

Bethel Bible Series

The Word of God

Study 3A

Scripture does not condone everything it records. It simply records it, and it is scandalous. PK

Welcome

Introductions - What is your favorite Bible verse and why?
Memory Review = Recite OT books / Throw out concepts
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Weeks

Genesis 1 - Creation and its Concepts = Have someone present

Hands lifting the earth out of hazy mist = God created the heavens and the earth

Halo of white light circling the earth = God created all things good

Fingers opened on the right hand = God relinquished the earth to humankind as a gift

White links attached to the arms and globe = God binds Himself to His creation

Lettered banner flying on the earth = God claims ownership of all that He's fashioned

Figure grasping staff = Humankind, too, is owned by God

Banner furling around figure = Man has freedom within limits

Halo of light behind figures' heads = Mankind was fashioned in the image and likeness of God

Figures holding crowns = Man is the crown of God's creation

Four jewels in crowns = Man has been given four basic responsibilities toward the earth:

Jewel 1 = To replenish the earth (Multiply)

Jewel 2 = To subdue the earth (Make Use)

Jewel 3 = To dress, till and keep the earth (Take Care)

Jewel 4 = To have dominion over the earth (Take Charge)

Genesis 2 - Divine Intentions = Have someone present

Garden = Paradise

Note banner extended from heavens = God wanted Perfect Harmony for His creation

Four mountain peaks = God intended a four-fold harmony for man

Raised arms of figures = Harmony with God

Banner enfolding figures = Harmony with self – also joyful countenance and posture

Clasped arms of figures = Harmony with others

Banner flowing through peaceful lake scene = Harmony with nature

Figures with faces lifted upward = Harmony is contingent upon obedience with God

Halos behind figures' heads = Made in God's image, man was able to perfectly obey God's will

Genesis 3 - Disharmony = Ask class

Broken Note = God's Divine Intention of Perfect Harmony is mutilated

Figure facing away from outstretched hand = Disobedience leads to disharmony

Outstretched arms of central figure = Man revolts against God and "limited freedom"

Space between figure and outstretched hand = Revolt brings separation from God

Painful countenance on figure's face = Disharmony with God

Broken note piercing side = Disharmony with self

Broken note striking other figure = Disharmony with others

Broken note penetrating earth = Disharmony with nature

Cracked earth and parched ground = Disharmony with nature leads to misuse of creation

Yoke-like appearance of broken note = Sin leaves burden of guilt and "sense of guilt"

Large hand in beckoning position = God didn't abandon sinful man, He gave a promise

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Lesson

What We Believe (*Acts 4:12*)

Does it matter what we believe?

Acts 4:12 = There is no other name ... by which we must be saved

What does it mean to be saved, and what is this name by which we must be saved?

John 17:3 = We are saved from eternal death into eternal life by knowing Jesus

Is thinking about God enough to know Him and be saved? = Speaking to educated Sadducees

Matthew 22:29 = No, we need to know the Scriptures and God's power or we will be in error

The Bible for Everyday Life (*2 Timothy 3:16*)

How can studying the Bible help us know God and Jesus enough to receive the life He offers?

John 20:31 = The Bible is written so we may believe in Jesus and have life in His name

Can the Bible also help us in our daily lives?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 = Useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, training, equipping

Other than growth, what promise does God give to those who study His word?

Luke 11:28 = God will bless those who hear His Word and follow it

Law and Gospel (*Romans 3:21-24*)

What two paths towards salvation are revealed in the Bible?

Romans 3:21-24 = God's Law (all fall short) and Gospel (justified freely)

How easy is it for us to be saved by following the path of God's Law?

*Galatians 3:10-12 = Impossible for us: *All who rely on observing the Law are under a curse**

How easy is it for us to be saved by following the path of God's Grace?

Galatians 3:13-14 = Simple, because Jesus did it for us, we just receive the blessing by faith

Is God's Law only found in the Old Testament?

Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22a = No, it is found throughout the Bible

Is God's Gospel ("Good News") found only in the New Testament? = last week's lesson:

Genesis 3:15 = God announced His plan of salvation immediately after man first sinned

What is God's Word? (*John 1*) = Write the various manifestations of the Word on the board

How long has God's Word been around? = The Divine Word

*John 1:1-3 = Even before the beginning - *through Him all things were made**

Why does John refer to the Word as "him"? = The Human Word

*John 1:14 = Jesus is the Word - *The Word became flesh and dwelt...**

How were all things made through the Word? = The Spoken Word

Genesis 1:3 = God created everything simply by speaking His word

How did the Word become flesh? = The Written Word

Luke 24:27 = The Scriptures point to Christ, from Genesis to Revelation

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The Bible

Not one book, but a book of books (66) = 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament

biblion = Greek for book

Canon = Means cane, or measuring rod

List of books recognized as the genuine, original inspired, authoritative Word of God

What did Peter explain to be the source of the books in the Bible?

2 Peter 1:20-21 = *Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*

How did Paul, the author of nearly half of the New Testament books, feel about the message he gave?

Galatians 1:11-12 = He received it by revelation from Jesus Christ

How seriously should we consider the words in the Bible to be the exact Words of God?

Galatians 1:8 = Anyone who tries to change it should be eternally condemned

The Old Testament

Testament: A covenant or agreement between two parties = especially between God and His people

Implies a strong relationship between the two

What was God's old testament?

Leviticus 26:3, 9, 12 = If you keep My Law, I will protect and bless you

What is the focus of the Old Testament books of the Bible?

Genesis 28:13-15 = God's revelation of Himself and His love through a people chosen by grace

Current Old Testament canon selected soon after return from Babylon, around the time of Ezra

Books organized mostly chronologically within 5 categories (39 books): = See page 5

The Law (Torah) - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings,
1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,
Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

What is the difference between a Major Prophet and a Minor Prophet? = The size of his book

The New Testament

What was God's new testament?

Hebrews 9:15 = We simply just receive the promised eternal inheritance won by Jesus

Is this new covenant still restricted to the children of Abraham?

Galatians 3:6-9, 14, 29 = Yes, but now to Abraham's children by faith, not by blood

What is the focus of the New Testament books of the Bible?

Ephesians 3:4-6 = God's revelation of Himself and His love to a people chosen by grace

Current New Testament canon selected in 397 AD at the Council of Carthage

Were any of our New Testament books regarded as Scripture before this time?

2 Peter 3:15-16 = Peter saw Paul's writings as Scriptural; Matthew & Luke drew from Mark

Books organized thematically within 5 categories (27 books): = See page 6

Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

History - Acts

Letters of Paul - Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians,
Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians,
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Letters of Others - Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude

Apocalypse - Revelation

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha = See page 7

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Versions

Old Testament originally written in Hebrew

New Testament originally written in Greek

Translation = A rendering of the original text into another language

Paraphrase = A careful restatement of the authors thoughts

See comparison of Psalm 23 = Page 8

Literal Bible Versions

Translations aim at word-for-word accuracy

Useful for careful word-by-word study

Septuagint (Old Testament Hebrew translated into Greek) - 285-132 BC

Vulgate (Bible translated into Latin by Jerome) - 405 AD

German Bible (Translated by Martin Luther) - 1522-1534

King James Version (KJV, Authorized) - 1611

Revised Standard Version (RSV) - 1952

New American Standard (NASB) - 1960

Dynamic Bible Versions

Translations aimed at dynamic equivalency (phrase-by-phrase)

Easier to read than literal, Useful for serious study

New International Version (NIV) - 1978

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) - 1989

Paraphrases

Sentences and verses rewritten to maximize readability in today's language

Especially helpful for first-time and casual Bible readers

The Living Bible (TLB) - 1971

Today's English Version (Good News) - 1976

The Message - 2002

How To Take Advantage of God's Word

How should we begin to study the Bible?

Colossians 1:9 = Pray that God will fill you with knowledge, wisdom and understanding

How can praying help us better understand the deep truths of the Bible?

John 14:26 = He will send the Holy Spirit who will teach you all things

But what if what we read is too difficult to understand?

Hebrews 5:11-14 = Keep studying and you will grow to where you can handle the solid food

What are three main ways we are to study the Bible?

Acts 17:2-3 = Learn from teachers gifted by the Spirit (large-group study)

Acts 17:11 = Search the Scriptures regularly with others (small group study)

2 Timothy 3:14-15 = Continue on your own (personal study)

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out InDepth Assignment, No Standard Assignment, No Bethel material for either

Homework - Read Genesis 4-11 and bring your questions to class

Question: What Disharmonies are represented by the sins in Genesis 3, 4, 6 and 11?

Next Week - *Pronouncement of a Destiny*

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Books of the Old Testament

The Law - Torah (Hebrew for “law” or “teaching”), Pentateuch (Greek for “five volumes”)

- Genesis** - Beginnings of God’s People
- Exodus** - Birth of God’s Chosen Nation
- Leviticus** - Instructions for Living as God’s Holy People
- Numbers** - Israel’s Journey to the Promised Land
- Deuteronomy** - Moses Reminds Israel of Her Calling

History - Stories of the Jews before Christ

- Joshua** - Israel Enters, Conquers and Settles the Promised Land
- Judges** - Israel’s Early Years as a Confederacy
- Ruth** - Story of God’s Love and Care to Ancestor of David and Jesus
- 1 Samuel** - God Gives Israel a King - Saul
- 2 Samuel** - Israel’s Second and Most Faithful King - David
- 1 Kings** - Israel Under Solomon and Divided into Two Kingdoms
- 2 Kings** - Kings and Fall of Israel and Judah
- 1 Chronicles** - Chronicle of the Reign of King David
- 2 Chronicles** - Chronicle of the Reigns of Solomon and Kings of Judah
- Ezra** - Jews Return from Exile and Commit to God
- Nehemiah** - Jews Rebuild Jerusalem and Rebuild Holy Nation
- Esther** - Story of God’s Protection of His People

Poetry

- Job** - Faithful Jew Tries to Understand God’s Will Through Suffering
- Psalms** - Hymns, Poems and Prayers of Israel
- Proverbs** - Words of Wisdom from Solomon and Other Wise Israelites
- Ecclesiastes** - Solomon’s Thoughts on the Vanity of Earthly Life
- Song of Solomon** - Love Songs Symbolizing God’s Relationship With His People

Major Prophets - Pointed Israel Back to God, Warned of Judgment, Promised Hope

- Isaiah** - Prophet to King Hezekiah, Foretold of the Messiah
- Jeremiah** - Prophet to Southern Kingdom of Judah During its Last Days
- Lamentations** - Songs of Mourning by Jeremiah Over Exile of Judah
- Ezekiel** - Prophet of Judgment and Hope to Jews During Exile in Babylon
- Daniel** - Prophet of God’s Plans to Jews During Exile in Babylon

Minor Prophets - “Minor” Because Books are Smaller

- Hosea** - Prophet to Northern Kingdom of Israel During its Last Days
- Joel** - Prophet to Judah Compares Famine to the Day of the Lord’s Judgment
- Amos** - Prophet of Judgment Against Social Injustice
- Obadiah** - Prophet of Judgment Against Judah’s Neighbor Edom
- Jonah** - Story of Unwilling Prophet to Assyrian Capital, Ninevah
- Micah** - Prophet Against Social, Political and Religious Evils
- Nahum** - Prophet Foretells destruction of Ninevah
- Habakkuk** - Prophet Questions God’s Purpose in Imminent Babylonian Conquest of Judah
- Zephaniah** - Prophet Proclaims God’s Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem For Evils
- Haggai** - Prophet Reprimands Jews to Return to Rebuilding the Temple
- Zechariah** - Prophet Calls Jews to Rebuild Temple and Reveals God’s Future Plans
- Malachi** - Prophet Calls Jews to Commitment and Obedience While Awaiting the Messiah

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Books of the New Testament

Gospels - "Good News" of Jesus, the Christ (Messiah)

Matthew - Story of Jesus as the Promised Messiah, Directed to Jews

Mark - Story of Jesus as the Active Son of God, Directed to Romans

Luke - Story of Jesus as the Perfect Son of Man, Focuses on Jesus' Humanity

John - Story of Jesus as the Full Son of God, Focuses on Jesus' Divinity

History - Story of God's New Covenant People

Acts - Formation and Expansion of the Christian Church

Letters by Paul

Romans - Explanation of Christianity, Saving Righteousness Comes Through Faith

1 Corinthians - Exhortations Against Disorders Within the Church

2 Corinthians - Reconciliation Between Christians and With God

Galatians - Christians Are to Live By Grace, Not By Law

Ephesians - Live As Members of Christ's Body, the Church

Philippians - Be Joyful and Thankful in all Circumstances

Colossians - Salvation is in Christ and in Christ Alone

1 Thessalonians - Remain Steadfast While Awaiting Christ's Return

2 Thessalonians - Misconceptions of Christ's Second Coming Corrected

1 Timothy - Advice for Pastor of Christian Congregation

2 Timothy - Persevere in Faith Despite Persecution and Godlessness in the World

Titus - Guidance to Pastor in Handling Opposition

Philemon - Forgiveness and Acceptance of Runaway Slave as Fellow Christian

Letters by Others

Hebrews - Christ Supersedes All Things of God's Old Covenant

James - True Faith is Evident in its Resultant Good Works

1 Peter - Encouragement to Stay on the Narrow Road Despite Persecution

2 Peter - Condemnation of False Teachings Within the Church

1 John - Avoid False Teachings and Live Out God's Love For Others

2 John - Avoid False Teachers and Obey God's Commands

3 John - Hospitality Commended in Face of Opposition From Church Leader

Jude - Defending the Faith Against False Teachers

Apocalypse - Highly Symbolic Writings that Describe Future Times

Revelation - Visions of Heaven and the Last Days Given to John

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Books of the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Religious writings not accepted as divinely inspired (not in *canon*)

Old Testament canon defined by rabbis at Jamnia in 90 AD

Produced and circulated during period of 200 BC - 100 AD

Contain various historical references and stories

Recommended by Jerome and Luther for ethical but not doctrinal teaching

Many apocryphal New Testament writings also exist, such as:

Gospel of the Infancy, Gospel of Thomas, ... Nicodemus, ... Bartholomew

Acts of John, ... Paul, ... Peter, ... Andrew, ... Philip, ... Thomas

Apocrypha - Greek for *hidden things*

Contain ideas that disagree with Protestant doctrine

Purgatory, masses for the dead, good works earn merit with God

Roman Catholics accept 12 of these 15 books as *Deuterocanonical* = *Second canon*

Accepted at *Council of Trent* in 1546 in response to reformers

Eastern Orthodox accept all but 2 Esdras as canonical

1 & 2 Esdras

Tobit

Judith

Additions To Esther

Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus

Baruch

Letter of Jeremiah

Song of the Three Young Men

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

Prayer of Manasseh

1 & 2 Maccabees

Pseudepigrapha - Greek for *false authorship*

Falsely claimed to be written by a well-known ancient figure

Given even less credence than apocrypha

Called Apocrypha by Roman Catholics

Eastern Orthodox accept 3 & 4 Maccabees as canonical

Enoch

Psalms of Solomon

Books of Adam and Eve

Martyrdom of Isaiah

Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs

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King James Version

(A Psalm of David.)

23 THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5 Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Revised Standard Version

A psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
2 he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.
5 Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Living Bible

23 Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need!
2,3 He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the
quiet streams. He gives me new strength. He helps me do what
honors him the most.
4 Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not
be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the
way.
5 You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my
enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings
overflow!
6 Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of
my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your
home.

New International Version

A psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

New Revised Standard Version

A psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
2 he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff –
they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

The Message

A David Psalm

23 God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
2 You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
3 True to your word, you let me catch my breath,
And send me in the right direction.
4 Even when the way goes through Death Valley,
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.
5 You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.
6 Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.