

Be a Berean – Session 2 – Outline

Last week we got a glimpse into the Bereans that Luke wrote about in Acts 17. We learned that they were eager to hear what Paul and Silas were teaching and then they went about proving it from the OT scrolls which would have been in their synagogue. They eagerly examined the OT Scriptures when they received or heard the words of God spoken by Paul.

So how did the Bereans even get the OT Scriptures to examine?

How did the NT get written and compiled for the early church to read and examine?

What amazing things did God do to get the scriptures old and new to us?

My hope is that you will never look at that precious bible on your lap, in your hand, or on your table in the same way ever again. That you would truly understand the miracle that is God's Bible.

What is in this Bible

❖ Earliest Old Testament Texts

- 2000 BC – 500 BC
- 515 BC - 458 BC
- 285 BC
- Septuagint
- **Luke 24:44-45**

❖ New Testament Texts

- Eyewitnesses
- **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
- Earliest translations
- Emperor Constantine, AD 313.

How God got the Bible to us after Jesus

❖ Timeline of the Bible – over all these years God was faithful, He did not let His Word in the written scripture form be forgotten or abused as the Word traveled through time to the current day.

- AD 382
- 500
- 600 – 1300
- 1382 – John Wycliffe.
- 1408 - the “Constitutions of Oxford”
- Mid-1400s – Johann Gutenberg.

- Late 1400 – 1530 – William Tyndale
- 1535 – The Coverdale Bible
- 1560 – The Geneva Bible
- 1611 – The King James or Authorized Version

❖ 1629 and 1947 - Dead Sea Scrolls

So, we see that over the centuries God has always been in the process of making His Word known to all people whether Gentiles or Jews. We saw bitterness, slaughter, betrayal of those translating God's Word into the common languages. We saw the blessed Bereans of each generation working to make God's complete Word and Truth known. And we see that God continues to work in the hearts of man year after year, proclaiming the Good News of His Son Jesus.

❖ Since 1947, many modern bibles can be found around the world. These include

- Revisions of the King James Version
- Modern and Contemporary language versions
- Paraphrase versions, originally made for youth
- Amplified versions, with added words to communicate insights
- Literal Translation vs Paraphrase
 - Literal Translation – reproduces the original source languages into current language, word for word – ex. NKJV, NASB
 - Paraphrase or dynamically equivalent translations – aim at reproducing the meanings that is thought that the original readers would have understood – ex. NLT, NIV.
 - Some bible versions will contain a combination of literal and paraphrase as the translator does interpret the original languages – ex. Amplified, NEB
 - The Complete Jewish Bible CJB, uses translations and transliterations that are true to the Hebrew Texts.

What's in the Bible

- ❖ The Old Testament (Tanakh) is divided into three parts
 - a. The Law (Torah)
 - b. The Prophets
 - c. The Hagiographa, or Holy Writings.
- ❖ Between the Old and the New Testament
- ❖ The New Testament (new covenant: B'rit Hadashah) consists of
 - a. the historical books
 - b. the Epistles
 - c. the book of prophecy

- ❖ Nevertheless, the two parts of the Bible, the old and new, the Tanakh and the B'rit Hadashah, form one Bible. These two parts deal with parallel material in complementary ways from the beginning of history in Eden to the end of history in the New Jerusalem.
 - a. So, the New Testament apart from the Old is actually heretical, and the Old Testament apart from the New is incomplete – there are two testaments, one Bible
 - b. As Bereans – we must study both.

Why Study the Bible

Be a Berean, check the noted scriptures out, and see if these statements align with God's word.

1. To know God as the great creator – **Genesis 1-3**
 - a. **Genesis 1:1 (NASB)**¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
2. To enjoy and love God by meditating and rejoicing – **Psalm 119, 160-162; 1 Timothy 6**
3. To know God's Word by learning truth – **2 Timothy 3**
4. To understand the Word, Jesus is called the Word – **John 1, 10, 12, 14**
5. To learn direction in Life, what we are to do – **Psalm 119**
6. To find comfort and hope and encouragement – **Romans 15**
7. To let God expose our deepest thoughts and desires – **Hebrews 4**
8. To become pure and holy, as Jesus prayed for all believers – **John 17**
9. To obey the Great Commandment – the more we know God, the more we can love Him – **Mark 12; John 13**
10. Because in the Bible, God tells us to hear(read), to learn, and to obey(observe) His Word, and to teach our children – **Deut 4, 5**

Some Questions for Groups:

- Do you have a study bible?
- Do you know what you are reading – a literal translation, a phrase by phrase translation, or combination?
- Do you think there is a difference between studying and reading the Bible?
- What does this study/reading time look like? Does it include time for prayer before and after?
- What gets in the way of your time to be alone with God?
- Do you believe that the Bible is the perfect Word of God delivered directly to the authors?
- Do you struggle with what God means in His Word?
- What is the word of God in the Bible? Why did He give us this gift of His Word?
- Do you believe that God's word is Truth? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to study the Bible?
- What benefits do you think you can get from studying scripture?