

Twelve Days of Christmas: teaching #3

Epiphany of the Word

Introductory thoughts

Brian Harm's Epiphany Story – 2nd pass through the Bible since summer.

12 days of Christmas – 6 of the 12 days concern the Bible

1. A Partridge in a Pear tree – Jesus on the Cross.
2. Two Turtle Doves – Old and New Testaments
3. Three French Hens - The three theological virtues; faith, hope & love.
4. Four Calling Birds – Four Gospels
5. Five Golden Rings – 1st five books of the O.T. (Geneses – Deuteronomy)
6. Six Geese a-laying – The six days of creation that confesses God as creator.
7. Seven swans a-swimming – The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. Eight Maids a-milking – The eight beatitudes in Matthew. 5.
9. Nine ladies Dancing – The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. Ten Lords a-leaping – The 10 Commandments.
11. Eleven Pipers Piping – The 11 faithful Apostles.
12. Twelve Drummers Drumming – The 12 points of Christian doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

China trip

“Would someone please explain how the book works?”

2 Timothy 3

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Bible outline – A quick walk through the Bible

- God chose to use almost every kind of communication:
 - Narrative
 - History
 - Genealogies
 - Chronicles
 - Poetry & proverbs

- Prophetic oracles
 - Drama – action, passion & romance
 - Biography & character sketches
 - Parables & metaphors
 - Letters & sermons
 - Apocalypses – prophetic disclosure or insight.
- The Bible is a complete story
 - Beginning, middle and end- Starts in a garden and ends in a garden
 - Has a clear plot – The story of a great spiritual and moral conflict between good and evil. The story of a God that has been separated from his rebellious creation and his plan to redeem it.
 - Exposes us to the nature, will and heart of God
 - It is a book of miracles, mystery & wonder that stimulates faith and exposes us to the true purpose & meaning of life.

Old Testament

- Establishment of the Old Covenant, Promises and Law
[*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*]
 - Creation to the flood (historical documentation)
 - Abraham – (God's promise through his genealogy) - division of Judeo/ Christian (Isaac-Jacob - Jesus) & Islamic/Moslem (Ishmael)
 - Foreshadow of redemption – (Joseph – Moses – Joshua) Bondage – Passover – The law - journey to the promised place of God.
- History
[*Joshua, Judges, Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles*]
 - Israel is established as a Nation – Joshua – The Judges – 1st King (Saul) 2nd King (David), 3rd King (Solomon)
 - Israel divided & conquered by Babylonian Empire
 - Israel restored & reestablished – Zerubbabel, Ezra & Nehemiah
[Archeology has proven that the Bible is historically accurate.]
- Prophets & Poetry
[*Psalms & Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes & The Song of Solomon*]
- Major Prophets
[*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, & Daniel*]
- Minor Prophets
[*Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*]
 - Warnings to Israel – repent & return
 - Foretelling of restoration of a physical & spiritual Israel (A kingdom now and a

- kingdom later – An eternal Kingdom)
- Foretelling of a Savior/Messiah
- Last words – John the Baptist foretold

[More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled at the first advent – 60 major messianic prophecies and 260 ramifications concerning Jesus alone. Mathematical probability is 1 in 10X17th power or 1 to 100,000,000,000,000,000]

New Testament - (27 books written by 8 or 9 authors from 47 – 95 A.D.)

- Gospels
[Mathew, Mark Luke & John]
Four perspectives – (Three synoptic - similar in content and presentation, and one pastoral gospel)
 - Matthew – Links Jesus to O.T. – presents him a Messiah – written for Jewish mindset.
 - Mark – Focus on the works of Jesus above the words – focus is the final sacrifice – Jesus as savior. Written for Gentile mindset.
 - Luke – Historical accuracy, detail and integrity of the life and events of Jesus as being without sin. A gentile Doctor – the only gentile writer in N. T.
 - John – The pastoral gospel – dealt with the personality and nature of Jesus. He proved Jesus not just Messiah/Savior (the way to God) but as God.
- History
 - Acts – The expansion of the Gospel
- Epistles – letters to instruct correct and encourage the churches.
 - Pauline Epistles - [Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon]
 - Hebrews - Author unknown
 - General Epistles - [James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude]
- Revelations
 - 95 A.D. on Patmos during Roman persecution
 - A revelation of the last days, the second coming of Christ & a picture and promise of heaven.

The Purpose of Bible Translations - truths & misconceptions

Nehemiah 8 (NLT)

⁵*Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. ⁶Then Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands toward heaven. Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷Now the Levites--Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah--instructed the people who were standing there. ⁸They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping*

the people understand each passage. ⁹Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God." All the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the law.

- Misconception - Bible translation is a game of telephone.

History of Translation – “That we might have the meaning of the word”

Old Testament

- Hebrew Bible – Manuscripts compiled approximately 900 A.D. by Massoretes (Jewish Scribes)
- There was no printing press until 15th century
- Passed by oral tradition
- Hand written manuscripts by trained scribes. Edited copies were signed before acceptance.
- All present day translations work off of the same substantiated manuscript.
- Dead Sea scrolls found in 1947-56 in 11 caves 200 B.C. – a few punctuations and one plural that was singular were the only discrepancies.
- Canon – Books of the Bible that are officially recognized as Holy Scripture.
- Septuagint – Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible used by the 1st century church.
- Torah = Pentateuch or the Law – first 5 books of the O.T. (Gen. Ex. Lev. Num. & Duet.)
- The problem with the early Latin and English translations was the lack of scholarship in the ancient Hebrew.

New Testament

- 70 A.D. the church went underground and the original and early manuscripts were hidden & lost. Many of which wouldn't be rediscovered for thousands of years.
- 400 A.D. the Latin Vulgate was compiled from available manuscripts – only priests could interpret – scripture kept from the people as a form of control. Dark ages – the church became a political & taxation lever and very corrupt.
- 1400's - 1500's were years of Biblical transformation as a result of the protestant reformation. Major efforts to get the Bible into the hands of the common man – Printing press and new scholarship and courageous men who worked in hiding.
 - Wycliffe – 1400 – first complete English Bible in England.
 - Luther – 1534 Translated into German and common language of the people. (*Video clip*)
 - Tyndale – 1525 – considered the first complete and accurate translation up to that time. Was martyred in 1536. Last words – “Lord, open the King of England's eyes.”
- 1600 - Erasmus – Compiled 6 Greek manuscripts that dated from the 10th to the 13th centuries. [Known as the *Textus Receptus*]
- King James – 1611 – Authorized Version – 44 of the greatest scholars of the day – most accurate up to this time and for the next 250 years. Written in the common language of its day. Led the “Great Awakening” and world wide revivals. Came to America on the

Mayflower.

- Late 1800's - Another major transition in translation.
- Three more manuscripts found:
 - Codex Alexandrinus – (Found 1630) Entire N.T. from the 5th century
 - Codex Sinaiticus – (Found 1850) 350 A.D.
 - Codex Vaticanus – 325 A.D. Most complete and reliable.

 - Better scholarship – Ancient Hebrew linguistics was better understood. (Scholars were no longer in hiding due to the dark ages & persecution.) more reliable manuscripts
 - Older & more reliable manuscripts became available. 9 Greek texts. [Mark 16:9-20 - NIV sometimes omits with comment]
 - Freedom to do the work without persecution.
 - Language had drastically changed in 300 years. Words had new meanings.
 - Examples:
 1. Philippians 4:6 *Be careful for nothing vs. anxious*
 2. Romans 13:14 - *Flesh vs. sinful nature*
 - (Video Clip)

- 1881 – Revised Version
- 1901 – American Standard
- 1952 – Revised Standard Version – 32 scholars worked 24 years. Considered the most accurate by the American Bible Society.
- 1971 -New American Standard –
- Numerous paraphrases
 - Good News for Modern Man
 - Living Bibles
 - Message
 - Word on the Street
- New Living Translation

Value of the Word – Why should I be a person of the Word?

2 Timothy 3: ¹⁴

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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