

The Bible

2014 Winter Study

Schedule

- Monday Nights at 7:00
- Tuesday Mornings at 10:30
- 5 Sessions ending February 24/25 (The Bible)
- Two Week Break (Holy Land)
- 4 Sessions beginning March 17/18 and ending April 7/8 (Book of Ruth)
- Bible Study Field Trip to Williamsburg May 12-15



THE GRASS WITHERS AND THE FLOWER FADES

**BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD STANDS
FOREVER**

A Psalm of David

- I was small among my brothers,
and the youngest in my father's house;
I tended my father's sheep.
My hands made a harp;
my fingers fashioned a lyre.
And who will tell my Lord?
The Lord himself; it is he who hears.*
It was he who sent his messenger*
and took me from my father's sheep,
and anointed me with his anointing-oil.

Continued

- My brothers were handsome and tall,
but the Lord was not pleased with them.
I went out to meet the Philistine,
and he cursed me by his idols.
But I drew his own sword;
I beheaded him, and took away disgrace from the people of Israel.

Psalm 151

- First appeared in the Greek Septuagint (LXX)
- For many years scholars believed that this was an original Greek composition (not written by David) and it was stated “there is no evidence that Psalm 151 was ever written in Hebrew”
- Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls 1947 (1956)
- It not only existed in Hebrew but it was part of the Psalter (book of Psalms) used by the Qumran community

Terminology

- Bible
- Greek "*ta biblia*"
- Translates Hebrew "*ha-sefarim*" = "the books"
- The Bible is a collection of Books-How Many?
- 66 Books
- 39 in OT (Jewish Scripture only 24)
- Jews combine Minor Prophets into "Book of the Twelve" and Samuel, Kings & Chronicles

The Bible

- 27 Books in the New Testament
- The Apocrypha “the hidden things”
- Many early Protestant Bibles included the Apocrypha, but around 1830 most had eliminated the books
- Book of Common Prayer encourages the books to be “read for example of life and instruction of manners; but not to establish any doctrine.”

The Apocrypha “deuterocanon”

- [1 Esdras](#)
[2 Esdras](#)
[Additions to Esther](#)
[1 Macabees](#)
[2 Macabees](#)
[Tobias](#)
[Judith](#)
[Wisdom](#)
[Sirach](#)
[Baruch](#)
[Epistle of Jeremiah](#)
[Susanna](#)
[Prayer of Azariah](#)
[Prayer of Manasseh](#)
[Bel and the Dragon](#)
[Laodiceans](#)

Terminology

- Canon
- Measuring Rod
- Came to refer to standards used in architecture and art
- Eventually “canon” was used of literary collections that were recognized as standards
- 4th Century AD –books recognized as sacred writings

Pseudepigrapha “falsely ascribed”

- 1 & 2 Enoch
- Biblical Antiquities
- Jubilees
- Psalms of Solomon
- Testament of Moses
- Testament of Abraham
- 2 & 3 Baruch
- Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs
- Omissions of Jeremiah (or 4 Baruch)
- Lives of the Prophets
- Letter of Aristeas

New Testament Pseudepigrapha

- Gospel of Peter
- Gospel of Thomas
- The Didache
- Clement's letter to the Corinthian Christians
- Shepherd of Hermas
- The Secret Gospel of Mark
- Letters of Ignatius

The Old Testament

- Jews call our OT the “Tanak”
- Torah (Law) (Pentateuch—GK for 5 books)
- Nebi'im (Prophets)
- Kethubim (Writings)
- II Kings 22-23 (King Josiah and building renovations—finding the book!)
- (Deuteronomy 12-26)

Torah

- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Dates (2100 BC to 1300 BC)
- Abraham (c. 2000)
- Date Written: 1400-1200 BC
- Date recognized as Scripture (c. 400 BC) Ezra
- Babylonian Exile became the watershed event in which Scripture was established followed by the establishment of the Synagogues

Nebi'im (Prophets)

- Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
- Latter Prophets (Major and Minor)
- Major: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
- Minor: (Book of the Twelve)
- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Nebi'im

- Achieved Canonical status around 200 BC
- We would distinguish Prophets (major and minor) from Historical Books
- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles
- Covers the history from the conquest of the Promised Land to the Babylonian Exile (1300 to 536 BC)

Kethubim (Writings)

- Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles
- These books were accepted by common usage by the 2nd Century BC, but it was not until 90 AD at the Council of Jamnia that they were established as Canonical.

The Hymn Book of Ancient Israel

- The Book of Psalms
- Many were written by King David (around 1000 BC)



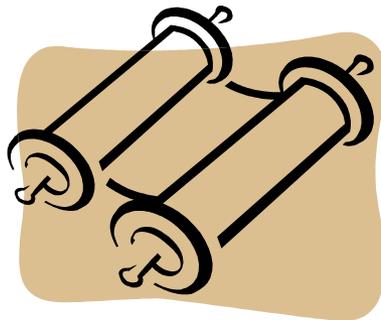
Wisdom Literature

- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Around 900 BC



Prophets & Other Writings

- Prophets from 800 to 400 BC
- Writings concerning Babylonian Exile and Persian Liberation: Daniel, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah (400-300 BC)
- Job: May be the oldest book in the Bible



Basic Truths

- The Bible is a Library of Books
- 66 Books (39 Old and 27 New Testaments)
- Songs, Parables, History, Poetry, Preaching, Stories, Letters, Apocalyptic Oracles, Prophecy, Wisdom sayings

A Library of Related Books

- Books are written independently, but . . .
- Every author assumes God's presence and activity in the world and in the lives of people
- There is a focus on bringing people into a right relationship with God and one another
- There is a call to obey the Will of God

A Library of Ancient Books

- Written to an ancient world
- Writers were not aware they were writing for all times, or that their words would become Holy Scripture.
- The Bible is best understood when studied in the historical context while gleaning the timeless truths that speak to life today
- Lexington<>Jerusalem<>Lexington

Library of Redemptive Books

- The books are not objective and unbiased historical books, nor should they be.
- The books were never intended to be textbooks on zoology, history, science, astronomy, or psychology
- The books are written to call us to faith in God, experiencing forgiveness of sin, a right relationship with God and neighbor, and a life of hope and fulfillment through service

Two Primary Redemptive Events

- God's call to Moses and the Exodus from Egypt: Redemption from bondage and the journey to the Promised Land.
- God's call to Jesus (The New Moses) and the Crucifixion and Resurrection: Redemption from sin and the journey to the Promised Land

A Library of Translated Books

- OT written in Hebrew and some Aramaic
- Translated to Greek around 280-100 BC (LXX)
- NT written in Greek
- First major translation was the Latin Vulgate
- Today the whole Bible is translated into 370 languages, while portions of the Bible have been translated into some 1865 languages

A Library of Selected Books

- We consider 66 books to be “Canonical”
- Some 160 “pseudepigraphal” or “apocryphal” books were not included
- Who made the final decisions about which books should be included and what criteria did they use?
- These questions will be answered next week.

A Story

2 KINGS 16:11

He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. Uriah the priest built an altar in accordance with all the plans and finished it before King Ahab returned. When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured on the altar his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. The bronze altar that stood before the L^{ORD}—from between the new altar and the temple—was removed and put on the north side of the new altar.

King Ahab then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, and the drink offering of all the people of the land. Offer on the altar all the blood of their grain offering and their drink offering. Sprinkle on the altar the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance." And Uriah the priest did just as King Ahab had ordered.

King Ahab took away the side panels and removed the basins from the stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. He took away the Sabbath canopy that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entrance to the temple of the L^{ORD} in deference to the king of Assyria.

As for the other events of the reign of Ahab, and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? Ahab rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hazeleiah his son succeeded him as king.

17 Hoshua Last King of Israel

In the twelfth year of Ahab king of Judah, Hoshua son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. He did evil in the eyes of the L^{ORD}, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshua, who had been Shalmaneser's vassal and had paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshua was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to Sargon king of Assyria, and he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshua, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habur River and in the towns of the Medes.

Israel Exiled Because of Sin

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the L^{ORD} their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods and followed the practices of the nations that the L^{ORD} had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things against the L^{ORD} their God that were not right. They built themselves high places in all their towns. They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high place and under every spreading tree. In every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom they had done. They did before them what provoked the L^{ORD} to anger. They worshipped idols, though the L^{ORD} had said, "You shall not do that."

The L^{ORD} warned Israel and seers through all his prophets and seers, saying, "Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I delivered to your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets. But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the L^{ORD} their God. They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless idols and themselves became wor-

117 Or and went up
118 Or the date of his throne (see Septuagint)
119 Exilee 284:5

2 KINGS 17:41

Then the king of Assyria gave this order: "Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the god of the land requires." So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the L^{ORD}.

Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cush made Nergal, and the men from Hamath made Ashima. The Assyrians made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. They worshipped the L^{ORD}, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people as priests in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought. To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship any other gods, nor adhere to the laws and commands that the L^{ORD} made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them. Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them. But the L^{ORD}, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that I have written for you. Do not worship other gods. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. Rather, worship the L^{ORD}, your God, it is he who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.

They would not listen, however, but while these people were worshipping the L^{ORD}, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

They imitated the nations around them, although the L^{ORD} had ordered them not to do as they do, and they did the things the L^{ORD} had forbidden them to do.

They took all the commands of the L^{ORD} that they took out of the ark of the covenant, and they bowed down to all these things. They bowed down to Baal, to Asherah poles, and they worshipped Baal, the Assyrian gods, and they sacrificed their sons and daughters to the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the L^{ORD}, provoking him to anger.

The L^{ORD} was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the L^{ORD} their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore the L^{ORD} rejected all the people of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his land.

When he tore Israel away from the L^{ORD}, Jeroboam son of Nebat made himself a king in Samaria and caused Israel to commit a great sin. The people of Israel followed the L^{ORD} and did not turn away from him. When the L^{ORD} removed them from their land and did not turn away from his anger, as he had warned through all the prophets, the people of Israel were taken from their homeland and exiled in Assyria, and they are still there.

Samaria Exalted

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cushah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim, and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. When they first lived there, they did not worship the L^{ORD}, so he sent lions against them and they killed some of the people. It was reported to the king of Assyria: "The people you deported and settled in the towns of Samaria do not know what the god of that country requires. He has sent lions among them, and they are killing them off, because they do not know what he requires."

120 Or They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire