

## BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

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

Dr. Bob Utley • 903.935.2532 • 800.785.1005 • PO Box 1289, Marshall, TX 75671 • www.freebiblecommentary.org



Bob and Jason at airport in Brazil.

#### **BOB'S LETTER:**

Well I am still working through Psalms. I have finished books I & II. Book II should be online soon. Psalms are wonderful, but please

remember they are written from an OT perspective (i.e. "the two ways," cf. Ps. 1 and Deut. 30:15-20). We must interpret them as the testimony of people who had a deeply personal relationship with YHWH, but we must allow them to be informed and viewed through NT revelation. For me, the proper interpretive approach is to view the OT through the eyes of the NT and not vice versa. They are both inspired revelation (cf.

Mt. 5:17-19), but the teachings of Jesus take precedence (cf. Mt. 5:21-48)! The new covenant (cf. Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:22-38) has come in Christ and it has widened and internalized the Mosaic Law!

I was privileged to be part of a pastor's conference in Juarez Mexico this summer. I have included the group picture. I taught Ephesians and summarized the Bible Interpretation Seminar. These pastors face violence every day, but they are joyful, committed Christians seeking to reach their city for Christ! Please pray for them!





Pastors & Wives Conference, Juarez, Mexico May '12

My oldest son, Jason, and I went on an evangelistic partnership mission trip to Brazil in July. There were 35 North Americans and 35 South Americans working in 15 churches in a suburb of Rio De Janeiro. It was wonderful; over 1,000 people trusted Christ! I hope you will look at the International Commission website (www.info@ic-world.org) and see all of the mission opportunities that are available every year. Going on one of these trips will change and bless your life!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Your prayers and financial help make it possible for us to touch the world with the gospel! You are an integral part of all we do at BLI. We are so grateful to you for partnering with us to advance God's Kingdom.

"For the Lord is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting
And His faithfulness to all generations."

- Psalm 100:5

# Christmas is coming!

Use the gift-giving season as a chance to give the "Verse by Verse Complete Bible Study Library" CD to family, friends and special people in your life! It can function both as a witnessing tool and an encouragement to Bible Study! Our contact information is at the top of this newsletter. Do it early so we can assure its delivery. It is free and postage paid!

#### COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

I am very much impress to write this letter to you. I know by His grace you are fine and kicking. The purpose of this letter is that I have got the opportunity to listen to your Bible commentary on Grace, in fact I was shocked for such a word. It has really changed my life. I have got to know the love of God. The unmerited favour of God and devine saving and strengthening influence. I have also got to know that salvation is free. We did nothing to be saved.

Sir I have one question that is boardering my mind. Should we ask for forgiveness when we pray? Since Christ has die once for our sins. I will like to end here.

Yours faithfully, Amo Jones

"You will make known

to me the path of life;

In Your presence is

fullness of joy;

In Your right hand

there are pleasures

forever."

– Psalm 16:11

Dear Bob, I've written this recommendation of your work to share with other Linked In users. I thank the Lord for you brother.

Details of the Recommendation: "I have never encountered a better Bible teacher than Bob Utley. He has keen insight into the scriptures and is able to teach them in a way which makes them come alive and are easily understood by students of all academic levels. He has plenty of wisdom and biblical knowledge

for those who have studied the Bible for a lifetime and he is able to effectively introduce studying the Bible to people approaching it for the first time. Bob communicates his excellent instruction in a vibrant manner that combines humor and poignancy together for an extremely effective presentation. He possesses a true and deep concern for worldwide evangelism and pastoral training which he acts on by his regular international teaching travel and his willingness

to offer his commentaries to pastors in need without charge. It is impossible to measure his impact on the kingdom through the training he has provided to Christian leaders throughout the world. I recommend Bob Utley and his teaching to anyone and everyone."

Hi Dr. Utley, Wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your time in the Monroe, West Monroe area.

Thanks again for making so many resources available. You should know that your efforts have not been in vain. I know many who are truly pouring over the scriptures and following your example in studying the Word for themselves. Real change – becoming (not just acting) more like Jesus – has become the focus of some small groups in at least one church in the area that I know of.

Thank you for teaching me how to study the Bible on my own. The commentaries are very helpful, and I have passed them on to others. I appreciate all the work you have put into this, and I thank God that you have used your talents to glorify him.

What I have learned from this web site and

how to study is priceless.

Hallo There, Am a Zambian citizen aged 19 years by the name of Sitenge Mwambo. Am a born again Christian and am a youth leader at church. It's a privilege to write to you because this is my first time. I have been reading and studying your books and I have enjoyed myself. They have been helpful to my ministry and the works of God. They have made me discover

my ministry, who I am, what I can do and what God requires me to do each and every day of my life. The same books have helped me to be effective in my works as a leader.

Thanks so much for your response and for the remarkable work you have done to provide these resources. I have a great interest in Hermeneutics and Bible Exposition, so I especially appreciate what you have provided. What an incredible legacy to the body of Christ!!

I sincerely want to thank you for unspeakable gift of DVD & CD of great and wonderful teachings you sent me. I received it last month and it is blessing me and my family and our home meetings greatly. We are highly challenged and inspired to really make time for our Bibles to read and study the content page by page. It's amazing Bible churches don't practice the content of the Bible. Strange traditions are being practiced in the Church instead of scriptures. Thank you so much, servant of God, you are fantastic gift to this generation. We are trying as we can to make copies for our friends elsewhere in other cities in the country.

> Our love to you, Theophilus Likhi, Ghana, West Africa

Dr. Utley, I took your intro to OT class last fall. I just wanted to email you and let you know how much of a blessing your commentaries on your website have been to me. I have been using them to help me create Bible studies and a soon-to-be sermon that I will be teaching this Saturday. Just so you know, I am not a religion major nor do I necessarily plan to go to seminary or be a minister. I am actually a biology major planning on medical school and becoming a doctor. I simply love God and believe

he has given me a teaching gift. It's a little crazy for me to think that I am about to give a sermon to a bunch of high school students but the Lord has brought me to this place for a reason and I am going to take advantage of it. All of this goes to say that I am incredibly thankful for the unfathomable time and effort that you have put into your commentaries and studies of hermeneutics. It has helped me understand the Bible the way that it is meant to be and now I am able to let these high school students understand the true teachings of Christ!

Dear Dr. Bob Utley, Greetings, thanking you kindly. I received 2 dvd with so much info. I started to study your way. You have answered most of my doubts/questions. You have done a great and wonderful work for God's Kingdom. I don't know how to thank you, you have it very simple for me and people who love Jesus who has no education or little education.

I am going to pull line by line in my studies from your God GIVEN wisdom. I wish I can give you a great hug/hand shake for surely I will see you in heaven. Amen.

Bro. Ronnie Reddy, Durban, South Africa

I have been blessed and helped by your lessons and other material you offer on your website. I am a new preacher and cannot afford to go to a seminary yet. But one day by divine

interven-

tion, I

discov-

ered your

website.

The rest

is bless-

God.

ings from

"Establish my footsteps in Your word,

And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me"

- Psalm 119:133

I am the Director of Men's Ministry and Adult Bible Study at the Salvation Army in Redding, CA. These will be greatly cherished tools to be used in teaching and my personal study.

I have a friend who has recently turned her life over to God, but she has such a hard time reading His word. I think this would be a great help for her in her journey with the Lord.

As a teacher, I have found this website to be an amazing resource for additional information. I thank you for providing one of God's richest gifts, (HIS WORD) in a way that I can understand and share. God Bless!

I believe that the materials will be very useful in preparing my preaching and teaching materials as it is very difficult for me to buy good materials to work with here in my country.

Malaysia

Dr. Utley is God given gift and shall continue to be remembered from generation to generation through those who study his tools that give the desire to study the Bible.

Italy

Dr. Utley has given me a wonderful opportunity to do an in-depth study of God's Word which has always been my heart's desire.

Singapore

During our Pastors' retreat the works of Dr. Utley were discussed and I would like to know and study more of his works.

South Africa

You are a breath of fresh air in the 21st century to the western world.



This material is more than good materials.

Ghana

Thank you for such a tremendous resource! It will be a blessing to have the Thai commentary as well, to use in our teaching.

May God bless you for this practical study tool and excellent exegetical model.

Canada

I'm a missionary. Thanks for the free resource!

Malaysia

I am a pastor of Methodist Church in Indonesia. Recently, I am appointed to lead an English Speaking Church and also to equip our Lay Speakers to be able to preach and teach the Gospel in English.

Thanks, Samuel Hutagalung

Hi Bob, I can say that you are a breath of fresh air in the 21st century to the western world. I cannot thank you enough because you expose yourself in a very vulnerable way... you remind me of the apostle Paul who had the same spirit and he too was very often misunderstood by the masses, but so loved by those who really knew him.

I think that in my previous email
I did write briefly that I am a firm
believer in exegetical preaching and
teaching-something that seems to be
lacking in so many churches-especially in third world countries. I am just
back after a pastor's conference and
ministry in India and Sri-Lanka-and I
have noticed this lack, nevertheless,

the brethren there want me to come back and teach them and the emerging leadership there-and ground them on the foundations of good exegesis and hermeneutics. The Lord's abun-

dant grace and empowering and indwelling presence be with you and continue to use you mightily in the vital ministry that you are involved in.

Dr. Danny Moses, PhD Australia

I am a retired teacher. I hold an accredited Ph.D in Pastoral Theology. I have been using your Hermeneutic Commentary for personal study with great pleasure and utility as I prepare for my bible study classes at my church. (I am flunking retirement). This summer I am traveling to Nagpur, India to teach national pastors a couple of courses-the first is Hermeneutics..... my new favorite study!

I would love to take 4 or 5 copies of your software for the "faculty" there who are the only ones who have computers or Internet access on a regular basis.

I got the discs from biblical commentaries, and I am very grateful to them. The content of the disk in pdf format, in Serbian, I began to read. Video and audio recordings will be my great exercise to learn English, which I understand quite well, but I have difficulties with speech. I will try to share with some people from Serbia your work for the Lord. God's peace and blessings be with you.

Dragan, Serbia

Dear Doc, I had a chance of going through all the commentaries and

as a person who has also undergone biblical training and is also a teacher and a founder of a bible school this is the best simplified explanation of the scriptures. They are nicely ex-

I appreciate your

biblical honesty

and also your

passion

to understand, keep it up and keep going. I would even want to know how can we put our hands on more of this stuff and how can we be involved if there is room for us.

May God bless the work of hands.

Dr. Brian (United Kingdom)

Is more than a blessing to me. It has really changed my way of preaching. I now understand the bible differently and I must say I thank God for him. He is a blessing! My comment is please let's support him in prayers. He is doing a very good job. I will like to listen or study them also because his teaching makes sense to me.

My dear brothers and sisters in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST; thanks a lot for good bible interpretation which are received last week, surely we enjoys very much. I'm a pastor with lots of members more than 3000. We use this DVD and CD for teaching our Christians, surely we enjoy very much.

Rev Aidin, Tanzania

I am really glad to see Hindi Deuteronomy in your site. I have downloaded a copy. I am eagerly waiting to get all these Hindi commentaries for preaching and leading my congregation. Please pray for us. We are 12 members of team working in Hindi region called Madya Pradesh in India.

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;

From where shall my help come?

Lam

teaching

for Bible

Transla-

tors on

Exegesis

and I am

interested

in using

material

from your

New Testa-

a class

My help comes from the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth."

- Psalm 121:1-2

ment and Old Testament Survey documents in my class. I find your material well layed 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.

South Asian Branch Pioneer Bible Translators

Hello dear brother, I run www.sermonindex.net and I hope its ok I have added a few of your video sermons to the website. I would love to have you as a speaker at a revival conference event we run annually in the USA. There is such a need for a genuine revival and work of the Holy Spirit in so many churches in America.

I appreciate your biblical honesty and also your passion that you share with our Lords heart over the condition of the body of Christ in America.

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, Philippines

My dear fellow believer, what I have now has changed my way of studying the bible and I must say it has made a great impact in my life. Now, I do enjoy preaching the word of God a lot and am not finding much difficulty. When am preaching, I can notice that what am saying is making sense even to me and the church is really enjoying. As am writing this mail, my face is full of smile and I must say God bless you so much. I love you...please keep the good work.

I just wanted to thank you so much for fulfilling your calling. My Uncle just got saved, he is now a catholic. However, he has allowed me to give him your material to go through. I am giving him your hermeneutics seminar in hopes that his eyes will be opened further. I went through the seminar years ago, although at that time I do not remember as many videos. It seems that you have added to it since that time, so I am going to go through it again myself. I have seen the survey notes you have on the different books, these are very helpful.....

Bishop Bernie wrote: "This is a marvelous ministry. Thank you for sharing. I would love to chat with you. I read much of your web site info. I love the way you see things. Blessings!

My name is Maxwell Edem Smith from Ghana.

i have been a beneficiary of your commentaries for some time now and I've greatly been impacted by your sound teachings.

i came across your statement of faith and am in love with it.

kindly permit me to use your statement of faith for my ministry.

Ps Bob, We have much to talk about, and there is much you have to pour into me, you inspired me, i listened to your tapes, each day years ago, and today i am a highly respected descent and honest teacher of the pure word, you were my bible school.

Thank God you connected me, i was talking about you everyday and you connected me.

I hope this note finds you well.
I continue to be very grateful for my incredible experience in your Hermeneutics class. I still teach the material 15 years later. It is one of our church's favorite classes! Your commentaries are also a great help to my study. Thank you again for investing in the lives of students. You cannot know this side of eternity how far your life's work and influence will reach. It certainly has reached those my ministry touches.

Jeff Franks, Spiritual Life Pastor, Hope Park Church

Am glad in Christ Jesus as I begin to go through the commentaries. I begin to have a new perception of what I have believed in, for many years. Thanks Dr. Bob

Hello brother Bob. I received an attachment of Jeremiah. Thank you very much, its owesome. Its a blessing to have God's servants like you. As iron sharpens iron, so, man sharpens man. You may not be knowing how much is the gravity of your materials on my level of edification. But trust my words, you're teaching me greatly from a far. I have a zeal to study the word of God both in season and out of season. I was listening to lesson 8 and I was shocked by what you said about Peter having inappropriately quoted the prophesy in the book of Joel! Please, am puseled and I need your help in understanding the appropriate interpretation of Joel's prophesy. I also ask for more materials on special Bible concepts like doctrinal issues of musical instruments in worship, women silence in assemblies, Law and sabbath relevance to Christians. Thank vou and be blessed.

Pray the
Lord savarnt
of God I have
happy be couse
I'm received
my copy of
Cd of Bible
commentary
God bless you
I'm attached
with my Photos
show that CD I
received from
you God bless
you.









Our students will love these materials. We appreciate your father's passion to equip church leaders in Africa with these resources. The church in Africa is expanding but their resource capacity is quite limited. Thank you for your generosity.

Professor, Campus Crusade for Christ International

Hello Mr Bob. Thank you very much for your work and time that you spend studying. Your lessons are teaching me alot. Am very hungry for your materials. Am in a theology collage in Swaziland but I have found a secret in your material. Would you mind to send me these new commentary that you have just finished prophet and others. I received Verse By Verse CD. Its am amazing theology.

Thanks Bob. We're working to create a global movement here. I'd like to contact you in the future - if that's OK. What you have done is great - especially the video commentaries. We want to produce short Disney style video commentaries like www.bibledex.com does. As you know, 50% of

the world's population is under 25. We want to produce short video commentaries that reach them. Perhaps we could collaborate in the future. Keep shining like a star - forever. Daniel 12:3

Man of God, may the Lord greatly bless you for such a great sacrifice. What the Lord has laid on your heart is not common but of His own ability and grace. I would greatly appreciate to have the CD.

David Wanjala Wanyama, Kenya

Pastor Bob, this is Samuel Baidoo, thanks for the message, I want you to know that **though you have retired**, **but not finished your earthly work**, especially me, **you need to continue to mentor**, I **am your product**, am seen as a powerful teacher because of you, I want you to come visit, but I want to come see you first.

Our Sunday morning Bible study group at 1st Presbyterian Church in Eastern Oregon, is grateful for your help in growing our understanding of this beautiful, pastoral Book of Revelation. We typically take three to five study session per chapter, some chapters go faster some slower but we resist our urge to move quickly through the verses and paragraphs and the tendency to assign our modern "grid" to this book. Your chapter grouping helps us follow the flow of this book written in

this very different mideastern literary style.

We have just finished chapter 4 and have started chapter 5. We are beginning to understand and feel the sense of what John is communicating and we were moved by the desolation of John as he began to "weep bitterly" in verse

4 and the comfort of verse 5, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that

he can open the scroll and its seven seals." We are beginning to assimilate, not the intellectual knowledge of the words, but the heart-understanding of Revelation. This is not about a definitive statement of meaning for the allusions, symbols and allegories; this is about our soul understanding the sense of this revelation. Our discussions start with the possible meanings of what is written, then moves on to what God is revealing to these particular people in this particular time at this particular place. Once we believe we sense this divine meaning, we ask ourselves if this can be applied to us individually and as a community.

We are humbled that you gave us a way to come to this perfect starting place. We are, more and more, discussing the Bible and its story as a narrative that our lives can fit into and as a narrative that can fit into our lives.

Jennifer Hope Webster has sent you a message.

Date: 3/07/2012

Subject: RE: exegetical commentaries online in 35 languages

Dearest Bob, I think what you are doing is so amazing that I blogged for you and forwarded to all my faithful

linked in connections plus twitter. Thank you for your faithful heart! **An excellent tool!** 

I want you to know how very much I appreciated your excellent sermon yesterday morning. Your defense of the Bible as reliable, accurate and ultimate Truth was very well

take away the benefit I am getting from these materials.

Not even the devil can

researched and expertly presented in a clear and convincing manner. Thank you for your good work on that.

I hereby first write to thank you for the empowering verse by verse commentary on a CD which has been proven to be very helpful and uplifting to my heart desire of understanding the word of God accurately and minister effectively in my life and ministry.

I have been making copies to many other pastors and every one is so excited and wants more and more.

The impact this CD is making is so great and highly appreciated by all pastors under my ministry as well as many others.

I am so grateful to you Sir as **not even the devil can take away the benefit I am getting from these materials.** 

Kindly consider helping more further with more study materials to help us further grow in the knowledge of His word so we can impact our congregations effectively with the Word.

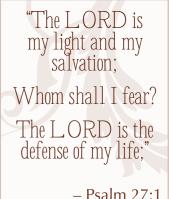
Pastor Bernard Chimuna

I listened to one of your sermons today (from your web page) and it challenged me to think about the assumptions I have made about the things I believe as a Christian. Thankyou for your message.

Warm regards, Mary from Australia

Tracy wrote: "Ok, Dr. Utley, you need to make your commentary into an iPhone app!!!!"

Douglas wrote: "Even more material! As a young Bible teacher, ever so thankful for your material, even when I don't always agree with your conclusions."



### Michelle's Thoughts:

The following email was sent to us at the beginning of this year:

"This morning of 2012 when I arose I found my heart go forth after God in longing desires of conformity to Him, and in secret prayer found myself sweetly quickened and drawn out in praises to God for all He had done to and for me, and for all my inward trials and distresses of late, my heart ascribed glory, glory to the BLESSED God!...Time appeared but an inch long, and eternity at hand; and I thought I could with patience and cheerfulness bear anything for the cause of God." Anna Budeke, Benin City, Nigeria

Wow! What a powerful reminder that we should have..."longing desires of conformity to Him..." We are called to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4; 2:10)...and when we are being like Him, then hopefully we can "with patience and cheerfulness bear anything for the cause of God!"

Bob, I have passed out all the CD's you sent me in Germany. I have some new contacts here in Afghanistan and would be happy to get 50 more if you have them. I give them to chaplains, leaders in the congregations, Bible study groups, etc.

Bob, Thank you for stirring people's heads and hearts for God's glory...

Larry and Betsy

I am a church planting missionary in Chitre, Panama, and also teach in Free Will Baptist Seminary in Chame, Panama. I recently came across some of your commentary teaching materials on the internet and am appreciative of what I am reading. One of the classes I am teaching this trimester is the book of Hebrews and your commentary has been invaluable for the class. I am writing to ask permission to print the PDF files of your commentaries and make them available to our seminarians.

This is Wagdy Helmy, the Head Librarian of the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary (JETS). We are so grateful for your very hard work on the Arabic commentary series that you are making available by CD. These commentaries are extremely helpful for our faculty and students. Accordingly, we are looking to get a copy for each the faculty and students, this comes to around 60. Are we able to

order 60 copies from Verse by Verse Computer Bible Study Library CD Rom? Again, we so thankful to you.

My name is Alfredo Cortez. I pastor a local church here in Orange County, CA. I operate an in-house Bible Institute where I (as well as several seminary grads) teach our seminary courses to the church as well as online.

We recently started to satellite our school in the Philippines, where we teach pastors, missionaries, and those who are interested in advancing to higher level doctrinal teachings in the way of adjusted seminary material for distance learning. We offer our courses free of charge and send hard copies to the school that is setup on behalf of Hope Bible Institute. I was wondering if you would be in a

position to help us out with our objective, namely, to offer and provide sound teaching material overseas. I am especially interested in Greek grammar/courses if you have anything in print/pdf. I did request for a copy of your dvd a year ago but have since shipped it to one of our missionaries.

Class, Last night we kicked off a new guys study. I can honestly say that for the first time in my life, I'm excited about the study. There are two reasons – the content of what we are studying and the guys that are taking part.

So, what are we studying? Bible Interpretation – specifically, how to study the Bible yourself. This is the most in your face study I've ever been a part of – pointing out that we as Baptists know so little about the Bible and what we do know we only know because someone else taught us (the preacher, the Sunday school, our parents, etc).

Unlike most guys studies I've been a part of, there was no talk about football, our jobs, or other daily distractions. I hate to sound cliché, but we actually got "real"...every guy

there was in on the conversation.

We gave out about 50 of these at the Freetown, Sierra Leone, retreat. This is Rev. Edward Dumbuya ( wearing glasses) our leader in West Africa.

Thank you for providing these for these pastors.





## BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

I cannot tell you how many people that I tell/have told about your website. We actually use it in my classes

that I'm teaching at Williamson Christian. Thanks so much for your gift and you will always be one of those people that I know helped shape me and bring out what God created me to be. I appreciate you and your work far more than I will ever be able to express.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

A good understanding have all those who do His commandments:

His praise endures forever."

- Psalm 111:10

I received last week another pack of DVD and CD of your precious verse-

by-verse Computer Bible Study Library. Million thanks for that. I've spoken about it to the other elders in

our church and have given one full copy (for free) to one of them. I've made copy and will give it to another elder from another church.

I greatly appreciate those tools that you made available to us for free.

May God abundantly bless you and your ministry.

Mr Rahajarijaona Mamy, Madagascar

Thank you for offering me your Bible commentary. I have started looking through the commentary and listening to the

#### **Bible Lessons International**

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seminar lectures. I am so blessed to have received such a wonderful free gift from. I have tried to post a letter to you air mail but i think it will take some time. I was part of a church planting course organised by The Timothy Initiative (TTI) from America. I have a small fellowship/home cell. This is why i want to understand the word better so that i can be able to do a sound teaching of God's word.

Vicytor Makieu, Sierra Leone

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