

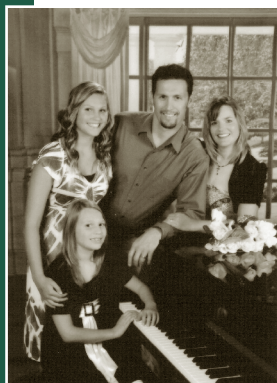
EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

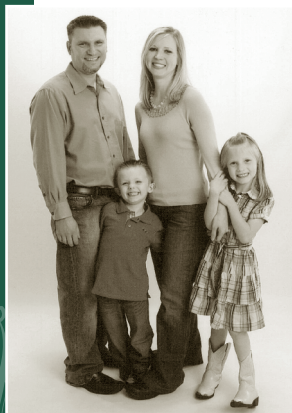
A Great Commission Ministry: Evangelism and Discipleship--Matthew 28:18-20

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

CHRISTMAS 2011



John, Michelle, Taylor (14),
Tiffany (11) Thompson



Jason, Shannen, Avery (7),
Noah (5) Utley



Jeremy, Daniell, Tucker
(9), Drake (3) Utley

As we approach the end of 2011, we are so grateful for your prayers and support. We know it has been a hard economic year for many of you. God has been so faithful to BLI. You have sacrificially allowed us to impact the world in Jesus name!

Our ministry has focused this year on two areas:

- Prison libraries (see "Michelle's Thoughts" on page 5)
- Expanding the number of language commentaries on the free website

As of this writing, we have sent 130,000 CD-ROMs worldwide for free, and almost 1,500,000 people have visited the website.

Thank you for enabling us to be a blessing to the Body of Christ both here and around the world! Please read the emails we have received and take a look at our website to see the latest translations. Here are some scriptures the Lord laid on my heart:

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NASB)

"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom,



Bob and Peggy

and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the LORD."

Isaiah 43:2 (NASB)

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,

Nor will the flame burn you."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased'."
— Luke 2:13-14

EMAIL REQUESTS FOR BIBLE COMMENTARY

Thanks for this offer. I'm a new Christian and there is so much I don't understand and this will help me so much.

Diane, Alabama

Thank you so much for making this available. We have been searching for a deeper understanding of the bible and I just love the way Dr. Utley teaches it.

Tammy, Idaho

I am an American missionary in Japan, working with a bilingual church called International Bible Fellowship. We have around 100 regular attenders- about 2/3 Japanese, with the rest from various nations around the world.

Otto, Japan

I wish to thank God for what he is using you & the ministry to do in life. As a young pastor & young group of believers it helps us.

Rev. Enyophrure, Nigeria

Praise God for the good work for the glory of God and it will be best tool for people like me, where there is no library is available, no resources, that you have great job for us and glory to God.

Wilson Babu, India

The comments I've seen on 1 John 2 have prompted me to ask for the cd rom you are offering. I believe it's going to benefit me a lot as I seek to understand God's word better.

Sangwani, Malawi

Dr. Utley, I have been ministering in jails since 1999 and many times have been asked about Bible stud-

ies. I have been looking for good resources.

Pastor Clifton, Kansas

Peace and grace Dr. Utley. I attend a home church. We are blessed by your thirst for God's Truth. We will pray for you and your ministry. May God richly bless you my beloved.

Mike, Utah

Thank you. Is this offer also available to send to troops overseas?

Lisa, California

I have an old copy. I would appreciate having a copy for my church's library. I am in constant use of the CD that I possess. Thanks for the tool that I use to prepare Sunday school lessons.

Sam, Alabama

Thank you so much. It is very important to me as a born again believer and an ex Jehovah witness to understand the context of the scriptures and not twist the word.

Angela, Texas

Sir, I am Hindu by religion but I want to know about Bible and understand it so please send me the free cd in Hindi. Thanks.

Pulkit, India

As a biblical student, I always welcome a fresh perspective.

Bert, Alabama

I am so thankful and blessed to have found your website its what I

have been looking for. A place where I can come to learn how to truly read and correctly understand and interpret the Bible.

Jonah, New York

Thank you for your website! For someone who listens to the Bible as they work this has been a great companion for our daily Bible study!

Brad, Texas

Thanks so much...so hard to find free things to learn more and grow as a Christian...I am on a limited income and can't afford a \$100 study bible...but this might do well...again thanks...my prayers are with you.

George, Kentucky

I am looking forward to the computerized version of the Bible since I sometime have a difficult time reading print. Now I can sit back, relax and enjoy the words of the Lord.

Helen, Illinois

Thank you for your generosity- the timing is interesting as just a few weeks ago I began reading the Bible from beginning to end. I am looking forward to using the Study Library to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the text!

Catherine, California

It looks like such a great Bible study library and all in one place. Thanks!

Anna, California

I have a hard time understanding what I read in the bible. I think this will help me. I love my God but

would like to understand his word better.

Valerie, Indiana

I am anxiously awaiting. This proves to be very enlightening.

Rosa, Maryland

I feel I am in need of this at this point in my life. I want to turn to scripture to deal with problems, stress or even the joys of our daily lives.

Debra, New York

I am a freshman in Bible college and unable to purchase many things. Thank you and God bless you all.

Sara, Florida

I believe this will be easier for me to understand and I can do this at my speed. This is a wonderful gift.

David, Tennessee

This will be great to listen to in the car and while I'm exercising! Thanks!

Betsy, Michigan

I am a Roman Catholic Priest, Director of Pastoral Institute from Multan. I came to know about your site and useful Bible Study Commentaries. Kindly send me your free resources for our library.

Naveed, Pakistan

May the good Lord continue to bless your ministry as you donate these commentary for a worthy cause.

Godetia, London

I am very happy and thankful to the Lord Jesus Christ for all of the men of God who labored in making these commentaries available. God bless the whole team.

Khalid, Pakistan

I found today one commentary to Acts in Hungarian. I wish to read more from your text to be encouraged to read and live the words of God.

Gyula, Hungary

More grease to your elbow!

Akanji, Nigeria

Thanks, I am a retired IMB missionary to Spain and left almost all of my library on the field.

Larry, Texas

If you have material in Portuguese, please send it in both English and Portuguese as we do missionary work in Mozambique and they desperately need it.

Shimmy, S. Africa

Thanks Dr. Utley I wish to introduce a group of pastors to this site and probably request more CD's for them that is indeed with your permission.

Rev. Maina, Nairobi, Kenya

Please help me find God. Give me a bible. Show me the way!

Richard, Philippines

Thank you and God bless you for making freely available the fruit of your lifetime of Bible Study. I will put it to good use to help others.

Paul, Australia

Thanks for the good work you are doing. The material is really going to help me in my work as a religious teacher and moral instructor. May God continue to provide funds for you to carry on this charitable and educative service.

Mac Davis, Nigeria

Thank you Dr. Utley. I have wanted to attend seminary but am unable to due to distance, work and just life in general. This is better than that as I can watch after work, before bed, and in all my free time.

Rick, Florida

HOWDY!! Bob!! Always remember that you are very SPECIAL!! I miss sitting in your classes. Keep letting the Father use you in His ministry.

Brian, Texas

May our most loving Awesome God forever bless your selfless contributions. Thank you very much!!

John, Washington

Thank you for making your Bible commentaries available for Christians in Third World countries. We appreciate the largeness of your heart.

Rev. Winston, Malaysia

Thank you in advance for spending time in coming up with such a great book to help us, beginners, in our quest to better understand the Bible.

Jasmine, Philippines

I will like to say a big congrats to you for the work you are doing for better evangelization. Well done.

Olisa, Nigeria

Excellent software...would like a copy for a friend (new believer) in Jesus.

Michael, UK

I found this site very crucial that it helps me dig more about Holy Bible.

Tesfaye, Ethiopia

Hello! I am director of a small, free-tuition Baptist Bible school that aims

“ I am Hindu by religion but I want to know about Bible and understand it ”

to train young men in my country for pastoral ministry. We desperately need Bible study tools for our classes...hope you can help.

Jorgejill, Philippines

I am learning so much from your writings and ministry. Are you planning on doing a written study on the book of Psalms?

David, Canada

I was wondering...could I request a CD for a deployed Army hero. He is on his 5th deployment and he asked for Bible materials.

Dina, Washington

Thank you for your dedication and work, I stumbled onto your hermeneutics course while searching for Bible studies for my Kindle at the Online American Library.

Marjorie, Florida

I saw a link for this website via a friend on Facebook. I am presently reading through the Old Testament and am in the book of Ezra. I watched your commentary on Ezra 7-8 and it helped to open

up the scriptures to me. Thanks so much for offering this.

Whitney, Florida

Thank you so much, this ministry has been and is a great blessing and help to the kingdom of God.

James, South Carolina

Thank you for the verse to verse bible study its really building up my faith towards God.

Pastor Daniel, Brazil

Thank you for your kindness to connect with me in Facebook thus giving an opportunity to know about you and what God is doing through you for His glory.

Rev. K, California

I did a Google search for free Bible commentary and found your site. This site is really awesome and I appreciate all the hard work you have done and your willingness to share it with others!

Perry, Florida

I was doing a search for audio commentary on the book of Ruth and found your website. I have listened to a couple of sermons and feel God's leading to order this study. I thank God for directing me to your ministry.

James, Ohio

I recently accepted the calling of Evangelist and I'm hoping to enhance my study of the Bible...any help you can offer will be appreciated.

Deborah, Kansas

Thank you for providing this resource to folks who are having a rough time financially. I'm quite excited to delve into your library!

Robin, California

I thank God for linking me to your organization.

Amoah, Belgium

I thought Dr. Utley's commentaries of the Gospels were particularly good.

Arthur, Cape Town

Thank you in advance. I need them as a priest and a research student at doctoral level specializing in Hebrew language and Old Testament studies.

Sangotunde, Nigeria

You are doing a great work. I have listened and read your material and wow. Thanks for educating me, testing me and making me go deeper. I also appreciate the intellectual monologue; I wish it could go both ways. You even motivated me to write a commentary with my work. Thank you greatly for your faithfulness to the work of the kingdom.

Anthony, Ontario Canada

Thank you very much for your excellent site. Your love for the Lord



Chaplain leading Bible study in Afghanistan

shines through.

Nora, Australia

Dear Bob, I just wanted you to know I have been using your commentary materials a lot here in Afghanistan. You sent me 75 copies and I have passed out many or most of them to other chaplains, church leaders and members of my Bible study. I find them very helpful on my Saturday night Bible study in Genesis. So thanks for all the work you put into this work. It is bearing fruit.

Terry Hayes, TF Sword RST Chaplain

I am amazed and humbled yet again at how the Lord continues to use dad's commentaries all around the world. As I read through past emails and decide which ones to use in this newsletter, I am reminded once again that God's Word does not return to Him empty...without accomplishing what He desires (Isaiah 55:11.) We know this desire is salvation for all... for the entire world! God's plan is far superior to anything man could have planned. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). God is delaying His return so that "none may perish but that all may come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

My dad's passion never wanes for the Kingdom of God! His calling is evangelism and discipleship! He encourages fellow believers, pastors and church leaders here and overseas to "keep on keeping on...to not grow weary in well doing" (Galatians 6:9-10) and to "accurately handle the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

What an honor and a privilege it is to serve Jesus with mom and dad! I am so thankful that He chooses to use ordinary, sinful people like us to accomplish His purposes!

Dad has had so many contacts over the years. A former youth minister at a church where he was interim is now the

command chaplain for the navy and marine corps. Through him, we were able to send 1,035 of the Bible commentary CD's to all Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps chaplains. We are hoping to send more CD's to other armed forces branches this year.

In this newsletter you will see some comments from chaplains serving in the Texas prison system and elsewhere. These past few months we have been printing and spiral binding sets of commentaries and sending them to many of the prison libraries in Texas. We sent 28 sets of commentaries, over 121,000 pages to Texas prisons this year. A big thanks to Sam Moseley for helping us gain access to the Texas prison system! Due to government cutbacks, chaplain jobs and funding for chaplaincy programs have decreased. Sadly, this means that the Christian influence in the prison systems is decreasing as well. There is a spiritual battle being fought every day in prisons throughout the world. One chaplain shared several "demonic" incidences that he had experienced personally with some inmates. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be victorious in the lives of those inmates who are seeking Him!

Michelle Utley Thompson

Comments From Prison Chaplains

With many thanks..."For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward his name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints" (Hebrews 6:10).

Bryan, TX

I wish to thank you for the continued support we receive from you. The CD/DVD's and hard copies on your verse by verse commentary that we received is truly a blessing to the men here. Thank you for your faithfulness even in these difficult financial times. It is because of ministries such as yours that we are able to minister to almost 2000 men here at Jackson Correctional Institution.

Malone, FL

I want to thank you for the set of Study Guide Commentary Series. Several inmates have looked into them, and have expressed a sense of satisfaction for the knowledge

you impart through your writing. Even I find them highly and deeply informative. Those volumes have enriched so many lives and have affected their Christian walk and the godly insight for their heart and mind. It is very uplifting to see inmates beginning to speak with a heart full of God's presence with the knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures as you teach them.

Tallahassee, FL

Dear Professor Utley, I am currently incarcerated at the Dick Ware Unit in Colorado City, Tx. A few months ago you donated to our chapel library a copy of your study guide commentary series of the entire Bible. I have been using your commentary for an intense study of the Minor Prophets, and have really enjoyed it, and feel I have learned a lot.

Colorado City, TX

FEEDBACK FROM WEBSITE/CD-ROM

God Cares For Me, Even Me (video podcast)

I have literally listened to this video over and over again. Praying and seeking God hoping it will reach to the deepest inner core of my being, that He knows me, and knows His plan for me. Just allowing it to soak in, that fear is not a factor, because He is my all-knowing Dad who watches my every step and every move, hedging me in with loving care. This is the core of the Christian life, through every trial, every tribulation, any hindrance, it is to know Him that He is, and always will be. He will never leave us nor forsake us, though we falter and fail.

Americas Evidence for Salvation (video podcast)

When I first came across brother Bob I knew him to be primarily a biblical scholar. He is well studied and has an extensive verse by verse Bible study series. However in recent years God has laid upon him a burden for the condition of the Baptist churches of which he is a part, and the condition of the church in America as a whole. His focus has changed from being Bible study oriented to being very prophetic indeed.

Tim commented on your link: "Dr. Utley, I use your online commentary quite often in my personal studies as well as preparing to teach. I am very thankful for what you have supplied me and many other people."

Phil commented on your link: "Dr. Bob thanks for the box of CD's, I will be taking them to Papua New Guinea, Narau and hopefully New Zealand."

Paula commented on your link: "I'm really excited to get the commentary!"

I have fretted over the last 20 years about not saving my class notes! Now I will have something better!!! Thank you :)"

Grayson commented on your link: "Dr. Bob. The only professor after hours of listening to that I never found a thing to hold against him. True in intention and message. Humble in understanding. You did/do a good thing for this troubled world sir."

I thank you very much for sending me a very voluble bible teaching CDs. I read them and try my best to grasp things from that. actually I like very much to study the bible. Your CDs help me lot to understand certain areas which I could not understand & the way you teach is very easy to follow things. so I thank you very much for that. I would like to preach the bible also. And if you can send me some sermons on various themes are highly appreciable. so if you have some free time please write to me on various bible topics which can be delivered to believers in my church.

Always a pleasure to hear from you. Your work has really progressed from the days of cassettes and loose notes. Your discipline and faithfulness to put all of this together is amazing. Your commentaries have something for everyone-from the newest of believers to experienced teachers!

I originally ordered your CD for personal use, but now have a greater cause. I am a pastor of a small church

and the men and I are getting deep into God's word. One of the things I want to do is use your teachings as addition to our study. I love your approach to the scriptures and the heart you have for our Lord and Savior. I think they could learn a lot from your knowledge in the language and background. I am limited in the study of Greek and Hebrew as I am self-taught man basically.

Kristopher, Missouri

The material offered by your Dad in the Free Bible Commentary is excellent from a scholastic approach and is easy to comprehend due to his profound but straight-forward way of communicating. He is surely one of those bible teachers who has vast knowledge and experience while at the same time maintaining an understanding of how to communicate sometimes complex truths in a clear way.

I have also viewed some video of your father which has helped me to understand more about him as a

person and as a lover of God and his word, and as someone with a passion to put 'tools of

understanding' into the grasp of those who want to learn more about how to interpret the bible.

It has been my delight to recommend your father's ministry as represented by the CD to many pastors and leaders.

We realise that there must be a considerable cost to the generous provision of the CDs, and understand there is provision for any who wish to contribute towards that cost to do so.

Ruwan **"When it comes to ease of access, you have truly hit the mark"**

R. Scott

But we also know that when we think of the countries of the world other than Western countries, there would be little capacity of people in poorer nations to afford the real cost of the resources offered.

When it comes to ease of access, you have truly 'hit the mark'.

May the Lord continue to bless your Dad and you and all who provide and maintain this very special and virtually unique ministry.

One of your fellow-servants in the ministry and in the exaltation of Christ through his Word

Charles Schwab (Australia)

I have used the Internet version of the commentary and I really like it and used some of the information during a Bible study at our church. I have not had time to use the CD. I have been teaching an Advance Preaching course and I recommended the website and CD to my students. Take care and may God bless you and your family,

Perry

I've recently came across your bible study aids on the web and am looking forward to spending time there gaining more understanding of the scriptures.

Christians in America have many needs of spiritual growth. Bob, I believe that America is Babylon written about in Revelation. I don't know how you interpret those scriptures. If you have time perhaps you would drop a note about your understanding about this.

Joe, Colorado Springs, CO

I am teaching a class for Bible Translators on Exegesis and I am interested in using material from your New Testament and Old Testament Survey documents in my class. I find your material

well laid out and that you share our theological opinions on the Bible and its use in interpretation of itself. If you have any questions about our classes or who we are I would be delighted to answer them.

Robert Rees, Director South Asian Branch, Pioneer Bible Translators

Phil commented on your link: "Brother Bob I have given away hundreds of your CD's and people are always amazed. I am always asked for more. Blessings."

Thanks for your Bible Studies free, special thanks for Urdu translation, because there is no such books or studies available in Urdu, God be with you.

Multan, Pakistan

As I teach my Sunday Life Group lessons at North Monroe, I'm so often reminded of the influence you've had on my personal Bible study. Thanks for your commitment to the integrity and truth of the gospel.

B. Parker

Blessings of the Risen Lord from Uganda! I want to thank you so much for sending me a copy of the Bible Commentary CD/DVD. I had requested and received five copies for our seminary, and then just recently a personal copy arrived to me. I am very grateful, as are the many seminarians who have used, and down-loaded, the other copies that you sent us.

Sister Sullivan, Uganda

I just received your CD-ROM. I'm still exploring it, but it's obviously the effort of a lot of people trying to reach the world with God's Word. I will surely donate a small amount to your

I will be taking them to Papua New Guinea, Narau and hopefully New Zealand

work, knowing that it doesn't pay anything compared to the effort of all of you doing this work. Yet,

that's according to my possibilities and face it as a small offer to your wonderful work. May God bless you.

Jose Luis Dine Falcao Sincere Sepulveda, Portugal

I am so grateful to receive a message from you. I am equally glad to let you know that I have a copy of your CD which contains so rich knowledge. God bless you for all your efforts that is now benefitting countless preachers around the world.

Rev. Siegfred C. de Guzman, D.D., Missionary / Evangelist, Philippines

I just wanted to email you and thank you for releasing your commentaries online. I'm teaching an adult Sunday School class on 1st and 2nd Timothy and it's not always easy for a layman with a fulltime job to find good resources. The resources are either "just scratching the surface" or they are not very readable/useful for a bible study. Anyway, I think your commentaries are excellent resources and have been very helpful to me. It's important to teach the word of God as it was written. One area in particular that has helped me is your Special Topic on Perseverance. I think it is one of the best explanations of Calvinism and Armenianism I have read. As a softening Calvinist it has been hard to see families leave our church because we aren't "Calvanist" enough. But in the end we are just arguing over verb tenses like in 2Tim. 2:14. Thank you again. I find your commentaries both balanced and Biblical. God bless you,

Sean, Canada



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**“Have a blessed
Christmas and be a
blessing to others”**

SPECIAL NOTE:
Please consider reading the newsletter online and not receiving a hard copy. If interested, please email us at bli@biblelessonsintl.com or call us at 1-800-785-1005.

HOW TO FIND BOB'S COMMENTARIES ON EBRARY.COM

The URL for the public site is <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/etbu/>. Just type in Bob Utley in the search box. This link can also be found on the ebrary "Open Collections" page <http://www.ebrary.com/corp/oa.jsp>. Click on East Texas Baptist University's Bible Study Guide Commentary Series then enter Bob Utley in the search box.

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