

EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

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

Dr. Bob Utley - 903.935.2532 - 800.785.1005 - PO Box 1289, Marshall, TX 75671

## A Word From Bob

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”

– **Isaiah 7:14**



“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”

– **Isaiah 9:2-7**

We wish you a joyous Christmas and a blessed new year. We hope that you will have opportunities to spend with your family and celebrate the true meaning of the birth of our Lord.

We try to send a newsletter to you during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. It is important to keep you informed on how your prayers and gifts are being used for the Kingdom. It is amazing to me as I sit at my desk in Marshall, Texas that, through the internet, we touch the world every day! It is especially exciting when we are able to send material to Muslim and third world countries! Our only way to allow you to feel a part of the ministry (which you truly are) is to print “some” of the emails we receive. They offer a window into what is happening every day! We are mailing 300-400 CD-ROM Computer Bible Commentaries every month.

I am so happy to have finished my commentary on Genesis 12-50. It took many months but it was worth it because I learned new insights during my study! It is such a joy to me to be able to spend time in God’s word all day, nearly every day!! You can see the new com-

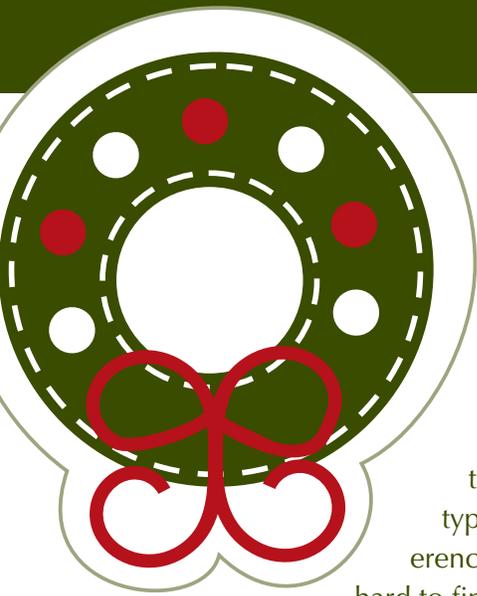


mentary online at [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org).

I am currently working on my commentary on Isaiah 1-39. It should be online early in 2010. Please pray for me. Some of the Scripture texts from Isaiah that relate to Christmas are: Isaiah 7:14 (also see Matthew 1:23); 9:6-7; 11:1—5, 6-9; 2:2-4; 19:18-25; 24:11-16; 25:8-9; 26:14,19. When I finish the two volumes (chapters 1-39 and 40-66) I am going to go through all of the

*Continued on page 2.*





## A Word From Bob

*Continued from page 1.*

NT Commentaries again and update them. Some of the translators have found typos and Scripture reference problems. We try hard to find errors but anyone

who has written a book knows how difficult it is to catch everything!

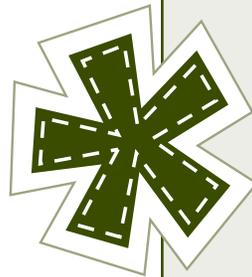
Spring is the timeframe for most of our current translation projects to be completed. We want to include them in a new version of the CD-Rom Computer Bible Commentary which will be given away to all the participants (10,000 are expected) at the Baptist World Alliance in Hawaii in July. There is also an opportunity to send the CD's to a world mission conference to be held in Tokyo in October 2010.

In June I participated in a mission trip to Central America (Nicaragua and Costa Rica). I was one of the speakers at a conference on the priority of Evangelism and Discipleship. I taught the section on discipleship. It was for pastors particularly but many laypeople attended. Many committed themselves to intentional lifestyle "Great Commission" Christianity. It was such a blessing.

I have been interim Pastor at Lakeside Baptist Church in Dallas for a year. You can see my latest sermons on our free website by clicking on "Video Sermons" and then "Lakeside Baptist Church, Dallas."

Please call or email us if you have: (1) a prayer request or (2) a friend, pastor, missionary or Bible teacher to whom we can send a free CD-Rom.

We enjoy hearing from you. Your prayers, gifts and encouragement help us continue in the spiritual battle.



## A Word From Peggy

The year of 2009 makes me sing: "God is so good. God is so good. God is so good. He's so good to me." Our God is truly so good to us. When we reflect on all of the ways He has provided for our needs (even more abundantly) we realize that we can do nothing without Him. He is the One who deserves our praise and worship and we want to be faithful to Him. The words of Proverbs 3:5-6 are so appropriate for believers: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

We are thankful for Dianne Turner, our secretary; she helps prepare and mail the resources that we send to people around the world. She works in a loving, caring, and helpful manner. We are also thankful for Doris Spraberry; she types all of the commentaries. Bob says that she can type in tongues because she can decipher his notes. He writes everything by hand on 8 1/2 by 11" yellow pads and his penmanship is not always very readable!!! She has also been a wonderful blessing to us and the ministry. We cannot forget Mike and Jesse Miga who do all of the technical computer work for us. We could not continue the ministry at all if it were not for them.

Our family continues to give us such joy. We are blessed to have them close enough that we can see them often (we hope to take a family picture during the holiday and we will include it in our next newsletter). Thank you for praying for us and them. We receive notes from many of you expressing your love and telling us that you pray for BLI and for the Utley's every day. This is such a blessing and encouragement. Because the world today is so godly we must pray for believers everywhere to be strong in the Lord so that we will continue in the spiritual battle and bring the light of Jesus into the darkness.

Thank you for loving us and praying for us and for the gifts you give to the Lord through BLI. May He bless you in the coming year as you serve Him. I recently received an email that was signed: "Be blessed to be a blessing." I like that!



# IMPACTING THE WORLD



*(These letters are printed just as we receive them. We always enjoy these letters and hope that they will give you a glimpse of how all of us together are making an impact on parts of God's world. We cannot print them all because there are too many. Please pray for these people as they serve the Lord.)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Greetings the precious name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

I am Tha Herh Ling. When Rev Robert Thawm Luai started the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (EPCM) in 1983 in the spirit of 20th Century Reformation Movement, my father (late) took a stand with him in defending the faith and served as a pastor of the same local church. My father was the 2nd believer at our village. Ms. Sang Men, who was my mother's grand mother's sister was the first believer at our village and followed by my father when he was 12 years old. They faced many problems because all the villagers denied their belief. Therefore the villagers against them because they were animism. Through them, the grace of God changed the life of villagers from animism to Christianity. It was the beginning of Christianity at my village.

I serve the Lord as assistant pastor of Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Seminary. And I am one of editors of Sola Scriptura Literature Ministry.

What I am trying to say that we need your help through your free gift of books for our Bible Seminary library and the Church. We have only few books at our library, but we can not buy others goods books especially commentaries because of lack of finance. Therefore I humbly request you to help us through your book  
God bless you!

*Tha Herh Ling  
Insein, Yangon, Myanmar*

Hey Bob,

It's an honor to hear from you. I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your commentaries. I'm a 39 year old real estate agent with a wife and 3 girls in Cornelius, NC (just north of Charlotte). I've searched the web for material to help me with understanding the Bible better. When I came across your site I stopped looking. I often listen to your commentaries while working on my computer or during down time. Your gifting in teaching and integrity to the text is amazing. But what is so compelling and refreshing is your obvious personal passion for Jesus that comes through. I appreciate your willingness to be vulnerable with your audience. When you don't understand something you say it. When you struggle with something you say it. You've purposed to be an open book that allows us full access to your technical abilities of exposing the text as well as your personal journey of following Jesus. That is a beautiful thing and so valuable to me and so many others who have benefited from your years of study and commitment to God and His Word.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

*Scott*

Dear Bob,

Thank you very much for sending me the 25 CD's. Your kind heart is very much appreciated. I have one question. When you activate the CD it goes to connect Internet explorer. As I have explain in a previous e-mail; the Cuban do not have access to the Internet. Do these CD's work

independently from the Internet? I just want to make sure and do not want to disappoint the pastors in Cuba.

Thanks brother for your friendship.

*Johan Koenen, Minister in Cuba*

Thanks Bob,

We have been blessed by your commentaries in Telugu and Paul distributed the commentaries in our independence day celebrations yesterday.

Please pray for our prisoners for they repent and accept Christ as their personal savior and Lord. If you happened to visit India, please Visit our Prison.

We are very happy about your ministry

*K. Esway, Jailor in India*

Dear Dr. Prof. Utley

For your gracious offer from the bottom of our hearts a big thank you! We have established a link to your free website on the area where we offer assistance to reach out under Asian expatriates in the country. I will forward this resource to my colleges. I am sure they will enjoy this resources a lot. We are still looking for more resources to reach the Tibetan Buddhist monks and Mongolians. If you one day should be able to give as a link for a similar offer we would appreciate it a lot too.

Shalom in Jesus,

*Alain Haudenschild,  
A Swiss missionary in Taiwan*

Dear Dr. Utley

I just would like to express my deepest thanks to all the material that

you make available on the Internet. I have not even used one percent maybe of all the riches, but I am so blessed with your insight. I work with the School of Biblical Studies within YWAM. You might know it. We study all the books in the Bible inductively.

I am so thankful with all the insights that you are giving and under almost all my studies your name is found in the footnotes!

I am doing a step back the coming year to sit at the feet of Jesus again and study the books of the OT in depth. I will probably again use your studies a lot, although we study first ourselves and then when I get stuck somewhere I look what brother Bob has to say about it!

May the Lord bless you and award you for your abundant generosity.

Forever grateful!

*Rosalie*

I am Franklin Tagbator, from Ghana Dr. I was dumb founded when I was given my CD's.

In fact, it arrived at the right time and it's truly a blessing. I do not even know how to express my deepest senses of gratitude. It is only the father of light that can adequately reward you to the brim.

Dr. may you live long and never see death till your mission on earth is accomplished in full. I shall



not hesitate in contacting you should I face any problem during my studies. I am verily blessed.

Thanks, thank, thank you much

Dear Dr. Utley,

I just wanted to express my gratitude to you for making your life work available online and free. I discovered it today and can't stop reading it.

My name is Shelby, graduate of

I am so thankful with all the insights that you are giving and under almost all my studies your name is found in the footnotes!

SWBTS and currently attending for DMIN studies. I was forced terminated in April of this year for confronting a third generation rebellious deacon in the church. Our home church took us in and now I am serving in evangelism for the next year or so.

Again, it was blessing to find your work. Please keep in touch and let me know if I can ever be of service to you.

Do you ever come and guest speak?

*Your brother in Christ*

Dear sir

As a Sunday school teacher, I will be grateful if I will be blessed with a good commentary to enable me teach the scripture very well

*Theophilus Adika  
Church of Christ, Ghana*

Dear sir,

I wonder to see Hindi bible commentaries first time on the website. I am praying for the commentaries in Hindi as we do not have commentaries in Hindi language. I am a professor of a Bible college. How can I get at least two printed copies, one for me and another for the library. I can download but printing is the problem. It will be a great help to our hindi christian community if you can help. Is there any other hindi commentaries are in process? I am willing to translate if it needed. Really it is a great job you are doing. I am praying that God will bless you and use you mightly. Please reply.

Your brother

*Krishnapaul, India*

Hello, Dr. Utley,

I am currently a NT prof here at ( ) Baptist University. Several years ago I had the honor of sitting in your class while I visited ETBU with my mentor, Rodney Woo. At that time you gave me one of your commentaries, and it has come in very handy through the years. I just wanted to say thank you for your example as a scholar and your service as saint.

Blessings and more,

*J.*

Dr. Bob Utley,

Thank you for such a quick response. I would be interested in the Hermeneutics Seminar and your OT/NT video Bible commentaries. The free CD-Rom would also be nice (though I already downloaded them).

Aside from this, do you happen to know and recommend any well done academic videos by African Americans (my web searches haven't found very much)? Our student body at

the Seminary and Bible College has grown with many Southern Baptists, who happen to be African American, and I would like to be able to success good video material to them.

Though this request is from me personally, I will certainly put copies in the School's library. Perhaps the school will have enough funding some day to make our own videos, hopefully with the level of exposition and quality scholarship (and enjoyable) that you offer..

Continued blessings on your life and ministry,

*John*

Dear Sir/Ma,

I am a young student pastor at The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomos. I am in B.TH/B.A 400 LEVEL. I just want to humbly request for your assistance by sending me bible commentary that will be helpful for me in the ministry. Your kind gesture will be highly appreciated as we find it hard to purchase some of these things in this part of the world.

*Bablola*

*The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso, Nigeria*

Dear Dr. Utley,

I use your commentary every week as one of the resources in preparing sermons, and find it very useful. Thank you for making it available for free. It is a tremendous blessing to me.

*Ryan Megaw*

*East London Vineyard Christian Fellowship South Africa*

Dear Sir

First of all, I would like to thank you for sending me the free CD Bible Commentary which I like the most.

Sir, really it has given and is giving me a new understanding of Bible everyday.

Sir, You are doing really a wonderful work to the humankind...

Sir, I am Bro. Sargin Rubas (III year Philosophy) a seminarian from St. Joseph's seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore, Karnataka, India, 575002. I would like to get your views on the concept of SATAN in the BIBLE also If you have any other material like the CD which can help me in understanding BIBLE please send them to me..I will be really grateful to you...

Thanking YOU

*With love and prayers*

*Bro. Sargin Rubas*

Proffessor may God bless you agin and again. I found it very intersting and blessing. I am copying the CD now to every one of my friend on their PC. Even in the theological college I am teaching Research course, I am distributing the copy freely. I will always pray for you. By the way I am eager to study my PhD Hermeneutics, I have MA in English literature... please pray for me too.

*Endale Beshor, From Ethiopia*

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Greetings from the Philippines. Yes, I have received your free CD Bible commentary and I appreciate very much the materials being provided free of charge inspite of the cost of producing and mailing them. You are indeed a blessing not only to me but to those I have shared copies of



*Church members at worship service in India*

that CD. I shall be looking forward to downloading your other works as they become available. Once again, thank you. Honour and praise and glory belongs to HIM, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gratefully in Christ,

*Bro. Martin Dy*

Dr. Bob

Thanks for your Bible Commentary. I got it yesterday morning and I am so gladded to receiving this CD-Rom from you. I will give CD copies to my friends who would like to know What GOD said and your works and your words.

You are so kind to us, the poor youth of Myanmar. I look forward your new book and future items.

I will thanks again for your kindness and love for us. GOD BE WITH YOU Dr. Bob

*Co zay, Myanmar*

Hello Dr. Bob,

I received your cd-rom computer Bible commentary sometimes ago. It's a blessing to me and am still discovering the videos and audio Bible studies. It has tremendous materials. I want to say thank you and wish you all the blessings from our Almighty God. I will pass on this information to as many people as I can, will give out copies of this cd-rom, send the

website to all my friends in Christ. My church and myself will continue to pray for the work you're doing so that God will guide, provide for all the needs and give you insights.

Looking forward to receiving your commentary on Isaiah.

*Rd Eleazar HABIIYAKARE  
Free Methodist Church of Belgium*

Dear Dr Bob Utley,

May the peace and love of the Lord be with you.

Thanks a lot for the free Cd-rom Computer Bible Commentary which I received a couple of days ago. I really can say I have found a treasure which I had not discovered neither heard about before. Thanks for the consistent and clear approach to the Bible exegesis.

As a student of Sacred Scripture, now writing my Licentiate thesis, I am reading the commentary with an eye of an exegete not forgetting my Christian orientation. I have in fact shared the CD and the site with my fellow students and they are finding it a treasure.

I have also visited the web and it is giving me a food of thought.

Once more thank you very much. God bless your work which you have not given up even after being rendered professor emeritus.

*FR Francis, Pontificio Collegio, Roma*

Dear Bob Utely

Shalom from Kiribati

A very timely email as I just received the CD today.

For your information, I am an ordained minister myself, hence my interest in your cd since lack the very basic tools such as commentaries, bible dictionaries necessary for Ministerial work.

Be assured that I will make all effort to inform fellow church co-workers who are interested to broaden their perspectives on the word of God.

I pray that God gives you guidance in your work for Him.

*Tionatan Timra*

Your verse by verse commentary is really a big blessing to me. It helps me a lot in my personal study of the Scriptures. I really love your approach in Exegesis. May you please keep up in this highest calling of all. May you always find joy in God and comfort in His Word. I will certainly pray for your Commentary in Isaiah.

Thank you so much. Certainly your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

*Francis Fabregas*

Sir,

I do not know whether to call you Bob, Dr. Utley, Professor Utley, or what. I wanted to express how much I appreciate your teaching. I literally stumbled onto your website during my studies on 1 Timothy about three weeks ago. Since then, I have been reading your seminar material and viewing the videos of your lectures from earlier this year. You are like a whole room of fresh air. I suspect we are about the same age. I was born in 1945. I am a member of the church of Christ. I have been thinking many of the things that inspire you to teach about Biblical interpretation, and I thought I was the only one and that something was wrong with me.

I am the dean of students in a small community college. I teach Old Testament Survey, New Testament Sur-

You are helping me to be a better Christian servant of God. I am greatly indebted to you and your work.

vey, History of Bible Times, and other history courses. Your material will help me to be a better teacher in college classes and in classes at church. And you are helping me to be a better Christian servant of God. I am greatly indebted to you and your work.

Thank you Brother.

*Anthony*

Dear Dr. Bob,

We here in India are so blessed by the contribution you have made. I have already forwarded your mail and the website to many of my pastor friends and others who have appreciated your work and contribution you have made.

Blessings on you and yours,

*Rev Tahira Sherril Haidar Ali  
Mission Compound Ratlam India*

Dear In Christ

I would like to greet u in the Name of Jesus. I have received five of the DVD that u send me. Please, I'm very thankful and together we can expand the Kingdom of God.

*Charles Kuvare*

*Okakarara Christian Library, Namibia*

Hello Bob,

God is good for leading me this far! I am really convinced of myself that God wants me to do this important

ministry. I now remembered what you told me when I was at the beginning of my translation work that 'Translation is a difficult work.' For one thing, I enjoyed it, for another thing, it needs to be very careful not to miss and misinterpret the point according to you and according to the Bible. Bob, it is not as easy as it seems.

Bob, just for your information, let me tell you this. I took such a long time to get the translation done because I could not give all of my time only for translation. Besides, I need to do it very carefully and wanted to make it up-to-the-mark commentary for here in my place. I work for a Congregational Church Mission as Office Assistant here in place both for a living and for God's glory. And so I need to go to my work during day time the whole week including Friday, a day off on Saturday. So then only on Saturday I have the whole day to work. The rest of the days only some time in the morning before I go to my work, and some time after office work, till most of the time 12 o'clock (night). I am really caught up in both of my work; I enjoy them; I am happy to let you know as well and for God's glory.

Ever since I got saved I committed myself to serve the Lord in this area of Book Ministry. Thank God for realizing my dream and vision for the extension of His Kingdom.

Bob, please bear with me for all this long mail. Let us keep in touch. Pray for me that God may attend to my work!

*Henna Singson, India*

Dear Dr. Bob,

Thank you for providing these online commentaries. I am a pastor with the United Church of Christ in

the Philippines. I do not have money to purchase commentaries. Please send me a permanent link, so that I will have it in my email.

At this time I cannot give money to help you in this ministry. But I will be using your commentaries in the developing of my sermons. For three days I will be at a work camp evangelizing the area. Please pray for our ministry.

I married a Filipino citizen on September 13, 2008. We are serving the Lord here in the Philippines. I am a US citizen. However, I may never get to return to America. But I love that the Lord has ordained me in the Philippines. Any help you can give me would be appreciated.

*Rev. James A. Kelly*

Hi Bob,

I receive your wonderful newsletter and enjoy your work. I am on Twitter and have just posted information and the link for Free Bible Commentary. Thanks for all you do for the Kingdom. He works through you in incredible ways!

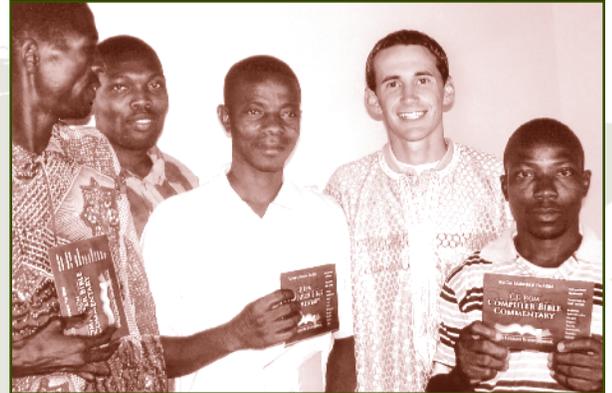
*Angela*

Dear Dr. Utley,

My name is Roger Lopez and I am a Bible teacher seeking the truth of the gospel. I have a ministry teaching Bible truth and I have been seeking an exegetical commentary of the Bible so I can learn more and be able to rightly divide the word of truth better to my listeners. I would like to thank you for your web site. I woke up today with the desire to search for deeper truths of the Word of God to grow in my own faith and to be able to correctly exegete it to oth-

ers. It was God that led me to your site and I would like to thank you for your ministry and your devotion to our Lord and your availability to people like myself. I feel so grateful to you and our Lord to find what I have found.

*Roger*



*Pastors in Ghana receive the commentaries on CD-rom.*

Hello Bob and Peggy,

Thank you guys so much for helping me go and minister in Ghana. The Lord is doing neat things there, and you were a part! I gave all the pastors one of the CD-rom's and they loved it! They were so grateful. Love you guys,

*John S.*

I've been listening to Bro. Bob's video sermon on the filling of the Holy Spirit.

By the time the Spirit finished with me, I was so convicted I was in tears. When Bro. Bob said that everywhere we go Christian should be stamped on our foreheads, obvious to everyone, I realized how far I am below what Christ expects. I am ASHAMED and horrified that I have been liar, by not living for HIM EVERY DAY, EVERY HOUR.

Thanks so much for putting these sermons online—I've passed your Website on to folks like me, who



literally take the Lord's name in vain by claiming "Christian" on our lives when our lives DO NOT reflect HIM.

*Ronda*

I received your CD ROM COMPUTER BIBLE COMMENTARY from Sovereign World Trust. The lessons on the CD are very sound. May God richly bless you for sending such an inspired material to help us learn more about the Bible. We desire to learn more about the Bible but the materials are very expensive. Sovereign World Trust has been tremendous help. I would be very much grateful if you could send me Bible commentary, concordance and other useful Christian mate-

rials. I would accept them if they are used materials. My address is

*Evangelist Famous Nkrumah  
Ghana, West Africa*

I am Brother Benoni Kigenyi from Uganda, I came to this ministry through my friend Pastor Peterson from Mayuge Uganda.

We do enjoy cd and all the materials you send to us. May God bless you so much. I have Bible ministry, teaching the local pastors and leaders. We are so blessed through your teachings.

God Bless you

*Kigenyi Benoni Jinja, Uganda*

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Email: [bli@biblelessonsintl.com](mailto:bli@biblelessonsintl.com)



*Donations to BLI are tax deductible charitable gifts.*

Good Morning,

Thank you for your explanation of the Trinity. It is so simplified. My eyes are further opened to understand what God has done for us. Your example of viewing the Holy Spirit as a man meaning a son to his mother, husband to his wife and father to his children is so powerful. My heart is filled with Joy at this revelation. Thank you so much for this truth.

Thank you

*Christiana, Maryland*

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