

EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

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

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*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

*“Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

– Isaiah 9:6-7

## A LETTER FROM BOB

Dear Friends,

This year has been filled with exciting new opportunities for the spread of the good news of Jesus. Some of them are:

1. Publication of 2,500 copies of the commentaries in book form in both Farsi (Iran) and Armenian languages
2. A chance to begin a new Arabic translation

Wow! God is opening doors for His word. I am so pleased and blessed to be a part of it. You are a part of it too! Thank you! Thank you!

3. New translators for:

- a. Three Indian dialects
- b. Egyptian Arabic
- c. Bangladesh
- d. Turkey
- e. Indonesian
- f. Philippines



*“...So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it...”* – Isaiah 55:6-13

## A Word from Four of Our Wonderful Co-Workers

We want you to know a little more about the people who make BLI run efficiently. Below is a short summary of their work. There are two more people who we will be included in the next newsletter.

### MIKE:

Mike worked with Bible Lessons International as web/IT person for more than 20 years and oversaw many changes and improvements to the technical side of the ministry, including website development and audio/video work. He now serves as a consultant and does special projects for BLI. His current work involves developing a new system to calculate the number of pages processed by translators, taking into consideration work that has already been completed in a particular language, and using new methods for determining the amount of content in Dr. Utley’s “Special Topics,” based on current website data.



*Mike and Tammy  
Continued on page 2*

## ALEXANDER:

Yes, if you ask me, what my participation in the BLI ministry means to me, they are these words that come to my mind first. Turning my gaze back, now I clearly see how the Lord had been preparing me to this ministry step by step and during a long time.

When I first met Dr. Utley in 1995 (he came to Volgodonsk, Russia, to teach the Bible in a Pastor School of local Baptist Church), I could not even think then that 13 long years would pass and the Lord would perform this miracle.

Now I am sure that God had His special plan for me: I had to grow in my personal faith, acquire the experience of different Christian ministries, become a pastor of the Baptist Church,



*Alexander and Tatiana Shadov*

graduate from the Moscow Theological Seminary (5 year study), and only in 2008 I received an offer from Dr. Utley to translate his Bible Commentaries into Russian.

Since then, with God's help, I have translated about twenty volumes of Brother Bob's commentaries, a Bible Dictionary and a Video Seminar (subtitles). This work helps me myself to understand the Holy Scripture better and to strengthen my own relationship with God. Also I regularly use these commentaries in my pastoral ministry, especially for teaching and preaching in church.

But later God decided to extend my participation in the BLI ministry. Since January 2017, Dr. Utley has entrusted the duties of the BLI Translation Coordinator to me. Now more than 60 projects are being translated simultaneously into many languages of the world. Of course, this is a huge responsibility for me but God helps me to fulfill these duties properly. I am really happy that I can have my strength, time, knowledge, abilities devoted to God, to His Church, to His Kingdom.

And there is one more but very important thing. I could not have performed my service to God without my wonderful helper, my dear wife Tatiana. She does not know English but she is a great prayer supporter praying for all BLI team, and she also creates all the necessary conditions for my fruitful work. It is a great privilege to both of us to be a part of BLI team. Praise the Lord!

## VIDAL:

I am grateful and privileged to have the opportunity to join the team as the Spanish Language Coordinator of Bible Lessons International. BLI has been committed to tangibly express the mandate given in Ephesians 4:12 "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up". There is nothing more exciting today than to join what God is already doing in His Kingdom through BLI.

We believe the Lord is creating new opportunities to share the ministry of BLI locally and abroad within the Spanish speaking world.

**2018:** We have begun the preliminary conversations with Jesse Rincones, President for Convención Bautista Hispana (Hispanic Baptist Convention) BGCT:

- To explore the possibilities to utilize BLI's Spanish resources in the training of local pastors across the State of Texas.
- To provide theological training through BLI's Spanish and English resources to local pastors and church leaders in Texas.
- Scheduled to teach Dr. Bob's seminar, "You Can Understand the Bible" and to promote BLI Spanish resources at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Mexico (November 12-14)
- Scheduled to promote Spanish resources for BLI at the Annual Pastor's Conference in Monte Horeb Baptist Church in Mexico City, Mexico (November 15)
- Scheduled to promote BLI Spanish commentaries and resources at the weekly Chapel Service in
- Lomas Verdes Baptist Theological Seminary Mexico City, Mexico (November 16)
- I have several more planned in 2019



*Vidal and Areli with Bob and Peggy*

## BABACK

Here is the report of the "Friends from the South" Ministry in Armenia for March, 2018.

- The training took place on 23-28 of March, 2018.
- There were 16 Muslim background Christians invited from different cities of Iran.
- We had 5 Christians baptized and one wedding.
- We had 5 full days of training.

The lessons were:

1. "How the Muslim background Christians have to relate with the change of their culture and traditions"
2. "How a Muslim background Christian should share the Good News in his/her surrounding"
3. "Worship" /two lessons

We want to thank you for the thoughtful help, support and faithfulness in prayer and concern for this ministry, helping a great nation to wake up and stand for the Lord. May the Lord whom we trust and serve fill all your needs according to His riches and answer your prayers when you call on Him.



*Babak at Baptism Service*

# LETTERS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

Most of these letters are addressed to Bob but your name should be included also because it is you who make the work of BLI possible. We know that the glory goes to the Lord and He has only allowed us to be part of His plan to reach the world for Him.

Hello and thank you dear sister Peggy for the detailed accounting of the Genesis translation work by words. I love my work. May the Lord be the center of all this ministry. This work is an answer of prayers and I am really blessed by doing it - spiritually and financially. For many years as I took care for my little girls as a house wife I was looking for a job and asking God for help to find a job that I could care around the house, about the girls and my husband, do ministry and also work. Although it seemed very impossible to me but God had a wonderful work prepared for me through BLI. Now I have time to do all these counted things and also translate books which is the best thing I could do and like to do. I really enjoy what I do!

May God bless you dear sister Peggy and brother Bob Utley. You are a real blessing to me and to our family and I am sure to thousands of people around the world through your ministry!

*Jasmine, ARMENIA*

Pastor,

I heard you quote "unity in essentials, charity in non essentials, and all things love" from a PCA pastor. When I watched your Acts 15 explanation of Congregational, apostleship and presbyter decision making and how they have moved into the churches we now have. It made sense. No one brings in the Greek and scholarship to the church the way you do.

*Marc, GA*

Hello Doc Bob.

I am Ptr Robert from Philippines. (I started here in the Philippines the First COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP just last year)

Let me take this opportunity to say thank you very much for your free stuffs. I've been using your materials for 10 years now, including the CDS and DVDs that you (or your office) had sent me.

I'm using it for my Bible study, preaching, and as well as teaching (I am an SEE-Teacher/Facilitator of PBTs). And let me tell that it really enhances my Theological understanding for the past 10 years. You are really my MENTOR when it comes to Teaching and Preaching.

*Robert, PHILIPPINES*

Dear Professor Utley,

I write to acknowledge receipt of two DVDs you recently sent to me by posts. I'm so grateful to you for the gift of these DVDs. These DVDs, honestly speaking, will enhance my understanding of the Bible; and will also whet my Bible teaching skills.

*Joe, Pastor, MALAWI*

Dear Dr, Bob:

I hope this email find you well. I cannot thank you enough for posting these commentaries online. For past year Lord has been prompting my heart to study the word, but I just did not understand what that meant, until I prayed so much and came across your web site. I have no word to thank you for generously posting these online.

I was raised Buddhist without any awareness of existence of God. I grew up believ-

ing God is like Santa clause, a man made concept. It is through a very strange and supernatural series of circumstances that Lord revealed himself to me. Your bible study help me understand the personality behind the sovereign Lord whom I experience. God has not changed at all!

I have an amazingly colorful and supernatural journey with the Lord. Lately, and privately, you have been a part of my Christian journey. I hope I get to see you one day to express my gratitude. I hope

you receive this message to get a glimpse of how far Lord God is taking your discipleship. There are people to whom, I alone get to reach. They have never heard about the Lord, and you, through your good work you have done to the kingdom, get to be a part of it.

*In Christ! Nirupama...ASIA*

Dear Bob Utley,

It's funny - but when I fire up Logos to study a passage, I always hope there's a book there by "Bob Utley" on the subject at hand. And often there is! And I've been doing this for years without ever given thought to who Bob Utley is! So I looked you up today and wanted to send out a THANK YOU for how the Lord has used you over these years...and the ripple effect for those of us in lay ministry who use your resources. Much appreciated!

*Tom, USA*

Good morning,

I would like to thank you for your lifetime of incredible work. I have been studying the Bible consistently since 1971. Every once in a while, God has moved

me up to a higher level of understanding. I came across your web site and videos a few months back, and your teaching has moved me up to a new level. I look forward to hearing from

you every morning. I note that back in the day, you wore some pretty wild clothes. Well, we are of the same generation and I'm sorry we threw all mine away. The grandkids would not believe it! I pray your greatest needs will be met and if you are ever in the Kansas City area, I would be honored to take you to lunch.

*Dr. Jim, MO*

What a wonderful job it has been for this Rabbi to read your commentaries on God's Revealed Words.

“Your bible study helps me understand the personality behind the sovereign Lord whom I experience.”

Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Ben, my title is former Orthodox and Conservative Rabbi and my role now is Messianic Jewish Consultant.

I have enjoyed your commentaries and three things have been abundantly clear. 1) you love and respect our Avinu ("Father in heaven"); 2) you love and respect His d'varim ("Words") (what I refer to as God's Revealed Words - the Bible); and 3) you do not put down or criticize Yisrael ("Israel"), past or present, her people, or the portions of God's Revealed Words, Natzrut ("Christians") refer to as "the OLD Testament."

Hello pastor Bob,

I am pastor Robert at Assemblies Church. I still use your bible notes for my teaching series and I want to tell you that I am praying for your ministry. God bless you. Hope to see you pastor Bob. Please pray for our situation.

*Robert*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

I have wanted to send u an email for a long time but held back because perhaps I thought why bother the good Dr. I just thank God for using you to produce those seminar videos. Over the years, I have been watching the seminar videos during my fasting period. It has proved to be a real source of encouragement and Passion Spirit Driven Delivered Speech. In Africa here and because of financial restraints, one does not get the opportunity to attend a Seminary. But watching the presentation of Bible through your Seminar videos is a stimulating experience. Dr. Utley, to be honest, a bible presentation delivered at most seminaries always seems to be dogmatic in view. But there is something unique about your presentation that is arresting and catching. Right from Lesson one, u made it clear that your goal is not that a theological agreement is reached but that Christians are empowered to study the Bible for themselves. That thought and saying pervades through your delivery. It touched my heart SO MUCH. God bless u for that. Another unique feature is that

Christians must pay the price for what they believe and prove it by scripture even if there is a disagreement. Because in today's world, every one insists on his way and especially in regards to the Bible, dogmatism is at its best. It is wonderful that u made it clear that division in this context is not a bad thing but just stands for plurality. And I think this is honest when it matters. God bless for that Sir Bob.

*Pastor Mark, AFRICA*

Dear Dr. Utley,

I am writing on behalf of Solid Ground Bible Study Ministries to say thank you for your kind note and generous offer of making your study resources freely available to us. I am one of two teachers with Solid Ground here in Kitchener, Ontario, and have often used your resources at Bible.org. I am consistently blessed by your insight and commitment to the Scriptures. We were grateful to hear from you and to be made aware of your website resources at [www.FreeBibleCommentaries.org](http://www.FreeBibleCommentaries.org). It is very encouraging to us as a ministry to be reminded that there are others who are committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and are seeking to serve Him faithfully in the careful study and teaching of His Word.

*With love in Christ our Saviour, John, CANADA*

Good Afternoon Sir,

My name is Gabriel and I am an Evangelical Seminary Student from Puerto Rico, U.S. Territory (Colony).

I am currently a Chaplain Assistant for the U.S. Army National Guard 10 yrs now and Bible School Teacher at Puerto Rico United Methodist Church at Torrimar, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. (With a background from Pentecostal Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement and a Disciples of Christ wife).

I wish to express my gratefulness for the ongoing effort you have committed to take on for several years, placing God's gifts and talent to the service of others.

*Your goal is not that a theological agreement is reached but that Christians are empowered to study the Bible for themselves.*

Whenever I have to teach a Class or Preach, I like to listen to different contributors first and then re-focus, re-calibrate and adapt to the Congregation with Study Bibles and Bible Commentaries. Many of your You Tube Videos have been of a great blessing to my life, as well as a great reference.

*Gabriel, PUERTO RICO*

Yes man of God your commentaries are very helpful in my ministry. I promised you last time that they are books that I am continuing telling people to read. And they are now the only books that we have online for helping people who speak french. I am now praying so that God can give me the possibility for putting the internet in our discipleship house. As soon it will be possible Bible Institute Students including other church members will have more access to them. Whenever I will be getting the opportunity for ministering to people in churches or in schools; I will continue encouraging hearers to visit this website of yours as they look for helpful insights.

*Beni, CONGO*

Dear Bob and Peggy, (and Alexander)

Warm greetings from Kyrgyzstan!

I am including what has been done so far regarding the Kyrgyz translation of your commentary on Genesis. We realize that it still has to be formatted according to your guidelines. Nevertheless, we hope that this comes as an encouragement to you. You mentioned that we can choose the book(s)/commentaries that we would like to have done first in the Kyrgyz language. Well, I, personally, would say one of the Gospel accounts, Romans, and the Pastoral Letters. It's interesting that just today I got a phone call from a translator/checker whom we know well, who is interested in the Kyrgyz language project. I asked her to come and speak with me in person.

Again, your gracious offer of support came as an amazing surprise to us.

*By His GRACE, In His PEACE, with His LOVE,  
Don (One of our Translators), KYRGYZSTAN*

Hi Dr. Bob,

I've been in full-time ministry for 16 years. Proper interpretation of scripture was and is always a passion for me. Thank you for your material. I do not preach a sermon without consulting your commentaries. I so desire to host a biblical interpretation seminar on a regular basis in Cape Town South Africa. You will definitely be the first person I would like to invite to be a speaker. I really look up to you as a mentor when it comes to 'rightly dividing the word of truth.'

*Solomon, SOUTH AFRICA*

Hello Dr. Utley,

Just a quick thank you for all the research, dedication, and honesty your videos and audios offer to laymen like me who seek to know more of Biblical history without straying from Holy Scripture. I just discovered your work as I was seeking a commentary on I & II Samuel. OUTSTANDING. May Almighty God keep using you to teach all of us seekers.

*John*

#### REQUEST FOR PERMISSION

Warm regards and Calvary greetings in Jesus most holy name. I hope with God on your side all is well with you and your family. I will never cease to glorify God for His mighty hands and anointing upon you to set up this powerful Christian movement in the global context for accuracy in Biblical Interpretation.

Since 2008 when I come across your powerful "Bible Lessons International" CD ROM that you send to me upon my request, it has become my close companion and reference desk. Papa, in the Lord, sincerely you have mentored and have been mentoring me through this resource. And as my mentor and going through your profile I will not be ashamed telling you some details concerning my ministry:

I am a full-time minister of the gospel with the "Assemblies of God Nigeria" in active pastoral, evangelistic and teaching ministry for fourteen years now; and the founder of "Shekinah Glory Christian Network Assembly Ministry (SCNAM).

*Peter, NIGERIA*

Hi Dr. Utley,

I just wanted to thank you for sharing all of your studies on your website. I'm taking a School of Biblical Studies course with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) and frequently use your website for background information. (And occasionally I break the rules and look at how you've interpreted a verse/passage...we're not supposed to use any commentary! Please don't tell on me!)) You have a gift of sharing in a clear and concise way - and your videos are never boring! Do you still teach?

Anyway, I just wanted to thank you for how much time and work you've put into your website and let you know there's a bunch of us that benefit from it!

*Thanks again! Amanda*

Dear Bob,

I emailed you years ago when I was seriously doubting my faith. You were kind enough to respond to me and referred me to one of your videos.

Through some pretty significant trials in my family I started to doubt Gods Word again. I continued to read my bible, serve at church and watch tons of sermons. Inside I felt like I was dying though.

God has been so patient with me. I watched your video "Why I believe the New Testament" again. It helped so much that I just had to say thank you again. I hope the Lord blesses you in every way for your work of faith. I don't think people know how truly horrible and terrifying it is to doubt God when you so desperately need Him at the same time.

*Mary*

Dear Dr. Utley,

I represent a Theological Seminary, and we do really appreciate your scholarly free

Bible commentaries that we regularly make use of due to lack of other suitable materials. I check your site on a regular basis and found last time when I sent there that the resources have been updated and that new written commentaries are available, for example, on Exodus and other books. Thank you so much.

*Dr. Muhammad Schmidt,  
Int'l Faith Theological Seminary*

Bro. Bob has taught me not to be perplexed by the paradoxes in scripture but to be amazed by a God that knows what He is doing in the midst of them. We have a God that tells us everything He wants us to understand and directs us to dig deeply to understand more. I love Him in the midst of the mystery! He leaves me in awe much of the time!

*Susan*

Dear Pastor Bob,

I'm writing this to inform you how it is all coming together in our Lord's wonderful masterpiece picture and the brush strokes of your You Tube videos have played. My discipleship is on going with a Jon Werner. We started with John and are in Romans. The ah ha moment is Romans 6:6 and "the Jesus pulling the cord." So grand when it comes together.

*Dan*

I have shared the site with our top leaders via What's App and have encouraged them to share this rich resource with everyone, especially other pastors. Our mission is to make disciples of indigenous believers by training pastors in the Word of God so that they "equip the saints to do the work of the ministry" and grow to maturity in Christ. We are a small mission with a big footprint by the grace of God literally impacting multiple thousands of indigenous believers to BE disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples.

The [Http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/mobi/](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/mobi/) website is a tremendous resource for us...

*Jeff*

Hi Bob!

I hope this message finds you well! I just watched a sermon of yours called, "Do you get it?" and I felt compelled to reach out and tell you that God spoke directly to my heart through the message. I have 3 young children who are all sick right now and a husband who is out of town on business. I have been pretty down that I couldn't attend Easter services but I feel as though God led me to that sermon because I desperately needed the message. I have been a Christian most of my life and attend church regularly but I have been feeling a deafening distance from God lately. I was beginning to fall into the ways of "American Christianity." I was asking Him last night to open my eyes and give me what I need to bridge the gap. (Why do I make life harder by allowing myself to grow complacent and distant from Him?)

Anyway, I believe God led me to your "Do you get it?" as an answer to last night's prayer. Thank you for your raw honesty and for being a vessel of Truth.

*Haley*

Dr. Bob,

I could have sent a message, but I wanted this to be between more than the two of us. When I think of people who influenced my life for my good and God's glory, you are at the top of the list, and I'm not sure you know that. What you taught me about interpretation has kept me on track when outside influences might have lead me into a kinds of misinterpretation. Your commentaries have continued to help me rightly divide and teach for years now. As my wife and I prepare to take God's word further into unreached and difficult context, you will be going with us in many ways. I especially want to thank you for being a passionate advocate for keeping the word in context, and for teaching me to be comfortable with theological paradox. Most of all I am thankful that you planted seeds in my heart for sharing the knowledge of God's glory where it is not known.

*Robin*

Bob and BLI,

I do want to thank you personally for some amazing things God has done in my life through your commentaries.

Your commentaries are real, practical, and cut to the quick of Scripture. They have allowed me to stand firm in what I know is true. As a Baptist, there is a tendency to just go with the flow in theology, and adopt what the traditional scholars say (which is not completely wrong, but there is error. We are all human, right?). Your commentaries have helped me in an eschatological sense, working through baptism and its meaning, and eternal security. I have learned from you that I can read the Bible, and through the Spirit of God can understand what He is telling His people allowing me to teach others by His power.

There was a really crucial time last year where I was invited to attend and (2 years) to preach at a reforming Church of Christ (imagine that a Baptist, invited freely to teach at a COC, God's amazing). I used your commentaries tenaciously during that time producing over 24 lessons on Gods affection, love, and sovereignty. Overall the time ended at a stalemate, mainly on Baptism and works. But there were great improvements for God's glory.

I use them almost every week in seminary through my logos software.

*Thank you for your love for the Church, Erick*

Hello Dr. Utley!

I am an adult Sunday school teacher in a Nazarene church. My class is not "baby Christians." I am looking for a curriculum that would take us through the whole Bible. (What we have been using starts repeating after about 4 or 5 years without covering the whole scripture.) Do you have any suggestions?

*Terri*

Dr. Bob,

I have been using your commentary since 2015. My church members including my pastors think I have wisdom and knowledge of the Bible. Now, I have to teach Revelation starting Wednesday. The

lessons will be based on your commentary. Thank you so much for providing this information for free. I just pray that the Holy Spirit teach through me. I am not able to do this on my own.

*LaSonya*

Greetings, brethren at BLI. God's grace be with you.

First of all, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Aldivam, a Brazilian Christian. I was born again when I was 15, in my hometown. Since then, I feel a deep desire to know more of God and His Word. Only a couple of years ago I discovered Dr. Utley's valuable work on the internet. So, I thank God for his effort to announce the Gospel of Christ to the world.

The main goal of this contact is to ask for permission to use Dr. Utley's material in my books. I like his commitment to the Truth and Word of God. Also, his methodology in hermeneutics is very faithful to orthodoxy.

*Aldivam, BRAZIL*

Hi Bob,

Thanks for adding me onto your Face book friends. The bible study group I'm in regularly listen to your You Tube videos. Currently they are helping us through ACTS. There's 4 men from 18 to 50 in the group and we love that what you say comes from the bible and if you believe the bible is not saying something you tell us. We are grateful that God has put you in our lives, even if you didn't know.

*Thanks, Shannon, AUSTRALIA*

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in the process of making a custom/ personal study Bible that I can carry with me. In the future I was planning on distributing them to family and friends if they wanted them, as well as put it on Amazon Kindle as an ebook. This will be a long process. I love Pastor Utley's teachings and commentary. I really would like to use his commentary in my Bible, but obviously I would need permission. I am just wonder-

*“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”*

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11*

ing if I would be permitted to include his commentary in my Bible.

*Jordan, OH*

Good morning Dr. Utley,

I just wanna say thank you for providing freebiblecommentary.org. This website is very useful for me. The Lord saved back in January 2013. I was born and raised as a Muslim (for over 40 years). God has been nothing but wonderful. I'm learning everyday and I want to dedicate my life in serving Him. Is there an iphone app for this commentary? I just think it would be wonderful if we can carry so much info on the website on the phone or the ipad.

*So again, I just wanna say thank you again.*

*Herman*

Since 23 years now I have been a Christian I have not hear this teaching. I must commend you for this teaching. I am a Liberian who is seeking for God's true. My desire is to be a trainer of the unreached pastors in Liberia. How can I be part of your training in Liberia that God can transform lives in Liberia.

*God bless you and your ministry, Orusephus, LIBERIA*

Hi Pastor Bob Utley,

How are you? I am Jeiah a Filipina. I am a missionary Pastors kid. How's your ministry there? About us, my dad is pastoring now here at one of the Foursquare church. Formerly my parents are missionary in Papua new Guinea. Right now they are praying for the next Country. My dad is using your materials in expository in New and Old Testament. Please pray for us.

*God Bless you, Jeiah, PHILIPPINES*

Hi there Pastor Bob,

Thanks so much for the Free Bible Commentary. I have downloaded it and use it often. It's a big help. I have also gone through your video series on Biblical Interpretation and have recently downloaded your series on the book of James. I use both E-Sword and The Word Bible

software with your modules installed as well. Appreciated your teaching on Grammatical/Historical methods. It's my desire to do expository preaching. I am currently enrolled at Christian Leaders Institute (an online Reformed Theologically based institution).

*BRITISH COLUMBIA*

Hello Dr. Bob Utley,

I would like to get in touch with you. I am past Elijah of Cameroon. I really enjoyed the way we were I'm sorry. I don't speak English. I preach now it based on the study you did. I have been looking for a long time and I am blessed with that

*God bless you richly Dr. Bob Utley. Pastor Elie, CAMEROON*

My respectable Sir,

My name is Jamshaid. I live in Pakistan. I'm student. I'm graduated. I'm very found of Bible knowledge and have great desire to understand it. But my Spiritual Teacher, I often search knowledge and history about the Bible on internet. One day I found your website and thought, it will be very helpful for me to know about the Bible study. Thanks God, I get more knowledge in written form. Then I saw many bible study lectures in it. I downloaded it. But these lecture in English commentary. My English is some weak and can not easily to understand and listening it.

*God bless you and your spiritual family. Amen. Jamshaid, PAKISTAN*

Hello Dr. Bob,

My name is Tim my wife is named Maya. We are both passionate about serving the lord and had been attending a Pentecostal service. My wife's family is from Russia, they are Russian Pentecostal. The church pastor of the Slavic gospel told her that she was not welcome there because she was previously married so we started going to True Tabernacle. We found that some of the doctrines weren't correct and read the Bible. The rolling around on the floor and all that and so I found you sermons

after prayer and fasting and I showed him to my wife and it really has helped me and I've decided to start attending a Baptist Church. My wife still need some convincing but she realizes that it's not I've got her in the Bible and it's not of God to take people out of a church and say they're not worthy. Can you please help me give me some more information. We are interested in joining the ministry and I was wondering if there is any Bible schools I could attend to help me learn more and to help me get train to be a missionary? Thank you so much. I really appreciate you so much as helped you so much. Very blessed by God.

*God bless you. Tim, RUSSIA*

Texas Port Ministry of Freeport provides ministry to over 10,000 seafarers from 50 different countries of the world; over 150,000 truck drivers from across North America; and nearly 20,000 port workers in Freeport, Texas. The work of the ministry is done through the volunteer efforts of over 40 individuals representing 20 local churches. BLI sent 200 CD-Roms to give away.

Dear BLI:

Greetings, grace, and peace to you!

I am a state prisoner and long time believer in Jesus Christ. I am currently in the Faith Based Program on my unit.

Another inmate in the program has a copy of the textbook, An Introduction To And Application Of The Contextual/ Textual Method Of Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics), by Dr. Bob Utley.

I would like to know if this textbook is still available.

*David, TX*





*Merry*  
**Christmas**  
2018

## THE BRANCH OF JESSE

The Scriptures below reveal the prophecies of Jesus as “the branch.”

These verses are not the typical ones we use at Christmas but they show another aspect of Jesus that we don’t always think about.

*See Special Topic: Jesus the Nazarene online at [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org)*

### **Isaiah 11:1-3 – The rule of the Branch of Jesse**

*“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

*“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—  
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.”*

### **Jeremiah 23:5 – The message concerning the Messiah**

*“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when I will raise up for David[a] a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely  
and do what is just and right in the land.*

### **Jeremiah 23:15 – The promise reaffirmed: the Davidic covenant**

*“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.”*

