 people.
- E. Not originally written in English.
- F. Written over a period of 1,500 years.
- G. Protestant Bible has 66 books; Catholic Bible has 72 books (Include Apocryphal books).
 - a. 30,442 verses
- H. The Bible has a purpose.

IV. How The Bible Is Put Together

OPEN YOUR BIBLE.



- A. Basic division
 - Old (First) Testament (Covenant, Agreement)
 - New (Second) Testament
- B. Intra-Division Breakdown
 - 1. Old (3) Testament (9)
 - a. Law (Torah, Pentateuch) – 5 books
 - b. History – 12 books
 - c. Wisdom/Poetry – 5 books
 - Information on the Division of the Book of Psalms
 - 1. 5 Divisions
 - Book/Division 1 – Psalm 1-41
 - Book/Division 2 – Psalm 42-72
 - Book/Division 3 – Psalm 73-89
 - Book/Division 4 – Psalm 90-106
 - Book/Division 5 – Psalm 107-150
 - What you should/should not say when reading a Psalm
 - d. Major Prophets – 5 books
 - e. Minor Prophets – 12 books

What's the difference between the Major and the Minor Prophets?

- 2. New Testament
 - a. Gospels – 4 books (“Good News” about Jesus)
 - b. History – 1 book
 - c. Pauline Corpus (Paul’s Letters) – 13 books
 - d. General Letters – 8 books
 - e. Apocalypse – 1 book

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

V. More Biblical Basics

A. Books of the Apocrypha

1. There are several books which comprise “The Apocrypha” (“outside, hidden books”) which are not included in the 66 books of the Protestant canon. Please find the listing of the apocryphal books below.

- Tobit
- Judith
- Esther (the Greek Version Containing Additional Chapters)
 - The Wisdom of Solomon
- Sirach (Also known as Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Jesus)
 - Baruch
 - The Letter of Jeremiah (Baruch ch. 6)
- The Additions to Daniel (The Prayer of Azariah, The Song of the Three Jews, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon)
 - 1st Maccabees
 - 2nd Maccabees
 - 3rd Maccabees
 - 4th Maccabees
 - 1st Esdras
 - 2nd Esdras
 - The Prayer of Manasseh
 - Psalm 151

¹ I was small among my brothers, and the youngest in my father’s house;

I tended my father’s sheep. ² My hands made a harp; my fingers fashioned a lyre.

³ And who will tell my Lord? The Lord himself; it is he who hears. ⁴ It was he who sent his messenger and took me from my father’s sheep, and anointed me with his anointing oil.

⁵ My brothers were handsome and tall, but the Lord was not pleased with them.

⁶ I went out to meet the Philistine, and he cursed me by his idols. ⁷ But I drew his own sword; I beheaded him, and took away disgrace from the people of Israel.

2. Most Protestant Christians do not accept these books as authorized or authoritative Scripture.
3. Translations/Versions of the Bible
 - a. The difference between a translation and a paraphrase.
 - Translation – Start with one language, end up with another.
 - Paraphrase – Starting and staying with the same language, restating the meaning of the text using different words in the same language.

VI. Timeline of Bible Translation History

- **1,400 BC:** The first written Word of God: The Ten Commandments delivered to Moses.
- **500 BC:** Completion of All Original Hebrew Manuscripts which make up The 39 Books of the Old Testament.
- **200 BC:** Completion of the Septuagint Greek Manuscripts which contain The 39 Old Testament Books AND 14 Apocrypha Books.
- **1st Century AD:** Completion of All Original Greek Manuscripts which make up The 27 Books of the New Testament.
- **315 AD:** Athenasius, the Bishop of Alexandria, identifies the 27 books of the New Testament which are today recognized as the canon of scripture.
- **382 AD:** Jerome's Latin Vulgate Manuscripts Produced which contain All 80 Books (39 Old Test. + 14 Apocrypha + 27 New Test).
- **500 AD:** Scriptures have been Translated into Over 500 Languages.
- **600 AD:** LATIN was the Only Language Allowed for Scripture.
- **995 AD:** Anglo-Saxon (Early Roots of English Language) Translations of The New Testament Produced.
- **1384 AD:** Wycliffe is the First Person to Produce a (Hand-Written) manuscript Copy of the Complete Bible; All 80 Books.
- **1455 AD:** Gutenberg Invents the Printing Press; Books May Now be mass-Produced Instead of Individually Hand-Written. The First Book Ever Printed is Gutenberg's Bible in Latin.
- **1516 AD:** Erasmus Produces a Greek/Latin Parallel New Testament.
- **1522 AD:** Martin Luther's German New Testament.
- **1526 AD:** William Tyndale's New Testament; The First New Testament printed in the English Language.
- **1535 AD:** Myles Coverdale's Bible; The First Complete Bible printed in the English Language (80 Books: O.T. & N.T. & Apocrypha).
- **1537 AD:** Tyndale-Matthews Bible; The Second Complete Bible printed in English. Done by John "Thomas Matthew" Rogers (80 Books).
- **1539 AD:** The "Great Bible" Printed; The First English Language Bible Authorized for Public Use (80 Books).
- **1560 AD:** The Geneva Bible Printed; The First English Language Bible to add Numbered Verses to Each Chapter (80 Books).
- **1568 AD:** The Bishops Bible Printed; The Bible of which the King James was a Revision (80 Books).
- **1609 AD:** The Douay Old Testament is added to the Rheims New Testament (of 1582) Making the First Complete English Catholic Bible; Translated from the Latin Vulgate (80 Books).
- **1611 AD:** The King James Bible Printed; Originally with All 80 Books. The Apocrypha was Officially Removed in 1885 Leaving Only 66 Books.
- **1782 AD:** Robert Aitken's Bible; The First English Language Bible (KJV) Printed in America.

- **1791 AD:** Isaac Collins and Isaiah Thomas Respectively Produced the First Family Bible and First Illustrated Bible Printed in America. Both were King James Versions, with All 80 Books.
- **1808 AD:** Jane Aitken's Bible (Daughter of Robert Aitken); The First Bible to be Printed by a Woman.
- **1833 AD:** Noah Webster's Bible; After Producing his Famous Dictionary, Webster Printed his Own Revision of the King James Bible.
- **1841 AD:** English Hexapla New Testament; an Early Textual Comparison showing the Greek and 6 Famous English Translations in Parallel Columns.
- **1846 AD:** The Illuminated Bible; The Most Lavishly Illustrated Bible printed in America. A King James Version, with All 80 Books.
- **1885 AD:** The "English Revised Version" Bible; The First Major English Revision of the KJV.
- **1901 AD:** The "American Standard Version"; The First Major American Revision of the KJV.
- **1971 AD:** The "New American Standard Bible" (NASB) is Published as a "Modern and Accurate Word for Word English Translation" of the Bible.
- **1973, 2011 AD:** The "New International Version" (NIV) is Published as a "Modern and Accurate Phrase for Phrase English Translation" of the Bible.
- **1982 AD:** The "New King James Version" (NKJV) is Published as a "Modern English Version Maintaining the Original Style of the King James."
- **2002 AD:** The English Standard Version (ESV) is Published as a translation to bridge the gap between the accuracy of the NASB and the readability of the NIV.
- **2002 AD:** The Message Version (MSG) is a contemporary language paraphrase designed to express a personal message to readers. It is not designed to replace more literal translations but to aid new believers and others who may need more modern language to enhance their understanding.

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- **1950 AD:** The New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness Bible) should not be used. It is a sectarian paraphrase.

THERE ARE OVER 50 DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH!

VII. The Basic Structure of a Pauline Letter

- **Salutation** – usually indicated who is writing the letter (Paul), and who the letter is addressed to.
- **Thanksgiving & Prayer** – Paul usually expresses his thanks to God for various things and offers an initial prayer for the church. In cases where what he needs to address is urgent and imminent, there is no thanksgiving.
- **Body** – In the body of the letter, Paul addresses the issues which caused him to write the letter. Many times, he is responding to requests for his opinions or perspectives.

