

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

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name **Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the LORD through the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,” which translated means,

“God with us.”

Matthew 1:21-23

Letter From Bob

I just wanted to take this chance to wish all of you a happy and healthy Christmas! What a great time of the year. We pray that the Lord Jesus will be recognized and honored for Who He is during this Christmas season.

It has been a wonderful year for us at BLI. I completed my commentary on Ezekiel!!!! Wow, what a book. It will be online soon. Presently I am re-writing my Seminar entitled “You Can Understand the Bible.” It has been available in outline form for many years but I am now making it into book form. We pray that it will be

more useful especially for those outside the U.S.

You will see in another article the different translations that have been completed this year. We are truly “Bible Lessons International.” This is because of your prayers and financial help! We could not do it without you! Thank you. Thank you.

If you know of anyone who would like a copy of the Computer Bible Commentary on CD-Rom, please let us know and we will be happy to mail it to them. We mail them anywhere in the world.

*In Him,
Bob*

New Translations

This has been a very fruitful year for BLI regarding new translations of the commentaries into other languages. These are some things the Lord has enabled us to accomplish this year:

- to complete the translations of Romans, The Gospel of John and I, II and III John into Chinese (Mandarin) and add more commentaries to the Pakistan and Indian languages
- to initiate translations of Romans and John commentaries into the Hungarian and Romanian languages
- to continue translations in Spanish and Arabic. Please pray that God will open doors for these to proceed quickly. Living

in Texas, it seems strange that it has been so difficult to find Spanish translators but that has been our experience.

• soon to be added to the website are John in Turkish and Romans in Farsi (Iran).

These translations are very expensive and time consuming! It also involves a spiritual battle because Satan does not want God's word to be available to people. Please pray for resources and accurate translations! Pray that God will continue to lead and guide us and that we will be sensitive to Him. We know that our God is in control and He will take care of Satan and any other obstacles to His will.

Pastor's Conference In Togo, West Africa

BLI sponsored a Pastor's Conference in Togo, West Africa in August of 2008. We had recently completed the translation of my commentary on the book of Romans into French, the main language of Togo. The Togo Baptist Convention invited me to come and teach Romans and distribute the new Computer Bible Commentary CD-Rom. The CD includes the French translation of Romans and I, II and III John. Initially 500 pastors were expected to attend the conference but it quickly expanded to 4,000 participants! We rented the largest meeting hall in the capital city (Lome) of Togo.

Togo received nine inches of rain just two days before Peggy and I arrived in Lome. This caused so much flooding that nine of the eleven bridges which connected the northern part of the country to Lome were destroyed. It was the worst flooding that they have had in many years. Over 10,000 people were forced from their homes and were placed in refugee camps around the city.



Bob, Pastor Kadera (President of Togo Baptist Convention), and Deacon.

Many of the homes were completely destroyed. Because of the problems caused by the flood only 1,700 pastors were able to attend the conference. However, the spirits of those present were not dampened in any way! We experienced these beautiful people worshipping the Lord in their own special way and it was very inspiring.

I was able to teach hermeneutical principles using Romans as an example. The conference was video taped and will soon be available on our free website: freebiblecommentary.org.

As a result of this conference a three year cycle of translation work has begun. This will enable us to have nine more volumes of my commentaries translated into French. This is very exciting for the pastors and teachers because there are not too many Bible study resources available in French. Please pray for these translators. They are also pastors in local churches and may also have a secular job. Their dedication to the Lord is admirable.

Utley Family Update

God has blessed our family in so many ways this year. We feel like spoiled children because He has been so good to us. Bob and I celebrated 39 wonderful years of marriage in September. Our children are all healthy, happy and doing well in their family and professional lives. They love the Lord and are serving Him in various ways. We are so proud of them and their spouses.

Our daughter, Michelle and her husband, John, along with daughters, Taylor (11 years old) and Tiffany (eight years old) live in Hallsville, Texas. Jason and his wife, Shannen, along with Avery Grace (four years old) and Noah (two years old in December) live in Tomball, Texas. A new grandson has been added to our family tree and it is so exciting to have a little one around. He lives in Marshall so we get to really spoil him!!! He joins his parents, Jeremy (our youngest) and Daniell and big brother, Tucker (6 yrs. old). Our grandchildren bring us so much joy!!!

We have traveled a lot this year, conducting Bible studies and revivals. The Lord has protected us and kept us safe. We are grateful for your prayers because we believe they have had a big part in our safety. We were gone during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. However, Ike visited our home

and caused some damage to the exterior of the house and completely destroyed our car. Three trees fell on the house and carport. The roof will be replaced because of several large holes. However, we are so blessed because the interior of the house only has minor damage. Our son and daughter were on the ball and took care of everything for us. They had the trees removed to prevent further damage and had the electrical repairs made so that the power could be restored. They spared us a lot of time and work (and the shock of how the house looked with trees on it!). We are grateful to them.

We hope that you were spared damage from the storm. We have been praying for all of the people who have had catastrophic changes to their lives and property. There are so many who are suffering and it will continue for quite a long time. We will continue to lift them to the Father and we know you will also.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers on our behalf. We count on them more than you realize and we are so grateful to the Lord for you. Please let us know how we can pray specifically for you.

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.)

Honorable Dr. Bob,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ!

I am greatly thankful to you for all of your generous support and encouragement throughout these almost eight months. We have been blessed to work on the translation commentaries. On behalf of all of my ministry members, I am greatly thankful to you once again and assure you that whenever you need our services in future, we will love to serve your ministry in Jesus name.

May God Bless You All abundantly for the good work you are doing through sharing the true meanings of Gospel to the end of the earth.

With every good wish and prayers.

*Joyfully Serving in Lord Jesus Christ,
Marcus Younas, Multan, Pakistan*

Greetings in Jesus Name,

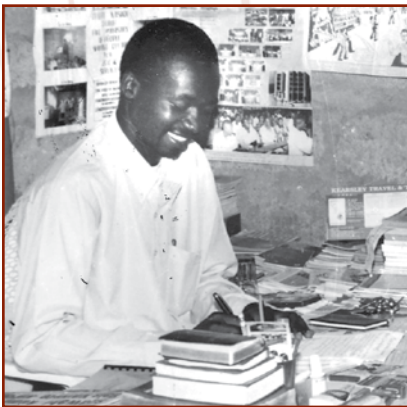
The purpose of this short letter I want thank you for sending one "CD-Rom Computer Bible Commentary."

I just saw them I am very pleased because really is a big treasures it will help me for my activities in God's work.

Pastor NB

Send me more if possible!!

Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa



Pastor NB in his office (above), Believers after Sunday service, Arusha, Tanzania (right).

Hi Dr. Bob,

I'm Mhac Janapin and in behalf of my president, I would like to thank you for this very kind offer. I also teach Hermeneutics in this seminary and I'm happy to tell you that we share the same presuppositions (the ones you posted on your website).

The fact may be that we are also sharing the same methodologies. Thank you for this very generous offer. It is greatly appreciated. I will be contacting you in the near future.

Dr. Mhac Janapin

*Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary
Baguio City, Philippines*

Thank you Dr. Bob Utley for the very gracious offer to make the Baptist Commentaries available for free. This will be extremely useful particularly students from the two-thirds world who cannot afford such products.

Also when they are in their ministry fields far removed from libraries, such commentaries as yours will be of immense help. I, as the Academic Dean of one of the premier Bible colleges in India, appreciate your offer and may I ask you please to send

as many as you can. We have a present student body of about 120 students + 12 Faculty + a vast alumni.

God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

*Dr. Babu Immanuel, PhD, Academic Dean
South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian
Studies, Bangalore, India*

Dear Dr. Utley!

Thank you for your permission to use your work. Although most of our students do not understand English, I believe your site may be helpful for our professors. Also, your materials can be used at English classes. Also, we appreciate your commentaries on Gospel of Matthew and we hope that you'll keep translating your works on national languages.

We would be grateful if you send a copy of the CD for our library

*Alexander Popov
Moscow Baptist Seminary*

Dear Brother hello!!

Today I had the tremendous surprise to receive your MP3 CDs and study Guide CD Rom. They are absolutely tremendous and exceptional teachings. I have been listening to bits and



I just could not stop praising the Lord for such fine resources. Bob they are really unique and outstanding. I am so thankful and grateful to you for so many blessings. I trust they will help us tremendously in our training ministries and many will be able to study and teach the Word of God faithfully. Our desire is to be able to declare the full counsel of God and with your resources I do believe we will. I really don't know what to say to thank you Bob.

I also pray that one day you will be able to compile Old Testament teachings on MP3 as well. I really don't want to miss your Old Testament studies as well. For the time being we have your NT MP3 and this will keep us very busy for a long period of time. But can you please send us the OT ones when they are ready.

Also, please let me know when you mail out the Study Bible.

Thank you for all your help, generosity and support.

*In Christ
Anonymous*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

I like to thank you for the Bible teachings you made available on the internet. Finding a specific site seldom is a true blessing that impacts deep into my life, but freebiblecommentary.org is one of the few exceptions.

Especially the seminar influenced the way I read and interpret my Bible. I intend to pass on these excellent Bible reading techniques to the interdenominational youth group I lead here in Rotterdam, Holland.

Of course I also like the verse-by-verse studies you give on almost the entire Bible. Impressive! The Spirit of God uses you to explain Gods

message to both the brain and the heart.

So I like to thank God for the gift you are. And I like to thank you for being available to Him

*With kind regards,
Terry Vogelaar*

Dear Rev. Utley:

I want to sincerely thank you for the shipment I have received of the very nice donation of Bible studies for our inmates. I can assure you that what you have sent will be put to very good use, and made available to interested inmates.

Donations are very important to our ongoing work, as we are not permitted to use State funds to purchase religious material for the Chapel library.

Thank you again for remembering the ministry "behind the fence" here at Santa Rosa, and God bless your ministry!

*Senior Chaplain
Santa Rosa Correctional Institution Annex
Milton, Florida*

Dear Pastor Utley:

Greetings from Florida and the Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler. Please allow this letter to serve as a great big "Thank You!" for your recent donation of the NASB New Testament Supplement CD for use in our chapel. I am so glad to read of all the work that is being done worldwide to help teach God's Word. While we cannot use this electronic media with our inmates, I appreciate the sample CD that may be helpful to me in preparing lessons and other Bible studies for the men that come through this institution.

May the Lord continue to richly bless all that you are doing to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our

world. Thanks for your interest in prison ministry (Matt. 25:36).

*Chaplain, Reception and Medical
Center – Main Unit, Lake Butler, FL*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

I am writing this letter to say thank you so much for bringing complete change into my life. I felt I had lost God, but now know deeply and truly that is not truth. God has said He will never leave me nor forsake me. Praise God. I am learning and growing each day by His grace, and your Books, Audio tapes and CD's have been such a blessing to me. I'm so thankful.

May God bless you through and through as you labor in the Lord's vineyard.

*Yours In His Wonderful Name
Dr. K. Mudefi, Zimbabwe*

Dear Dr. Utley,

What a gold mine! We received 5 CDs in the mail yesterday. I have already given one to a Pakistani doctor who will be going next month to UK for Bible school; another to the Bible school in Pindi (ZBI); and one to the Pakistan Bible Correspondence Institute; and one to another missie. John is using it today to prepare for the Sunday message at our English worship service. He is finding it a real help.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

*[Name withheld for security reasons]
Bach Christian Hospital
Qalandarabad, Hazara, NWFP, Pakistan*

Greetings in Jesus' name!

May I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for the CD-Rom Computer Bible Commentary. I received it last week. I have gone through the

contents of it and I say that it will be a great help for my teaching ministry here at Biblical School of Theology.

I shall appreciate if you can send me any materials that you have.

May the Lord continue to bless you.

*Dr. Timothy Sui Lian Mang, President
Biblical School of Theology
Yangon, Myanmar*

Dr. Bob Utley,

Thanks so much for sending 600 copies of your impressive Bible commentary to our home office in Texas...the roll away tool box that you used as a shipping container was an unexpected blessing as well!

There are two other large ministries that I am affiliated with that also have a large number of chaplains/ministers in the field. I talked with each director this morning and they each would be delighted if you could send along a shipment of 500 commentaries to each of them as well. I have provided their respective address for shipping, and the web site for each ministry.

Once again, thanks so much for providing us with such an incredible blessing: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

*In Christ,
Dr. Sonny Cox,
El Cajon, CA*

We sent 600 CD-Roms to the following ministries:

Rev. Jim Jack

Director of Field Ministries

Racers for Christ

www.teamrfc.org

Roland Osbourne, Publisher

Christian Motorsports Illustrated

www.christianmotorsports.com



Faculty and students of Biblical School of Theology

Bob,

Thank you so very much for your graciousness with the materials that you have prepared! I am sure that they will be a tremendous blessing to our missionaries around the world in their personal devotional study as well as in their ministry to those whom they are equipping to reach their own nations for Christ!

Kurt Nelson

Dear Dr. Bob, greeting in the name of the Lord

Thank you for the offer that you gave towards free cds on your Bible studies. I have gone through the site and found it a great blessing. At present, there are 50 students doing course with our institution. If you can send some copies we will be happy to distribute it to our students as a course material. I really enjoyed your interpretation of the scripture. Please send some copies, we will send to our students. BibleSurvey.net and FreeBibleSeminary.net are our free websites, recently began. More than 25 students already started learning the course here. If you agree I may give a link of your site in these two sites. That will surely increase your reach.

Dr. Saneesh Cherian, Kerala, India

Dear Dr. Utley,

Thank you so much for sending us this site. We are amazed at all the effort that you put into this. We are

missionaries in Pakistan with TEAM at Bach Christian Hospital. Currently the expats at the hospital are going through the gospel of John together. I listened to your sermon on John 1:29-51. It was quite helpful and full of good information.

We would love to receive the CD Rom. There is a Bible school in Rawalpindi that is affiliated with TEAM. They would benefit from this resource.

*[Name withheld for security reasons]
Zarapheth Bible Institute*

Dr. Bob Utley,


Sir, thank you for offering your Bible Commentaries freely for the Kingdom. I would love to see them and consider passing them along to others. Please send them (around 50 or so) to the address listed below.

*Dennis Dickinson
Charnock Institute of the Bible
Payette, ID*

Dear Bob,

I have been sent your kind offer of free CD Bible commentaries.

Right at this moment I am running a course in Austria for staff and graduates from IFES (International Inter-Varsity) Movements from 15 different European countries – from Portugal to Georgia. We have 25 students here on the course – more details of which you can find at www.bibleandculture.org – a large part of the course is dedicated to teaching these folk to be better Bible readers and better Bible teachers. It seems therefore that your



commentary could be a wonderful gift to them as they return home.

Again many thanks for your offer of making this material available.

*Tim Vickers, IFES Europe – Associate
Regional Secretary*

Hello Bob,

Thanks a ton for sending me the CD. It's really packed with teaching material. I can carry the CD along with me and use whatever I need on my journeys.

I would like to appreciate your track record. Just looked at your life's work and it is awesome. Thanks for making your experience available to us. Please remember me in your prayer. I will be using the material that can easily be adapted into my messages, as I am an expository preacher too. Your approach is unique.

Edrich Fernandes, Mangalore, India

Dear Dr. Utley,

I would be honored to share the CD commentaries with the pastors and young "preacher boys" in my Association. There are 24 churches and probably another five to six who could be helped. Not all of the pastors may want or use them, so a total of 27 would probably be adequate.

We have two bi-vocational pastors and two language pastors (who use English) and I am positive they would appreciate this help. So, anything you would be able to send would be fantastic.

In HIS grip,

*Bill Phillips,
Association Mission Strategist
Willamette Valley Baptist Association,
Springfield, OR*

Dear Dr. Bob,

I am extremely grateful to you and the Lord Jesus for the great love he has for me to make it possible to be accessible to this valuable CD on Bible Commentary.

This is indeed a great miracle especially in the manner you got my address. I believe this CD is going to be used for the glory of God.

I am willing to receive more materials as the Lord leads you.

Currently, I am engaged in conducting seminars and outreaches to many parts. I believe I will cover the entire world by the help of the Holy Spirit.

*Evangelist Humphrey Wanyama
Jesus to All Nations International*

Dear Dr. Utley:

I am very, very much delighted with the nice CD you sent. I just took delivery this morning and had begun viewing it with great joy.

I am presently taking biblical training from Ames International School of Mission online and needed commentary so greatly, and this just arrives at the time when most needed, thanks a million.

It is an answered prayer.

I look forward to using this great tool to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to train more servant leaders for His kingdom.

John S. Duco, Liberia, West Africa

Dear Bob,

I have just discovered your notes and video presentations and am really enjoying them, especially so because I am an English missionary in Portugal and have no formal Bible training. I launched on an in-depth study of Scripture and theology two years ago and am finding the Lord is

opening up a deeper knowledge of Himself as well as a much more objective hermeneutical process. I can really identify with what you write in your introduction about this. Thank you so much for making these studies and study suggestions available free of charge. They are very useful.

Peter Hawkes

Dear Dr. Utley,

I am over joy to receive your CD-Rom computer Bible commentary which is helping me a lot these few days. I am a coordinator of the Bible marathon reading in Liberia and for several years now have been gathering people to read God's word as a better way to know him better.

My life changed since I have been going over and over the Bible. I however appreciate your contributions toward the improvement of how to know God better by understanding his word in this country Liberia. We are in fact conducting a 5 day marathon reading on the 15th to the 20th of November this year. You are invited to teach us the Bible. It is more than a blessing for me to receive this wonderful gift from you and I pray that God provides that you may think to help us improve in the word of God.

Pastor Philip Borbor, Monrovia, Liberia

Hello Dr. Bob Utley:

I received a CD with your commentaries, thanks and thanks a lot; it's a great tool for understanding in a better way the Bible. Actually, I teach in a very little seminary in Bogota, Colombia, South America and find good commentaries is not easy; and if you can find something maybe is not a good commentary. Thanks and



thanks a lot, and God bless you and your ministry.

Hector Molano

Hello Bob

Thank you very much for the wonderful gift of 7,000 CD-Roms that arrived this week. The presentation is excellent and several copies have already been dispatched.

Next week we have a large mailing and copies of the CD-Rom will go in every parcel.

Once again many thanks for your wonderful generosity. I will give you some feedback as and when it comes in from the pastors and leaders.

Marina Conran

*Ministry Director/Foreign Editions
Sovereign World Trust, Kent, TN
United Kingdom*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Loving greetings to you from New Delhi.

We are so happy to receive your special pack of CDs for our seminary.

Thank you so much. These CDs are very much useful for our students as well as church members. We are using it and some of CDs are placed in our library.

We appreciate your hard work in interpreting the Word and your time to make lessons from Bible.

Rev. Robinson

I noticed Dr. Utley's web site for the first time today.

I am a Christian attending a Church of God in Missouri. I have assumed the role in our church of teaching the Wednesday night Bible study.

I have been through the Church of God's Ministerial Program and I attended Central Bible College for about 3 years. I am not a Bible

Theologian. I do believe in teaching fundamental Bible truths

I would like to teach a Bible study Class on "How to Study the Bible." I believe the ability to correctly analyze and interpret scripture has been lacking in almost every church I have been to.

I need help on finding study helps and or books related to this topic. I did notice your helps in this area on your web site. I think I have a basic understanding of Hermeneutics. Do you have suggestions on a course of action?

Thank You, I like your web site!

Mitch Castrodale

Dear Bob,

Thank you very much for the Portuguese commentary on Romans! I am very grateful. May I spread this around to Brazilian pastors and seminary professors? Let me know. Thanks!

Alex Zell

I just wanted to say thank you for your efforts with the commentary online. I was lying in bed not able to sleep reflecting on a conversation I had with a pastor friend of mine from earlier in the day. I decided to get up and read a little in the word and do some of my own research when I came across your site. I really like the style used to break a verse down, pull out the Greek text and explain the meaning.

I will frequent this resource often I am sure.

Thanks again, Chad

Dear Dr. Utley,

Thank you for your very generous offer. It is such a blessing to see such valuable work offered freely to other

students of God's Word. May the Lord richly reward you.

Gifford Dennison

Australian Baptist College

Greetings Bob,

Thank you for the opportunity to review such great inspired study. I finally was able to take in the entire collection. I am forwarding this e-mail to Dr. Wade for two reasons: First, to keep him informed of the great work you have made available to the body of Christ and second, to remind him that our primary Spanish translator has not fully recovered from his stroke. I am not certain of the availability of our secondary translators but in the fullness of time we shall overcome.

Thanking you personally for allowing IAEC to present your website to the thousands who visit our website monthly.

In His Majesty Service,

Dr. Johnson

FutureEd4U.org

Hi Bob,

Thank you for exposing us to the free Bible Commentary on your website for Bible study.

I desire to pursue a PhD in Development Theology online. I completed a masters degree in Christian Education in 2007. Kindly guide me to a website where I can equally get someone interested in sponsoring this line of discipline. Africa is at the threshold of arising out of the yester-years' ashes of stagnation and underdogness. Development through theology will be one of the key pillars of this process in this 21st Century.

Shalom,

*Winston Omenya, Director-GRN Kenya,
Member of Global Recordings Network*

National-to-national Evangelism

As you know BLI contributes to the National-to-National Evangelism projects which are conducted by International Commission of Lewisville, Texas (this is the group that we go with on partnership mission trips). The N-2-N projects do not involve U.S. team members. The nationals are responsible for hosting and enlisting teams. The teams come from within the borders of the country or from neighboring countries, thereby minimizing or eliminating language barriers. Many of these countries do not allow Americans due to political barriers. These projects are less expensive than church-to-church partnerships involving U.S. teams.

This year we sponsored three N2N projects: Botswana, Philippines and Mozambique. We are waiting for the results but usually about 1,400 people trust the Lord during one of these mis-

sions. They are hoping for 5,000 to be saved in Mozambique. It is exciting because we know the new believers will be disciplined and incorporated into the local church. For more information about International Commission see their website: www.IC-world.org.

And the WORD became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

We wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 1289 • Marshall, TX 75671

BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 420522

