

EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

A Great Commission Ministry: Evangelism and Discipleship--Matthew 28:18-20

Dr. Bob Utley - 903.935.2532 - 800.785.1005 - PO Box 1289, Marshall, TX 75671



"It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness by night..."

Psalm 92:1-2



"But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11



## UTLEY FAMILY UPDATE



We want to wish all of you a wonderful time during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We know that this is just a special time to express our thanks to Jesus for all He has done for us, but we should be expressing this every day! Pray for those who do not know our Lord and who are having times of trials. The holidays can be especially difficult for them. May the Lord use these times to bring them to Himself.

Our daughter, Michelle, is now working in our office three days a week. She is enjoying her stress-free life from teaching and the two days off to taxi her daughters around!!!

We are preparing her to take over some of Peggy's duties so that in the future she can keep the ministry on an even keel! It is a joy for us to have more time to spend with her. She is a ray of sunshine!!!

The Lord continues to bless our family in every way. We know that we do not deserve His favor but we are so grateful for His mercy and grace.

We wanted to share a picture of our family in our younger years. It was taken in 1982 while we were on vacation in New Mexico. Please notice how happy the children were to stop playing and have their picture taken!!! Michelle is 11, Jason 9, and Jeremy 5. Bob and Peggy were 35!



# BOB'S REPORT

Well, I have several things to share with you. We prepare the Christmas newsletter in late summer, so it seems funny in 100 degree heat to think about the holidays!

God has opened some wonderful doors for the ministry:

Logos Bible Software has included all of my NT commentaries in their Scholar Library, Lender Library and Software #4. They have agreed to include my OT commentaries and the revised NT ones when I finish them.

Bible.org, which has produced and released the NET Bible, has also agreed to include our NT and OT commentaries on their website.

We had 25,000 CD-ROM/DVDs produced in July and in September we had to reorder! We are mailing hundreds overseas and in the USA

every week. I hope you will take the time and read the emails and letters we get from people who have received the Bible commentaries in 27 languages plus the Bible Interpretation Seminar videos. I just ordered 30,000 more CD-ROM/DVDs today!

The newest language additions are Bulgarian, Pashto (Afghanistan) and Armenian. Several more Indian languages are in the process of being translated. A church in central Texas gave BLI a check for \$10,000 to help with the Pashto translation. Therefore, we were able to contract not only for Romans (which is online), but also Mark, I & II Peter, Galatians/Thessalonians and Hebrews. There are only a few Christian churches in Afghanistan, but there are many house churches! It seems God has opened

the door for us to reach Hindus and Muslims. These are exciting days of Great Commission opportunities!

I feel so strongly about providing evangelism and discipleship material for Hindu and Muslim countries. I have already contracted to produce translations of Mark/I & II Peter, Galatians/Thessalonians and Hebrews in both Hindi and Arabic. These will be added to the other volumes already available online in these languages.

The College of Biblical Studies in Houston agreed to give the CD-ROM/DVD to all its students and also put them on their display table at conferences. We just mailed them the first 1,000!

Only God knows what the next door will be...!!!

## MISSION TRIP

Please pray for me as I go to Brazil Jan. 7-17th to teach OT survey to pastors in the Amazon. The leaders there are trying to train the pastors in their own part of Brazil so that they will stay there and not go to the "big city"!

## PRINTING PROJECTS

Urdu is the main language of Pakistan and parts of India. We now have 9 volumes translated into that language. However, most pastors in Pakistan do not have computer access, so they asked me to have the commentaries printed and bound. This will cost about \$5,000. This will be the first project of this kind that we have tried.

## COPYING PROJECTS

We ordered 25,000 of our new CD-ROM/DVD in July. We have distributed all but 3,000 of them so have ordered again! Hallelujah! The next 30,000 will include the new languages, Bulgarian, Armenian and Pashto plus the newest translated commentaries received weekly (from our translators)!

We are also going to help a translator in India (Thadou language), make copies of the CD-ROM/DVD to distribute to pastors in that region. Printed material is very limited in the Thadou language. Our ministry tries to target languages that are not published because there are so few speakers/readers. We want to provide a biblical resource to these language groups. Please pray for us!



# IMPACTING THE WORLD

*(These letters are printed just as we receive them. We always enjoy these letters and hope that they will give you a glimpse of how all of us together are making an impact on parts of God's world. We cannot print them all because there are too many. Please pray for these people as they serve the Lord.)*

Shalom Dr. Bob,

I browsed around in your commentary and I will use it personally. May I put it on my website in the header menu as Bible Commentary and use your comment copy and the page [www.freebiblecommentary.org/index.htm](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/index.htm). If you approve, would you send me a photo jpeg or gif you would like me to use.

*Bill Bremer*

[www.housechurchconnections.com](http://www.housechurchconnections.com)

Dr. Utley,

Thank you for the commentaries. I've been utilizing it myself and also giving them away to pastors and ministers. I also anticipate using them in some of our overseas ministries that are planting churches. I sure love you and your ministry.

**“We do NOT know who we touch, but God does.”**

*Mark*

*Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, TX*

Dear brothers and sisters

I just watched the first video of Dr. Bob Utley and I want for him to know what God did through him. It is important for him to know that God used people to touch other people. We do NOT know who we touch, but God does. We are only simple little servants in our own little world telling and sharing with the lambs and sheep the word of God. We never know who has been impacted by what we said. I want for Dr. Utley to know that I professor jerry mikulski, a missionary

pastor serving God in Xiamen China, has viewed his first video and that all he said in it is so true. What he said made me cry. What he said I wish all the “Mega Church pastors” would listen to and be humbled. What he said is what I've been sharing with the christian churches here in China. What he said is that it is NOT “I” but God who teaches us through the Holy Spirit the true meaning of God's Word. It is NOT religiosity, Methodist, Episcopallitan, Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, or whatever, it is GOD speaking to our hearts. God is NOT denominational. Please tell brother Utley that I love his heart. I cried when I felt his

compassion and his empathy for the people in the room. Tell him to be strong. It is NOT his words to make people “feel good” or to “entertain” them, but to give them the true honest core words of truth from the author – GOD!! Tell him I en-

courage him to be strong in his belief and NOT to move because of humanism.

I thank God for that video because it gave me the strength to carry on knowing that what God sent me here to China is sound.

*Brother Jerry*

*servicing God in Xiamen China*

Dear Brother Utley,

Greetings in the most powerful and potent name of Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come! It's me again, David from the Goree Unit in Huntsville, Tx. Yes, I'm the prisoner who called you concerning the set of commentaries you are donat-

ing. It will be a huge blessing to the Faith Based dorm I live in here. We will have access to the commentaries 24 hours a day as we study God's Holy Word. Isn't God good? Wonderful even! He even loves an old career criminal like me. You see Dr. Utley I came into contact with the Living God the Creator Jesus Christ my fourth time to prison. By that time I'd served 19 years and society and my friends and family had given up on me as a lost cause.

To make a very long testimony short God came into a Texas prison to visit my heart. He spoke to me through his word, his spirit and a dictionary. He took the hate out of me and put love that cannot be contained by this body, it overflows and spills on other people. God saved me from the pit, a chief among sinners for real. He cleansed my lips and put my feet upon solid ground.

Why would the Creator of everything do this with a discarded, hated, despised, foolish, rejected thief like me? To show people nothing is impossible for Him and His saving grace!

Enough about me sir. I just want you to know how important your ministry is. Jesus is using you and my brother I say well done and thank you! Take care and may God go before you and make the crooked places strait, and give you hidden riches of secret places!

*Love your brother in Christ,*

*David*

Dear Dr. Utley,

Thank you for your email offering these free Bible study materials. I have posted your email on our internal electronic bulletin board here at Bible League International.

Thanks for your service to the Lord and others.

*Holly, Bible League*

Greetings Dr. Bob,

It is very great to see your commentaries in a CD. We have got them by Paul, your translator. He has given 25 of them. Is it possible to get them in printing form or DVD so we can keep in our church library? It is a great help in evening bible classes. If you visit India, please visit us.

*Thanking you,  
Pr. Krishna, India*

Dear Dr. Utley,

Thank you for the ministry that you are doing to distribute God's Word! We are excited in building a great working relationship in the near future. I am pleased to inform you that both our Dean of Students and our department chair for Biblical Studies have approved the distribution of your commentaries at the College of Biblical Studies-Houston. Please let me know how many commentaries you can send to us and how soon you can send them.

*Blessings,  
Natanael Estrada, Student Recruiter*

Hi Bob,

I wanted to let you know I received the box of your commentaries and am very grateful for them. I have been in meetings with our Executive Board this week and have given a copy to each of our committee men and others as well. I will be seeing other leaders in coming days and weeks and will continue to get them out. Thank you for your excellent work in preparing these commentaries and your willingness to share them with others. I do a bit of writing for our Mission leadership and for my own Bible study, but I can only imagine the amount of work involved in such a huge undertaking as your Bible Study Library, but want you to know your

efforts are being a blessing to others, and I know will continue to be in the future.

*Chet, New Tribes Mission*

Dear in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus. I am pleased to inform you that my name is Shamon Masih the President and Chairman of "The Great Commission Ministries Quetta Pakistan". I am an evangelist I live in Balochistan the Province of Pakistan and in the city of Quetta, Balochistan. With the reference to your website, I came to know about Bible Lessons International and its courteous purpose that really touch me heart and I got a great way to study the Bible. Thank you very much for the CD which you have sent me. That is really tremendous I am very happy that you are serving the Lord in such a remarkable and precious way that is to give the Bible Lessons free. Dear brother, as you have said that "we are sending you one copy of the CD-ROM but you may make as many copied as you want to give away". Thank you for this permission and we are going to make 50 copies of this CD which you have given us. GCM want to use your Bible material in Christian Ministries, for their spiritual growth and want to give you report, pictures. Will you kindly send us video, audio and written material in Urdu and English language for Missionary, Pastor, Sunday School teachers? We are extremely waiting for the answer and material. We feel sure that this is only the beginning of a long, pleasant and sincere relationship! Many thanks for you and your esteemed organization for doing that work which needs to be done for Christ in present age.

*Evg. Shamon Masih  
The Great Commission Ministries  
Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan*

Dear Sir,

## FREE BIBLE STUDIES

We have tried to stay on the cutting edge of technology. Currently, we are attempting to produce "apps" for ipods. This seems to be the way many young people are carrying their Bibles to church. We are working with OliveTree.org to get the ball rolling!

We have a limited number of our Bible studies we would like to give away. They are available in several formats:

- 1) Audio cassettes
- 2) VHS
- 3) CD's
- 4) DVD's

Please email us your name and address and which format and Bible study you prefer. We will do our best to send what you requested, although we don't have many complete sets in every format. We will continue to give these away until they are gone! Please email us today!

I am a chaplain working with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board, based in the Banson Baptist Hospital. I have three bible study groups in the hospital and the problem is material. So I came across some information about you and your email address. I really need your support with Bible study materials and if possible some Bibles, because some of the students don't have Bibles. Thanks for making this known right to me here in Cameroon.

*Pastor Chia Joseph Ngew,  
Cameroon Baptist Convention  
West Africa*

I salute you in the name of our lord Jesus Christ. I received from you a Bible commentary CD. And we have been

blessed with this gift and we have already produced as many copies from your permission and distributed to East and Central Africa which use English and French as their national language.

*Bishop Gatitu Macharia (Dmin)  
Kenya, East Africa*

Dear Dr. Bob,

Recently I started listening to your bible studies and watching your video sermons and the more I listen and watch the more my heart sings. I just think you are a marvelous preacher and I wish I could hear this kind of preaching in my own country. Unfortunately I'm surrounded by extremely liberal and/or charismatic churches which are not able to feed me and my family spiritually. The best you can get over here is a handful of very small conservative Lutheran churches, but these are so stuck in their own set of doctrine that they don't accept any other views on any matter. Therefore, people who do not share their views on all points will always be outsiders and not accepted in their community. I've been searching for like-minded Christians who believe like you preach but unfortunately I haven't been able to locate any here. In your sermons you mention American "Christianity" a lot, but I can assure you this type of "Christianity" is even worse over here. In your country there are at least some serious churches in the midst of a jungle of false Christianity, but here they hardly even exist. It's very sad. However, the Lord did not leave us alone in a spiritual

desert. Through the internet he opened new doors and gave us new opportunities, and I'm very grateful I found your website!

*Maria in Sweden*

Sir,

It is difficult to understand the verse of the Bible. So please send me a printed 1 commentary. I am a Nepali man and cannot read in internet because we cannot sit in the net for very long time. And we have a low income. So it is difficult. But I want to know more about Jesus and the verse of the bible. Please I request you for one commentary. Please send for me. I am waiting your positive response.

*By, Rajendra Lamsal, Nepal*

#### DR BOB UTLEY PROFESSOR OF HERMENEUTICS

My wife and I teach people seeking freedom in Jesus Christ from addictive lifestyles and thinking. Today I discovered you and your writing. Thank you Sir.

Psalms 127:1 Unless the LORD builds

a house, the work of the builders is useless.

*Ken & Linda*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

I am glad to read your response. I am very grateful to you that you are sending cd's of computer bible commentaries. We live in Muslim

country so our national language is Urdu. People understand the Urdu language. It

will be good to us, if you will send to us "computer bible commentary"

*in Urdu language.*

*Miss Mafia Arooj, Pakistan*

Dr. Utley,

I would like to share your seminar material with my church here in Reno, NV. How would you prefer to see this happen?

Have you come and present the information yourself (assuming my pastor is agreeable)?

Simply download and replay your video seminar sessions during a class period?

Make copies of your textbook and notebook and read it verbatim?

I have found your input extremely valuable toward my personal study and would love to share it with some of the more mature believers in my congregation. Many of the little tips (comparing word order and translations between ESV/NASB and YLT or NIV) were huge for me since I have not attended a seminary – and most likely will not due to the cost of it. Many years ago I attended an inductive Bible study class at Calvary Chapel here in town and while it was intellectually engaging I found your presentation of the subject matter more thorough, more engaging and more practical. Thank you for following your calling and using your gifts in this area to exhort and encourage us fellow believers worldwide!

For whatever it is worth, I think this word of encouragement is for you:

The Lord has seen your faithfulness to use and share those things He has given you. The Lord is pleased with your efforts and knows that you agonize over how you present the materials and how the message is being received by those who hear/read your work. God will make sure that He does what He can to ensure that the information is received in the clay

“In your country there are at least some serious churches in the midst of a jungle of false Christianity, but here they hardly even exist.”



vessels (hearers/readers) as best as the individual men and women permit Him to touch their hearts and minds. The brokenness of your heart pleases Him and reveals a sensitive spirit and a humble servant. Well done! Now put all of your heart and mind (worries? Health issues?) at rest...rest in Him. I hope and pray this means something to you and encourage you as you read it.

Thank you for encouraging me in a dark and wandering time.

*Tom*

Hello my name is William and I was interested in purchasing the Bible lessons on DVD. I watch them on the computer everyday and wanted to get the DVDs for my father who doesn't really know how to work the computer. I cannot stress enough how much your Ministry has helped me in my growth as a Christian. Thank you for taking the time out years ago to teach the Bible free of charge as well as being smart enough to realize how big the internet was going to be and how it is a great median to do so.

*William*

Dear Pastor,

We have Bible Studies Groups in Malawi prisons and we are glad to inform you that we are using your Bible Commentaries for daily teachings. Therefore a number of inmates request to see you.

*Mikuyu, Simwela  
Malawi*

Hello Bob, or Rev. Utley, as you prefer---

Tonight I stumbled upon your website, somewhat by accident, through the Internet. I requested your CD and left a minor

comment there, but I wanted to say more after ambling through your website and stopping at some of the oases therein.

My name is Betty. I am your age with a liberal arts degree and have a background in comparative religion and languages. The Bible is one of the greatest heritages we have. My own background draws strongly from both Judaism and Christianity, so my own views will always be somewhat different from yours. Mine have, nonetheless, kept me committed to seeking enlightened knowledge, wisdom and understanding, spiritual attunement, and awareness of the best way to live and serve others.

When I first read a mention about your website, I got really excited, for it said--"hermeneutics"!!--which to my mind translates as: love for all the myriad tiny little signposts that point the way toward the truth. Actual study of the actual Bible!

John Adams wrote that, "as a man of the world speaking to other men of the world, the Bible was one of the most fundamentally important books to continually study, to read and reread, constantly reread..." As to your website, you stated with such clarity what your own perspective is, give straightforward information in succinct detail with references, while providing real guidance to important questions. Wonderful! Thank you!

*Betty*

Dear Bob, great stuff and I have many who can make use of it. We empower nationals to do

their own mission work and build missionary training centres for local people to reach their own. The Pharsi will be used in Afghanistan, Urdu in Pakistan.

*Ron, [www.worldinneed.co.uk](http://www.worldinneed.co.uk)*

Hello Pastor,

Sorry for the delay in an answer... have been on the road. Always like traveling with Dale, he always has lots of your videos downloaded for listening. I am in New Tribes and work as Director of Communications and Media. I'm trying to figure out the best way to let our folks know about your commentaries. Mailing to 1400 people around the world with international postage would probably not work. One possibility would be for us to send an email and or put an article on our members site and let people know of your offer. Then they could send an email with their shipping address. At least we would only mail to those who want them. Many use the Logos software and we can let them know your concordance is available for their Bible software. Will the people who do the Net Bible have the concordances where they can be downloaded? That might be another way.

Just let me know how I can help...

*Macon, New Tribes Mission*

I listen to your material often and have been able to tighten up my walk lately because God just won't leave me alone, (always parading up and down my conscience) ha,ha. But I just want to thank you for your tools because they really work great on me.

*Joseph (Facebook)*

Hello my name is Jason and I have found your material so helpful over the months, I'm helping an online seminary called Samuel Zwemer Theological Seminary in England as the dean I'm developing some courses one is how to understand the bible. Could I put your video on Guide to good Bible reading on our YouTube channel? Our seminary is sound evangelical, we provide free theological education for the poor we do not charge a penny. I think your understand-

“Great stuff and I have many who can make use of it”

ing of how to study the Bible will give our students a really good foundation. Other professors have kindly let us use material we promise to respect your copyright and to stand for gospel truth.

*Jason, England*

Brother Bob,

Thank you so much for your willingness to put your life work on line for all to use freely. Also, thank you for coming to help us in Rostov on Don and to Volgadonsk about 15 years ago. I hear from some of these men still today.

Joe De Leon, Church Starting Group Leader

California Southern Baptist Convention

Bob,

I received the CD today and am really blessed by it. Thanks very much for sending it to me. I believe your material will enable my readers and I to better understand the Bible. I have uploaded the commentaries and developed a web page to feature them on the website. The page is currently hidden from view unless you know the specific URL. If you approve, I will publish as a public page. If you wish me to delete it or edit it please let me know. I hope to hear from you soon as I would like to announce this new feature early next week. Thanks for many years of work.

*Tim, [www.free-online-bible-study.com](http://www.free-online-bible-study.com)*

Dear Sir,

Greetings from International College of Cultural Studies, OM India, Hyderabad.

Thank you for your email regarding the free exegetical library sources to Rev. Dr. Dasan Jeyaraj. We thank God for your hard work to make this project successful. We browsed through the mentioned site and found very useful materials for our Bachelor of Theology students. Therefore, we would like to request you to send the CD-ROM (English language) for better usage. We will be thankful to you.

*Deva, Dean of Administration, India*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley and folks at BLI, I'm the minister of JBC (Joshua baptist Church), an underground one in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Great work! I'm so thankful to the Lord for your labor of strengthening God's people for sound doctrine. Your works in Vietnamese will hammer effectively to the false teachings in here (by the odd versions of Pentacostal & Charismatic Movements at this corner of the globe).

Keep keeping on the good work of sound doctrine.

*Rev. Doan Nhat Tan*

Dear Bob Utley!

I just want to thank you for your free Bible Commentary! I am using it a lot. I have a MTh degree in Baptist and anabaptist studies from Wales University. However, my theological studies are very limited. Therefore it is a real blessing to be able to study your Bible commentary. I am leading some small groups in Tampere Baptist Church, and I am also a kind of "pastor" for Baptist women in Finland.

Thank you, and the Lord bless you!

*Anneli Lohikko*

Thank you, Dr. Utley. I am very grateful and will share this information with my parishioners. God bless you in your work.

*Fr. Michael*

*Holy Apostles Russian Orthodox Church  
holyapostles@fastmail.net*

"God bless and keep you, continue on the path of liberating God's people by encouraging us to study the word and find truth for ourselves."

*Sheryl, Facebook*

“ I received the CD today and am really blessed by it. ”

If you know a missionary, pastor or Bible study leader who might be interested in the CD/DVD please send us their address and we will send it to them.

Thank you for all you do for the Lord and His Kingdom. Thank you for loving us, praying for us and supporting the work of this ministry. You are a blessing!

*“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf...He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”.*

II Corinthians 5:14-15, 21

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”*

– Gen. 3:15 – The First Evangel (good news)

**Bible Lessons International**

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