

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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## 2011 Spring Newsletter

We hope that you are enjoying the springtime weather where you live! It is beautiful in East Texas. Isn't God good to give us such a beautiful world?!

Thank you so much for your love, prayers and support for Bible Lessons International. Without your help we could not fulfill the task that God has given us. Thank you also for the newsletters, cards and notes you send us regarding your families and how

God is working in your lives. It is always a blessing to see names of people we have known from long ago and from new ones that we have met recently. We remember your faces and the good times we shared with one another.

We love you and continue to pray for you. Please send us special prayer requests and we will pray especially for those needs.

– With Love, Peggy

### DOWNLOADED!

At the beginning of 2011 all of our resources (video, audio, written and foreign languages) were listed on [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). They can be downloaded from this website (as well as from [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org)).

#### Downloaded statistics:

*(foreign countries) as of 03/25/11 for [archive.org](http://www.archive.org):*

• Afrikaans (South Africa) . . . . .	199
• Amharic (Ethiopia) . . . . .	26
• Arabic . . . . .	126
• Armenian . . . . .	10
• Bengali (Bangladesh, India) . . . . .	23
• Bulgarian . . . . .	114
• Chinese . . . . .	662
• Farsi (Iran) . . . . .	149
• French . . . . .	275
• Hindi . . . . .	48
• Hungarian . . . . .	445
• Indonesian . . . . .	1,498
• Korean . . . . .	48
• Oromo (Ethiopia, Kenya) . . . . .	196
• Pashto (Afghanistan, Pakistan) . . . . .	49
• Portugues . . . . .	459
• Punjabi (India) . . . . .	27
• Romanian . . . . .	18
• Russian . . . . .	74
• Serbian . . . . .	929
• Slovak . . . . .	33
• Spanish . . . . .	621
• Tagalog (Philippines) . . . . .	2,461
• Telegu (India) . . . . .	111
• Thadou (India) . . . . .	11
• Turkish . . . . .	73
• Urdu (India, Pakistan) . . . . .	229
• Vietnamese . . . . .	89

Since I felt God telling me to give away my Bible studies, the following venues have opened:

1. The internet
2. Direct mailings of CD-ROM/DVD

I want to share with you a few of our "brainstorming sessions" (hopefully divinely inspired).

We sent the CD-ROM/DVDs to:

1. YMCA/YWCA's worldwide
2. The chaplain/librarian of all currently active U.S. Navy ships
3. Every member of the Evangelical Theological Society
4. Missionaries whose addresses we can find online
5. All the public libraries in New York, California and Washington D.C. (we plan to send to other state public libraries in the near future)
6. Every U.S. Consulate and Embassy worldwide (addressed to Bible Study Leader)
7. Half of the federal and state correctional facilities in the U.S. (the other half will be mailed out as soon as orders are filled from this half of the correctional facilities.) We send a set of written commentaries for their libraries.
8. All cruise ships for their crew/passenger libraries
9. Sailors' ministries worldwide



During my recent trip to Brazil I conducted two seminars (studying OT Surveys) in small seminaries in the Amazon region. We used my OT textbook which had just been translated into Portuguese. These two seminaries are part of the ministry of a church planter named Marcelo. He is a graduate of Hardin Simmons University and the Baptist Seminary in Rio de Janeiro. Currently, he is working on his Masters at Wayland Baptist University. He ministers in the state of Maranhao in northern Brazil. When he went there ten years ago there were only eight churches in the entire state. Through his ministry there are now 72!

Here is how he did it. He recruited men and women who felt called to share the gospel and provided them free or low cost theological training. After two years of training, Marcelo searched for villages that had no church and rented a home in that village. He asked his students if they would like to start a church in that village. His ministry paid for their housing for a period of time so they could start a house church and become independent!

The first area I taught in was so rural that the students had to come by boat. There were about 35 students. The next area was in a larger city and the 55 students were more educated. In past years, the northern region of Brazil sent their young pastors to the Baptist Seminary in Rio for training and most of them never went back home! Now there are prepared pastors waiting for their opportunity to serve the Lord in a local church!

During the time spent with Marcelo our hearts bonded! We both have a vision to disciple God's leaders and people! I asked if I could give way our newest CD-ROM to all of the pastors at their annual convention much like we did



Marcelo, a Pastor, Bob

at the Baptist World Alliance. He offered himself and four other translators to translate all of the NT commentaries and selected OT commentaries in Portuguese for next year's convention. There are usually over 5,000 church leaders who attend. The Portuguese translations cost \$3,500 for each volume. The CD-ROMs made in Brazil will cost about \$2.50 each. As you can see, this is about a \$60,000 project! It will enable Portuguese pastors/leaders/believers worldwide to access the commentaries on their computer or online.

I am so hopeful that this model can be repeated! Many parts of the Body of Christ are in desperate need of discipleship materials. I feel called and compelled to help fill this need. Your financial gifts allow me to walk through this "Great Commission" door! Thank you! Thank you!

## GETTING THE WORD OUT



I have emailed over 10,000 people/churches/seminaries/ministries worldwide informing them about the free website. Here is an example of the email:

Free verse by verse Bible study !!!!

Conservative, evangelical exegesis using

1. history
2. context
3. original word meanings
4. syntax-grammar
5. genre
6. parallel passages

These Bible studies emphasize the original inspired author's intent (one meaning) and then attempts to offer pos-

sible applications (significances). These free Bible studies are available in video, audio & written formats.

Please remember that no one agrees completely with any commentary. They are meant to be thought provoking... not definitive!

I am making my life's work available free to be a blessing to the body of Christ. If you feel comfortable, please share this website address with others interested in Bible study.

***If you have any suggestions about anyone else we should contact regarding the free website, please let us know. Also, if you know of a missionary or ministry who would distribute the CD-ROM, let us know so we can send them a box.***

## A NOTE FROM DIANNE:

BLESSINGS, BLESSINGS, BLESSINGS...full of Blessings! That's what I feel working at BLI each day. What a joy and a privilege it is to be part of a team reaching people all over the world, with the Bible Commentaries on CD, who may be reading God's Word for the very first time or who has found an excellent tool to enrich their Bible study. The love and concern Bob and Peggy (and staff at BLI) have for the lost is real. I am humbled and forever changed watching them step out in faith to make God's Word available to everyone who asks.

Because HE LIVES...we know who holds the future,

– Dianne (secretary and co-worker)



# FROM BEHIND BARS

These letters were received from prisoners and chaplains and are re-printed just as we received them.

I am respectfully requesting any information regarding the acquisition of your complete Study Guide Commentary Series. I am currently incarcerated in the Texas Prison system and not able to pay anything but would like to further my education of the Bible. I have seen Galatians and I & II Thess. and I was extremely impressed. I have never read the Bible in that way. I have a new understanding and it is because of the way you have presented the books with the commentary and meanings of every word, sentence and or paragraph. Thank you for opening my eyes and mind to a new way of learning Christ's message – Inmate

We would like to send our most heartfelt thanks to you and your ministry... Ministries like yours keep the fire of Jesus burning in these men's hearts. Just knowing that people still care about them is enough to keep them striving for the prize.

– Correctional Center Chaplain  
Cottonport, LA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the phenomenal DVD's you have blessed our prison ministry with. We look forward to receiving more of your commentaries in the future. These biblical texts will be a great blessing to our prison population.

– Angola Prison, LA

Your resources are indispensable tools to aid in the healing and rehabilitation of the offenders' hearts, minds, and lives. I can't tell you how blessed this facility is to be able to

make available your life-giving, positive and transformational material as opposed to all the other "not so great" influences that are always unfortunately a part of any correctional environment. The messages you convey, and the ethics, standards and spirituality you represent to so many impressionable minds here are all making a real difference, not only in individual lives, but also our environment as a whole.

– Volunteer Coordinator  
Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility

As a prison chapel we receive no funds from the state due to budget cuts, and are totally dependent on donated materials for our ministry. Between the main institution and the work camp we have close to 2,000 inmates...could you please donate books, tracts, DVDs, or any other materials to our chapel. Without donations like yours we would be extremely limited in materials for our inmates.

– Chaplain, Correctional Inst.  
Daytona Beach, FL

Received your wonderful DVDs in this morning's mail. Have only a few minutes to look over the material but I can hardly wait for time to look deeper. Our offenders do not have access to computers, however we could use some of the cd's and dvd's



you mentioned. We are also in the beginning phase of a pilot program for the Missouri Dept. of Corrections, allowing offenders in segregation units to work on Bible correspondence classes. If you could provide your commentaries in written format as mentioned I would be able to take these to the men to use in their studies...Thank you for your kindness and willingness to minister to the forgotten.

– Chaplain, Licking, MO

Thank you for the commentaries you donated to the inmates at Lincoln Correctional Center. I was very impressed with the front matter contained in them, especially information concerning the four reading cycles. I firmly believe if inmates use this method of bible study, their life will be changed by scripture. The ministry that you are providing will have a deep impact on this facility and the outside community. Your gracious donation is highly appreciated.

– Religious Coordinator  
Lincoln Correctional Center, NE

## A MESSAGE:

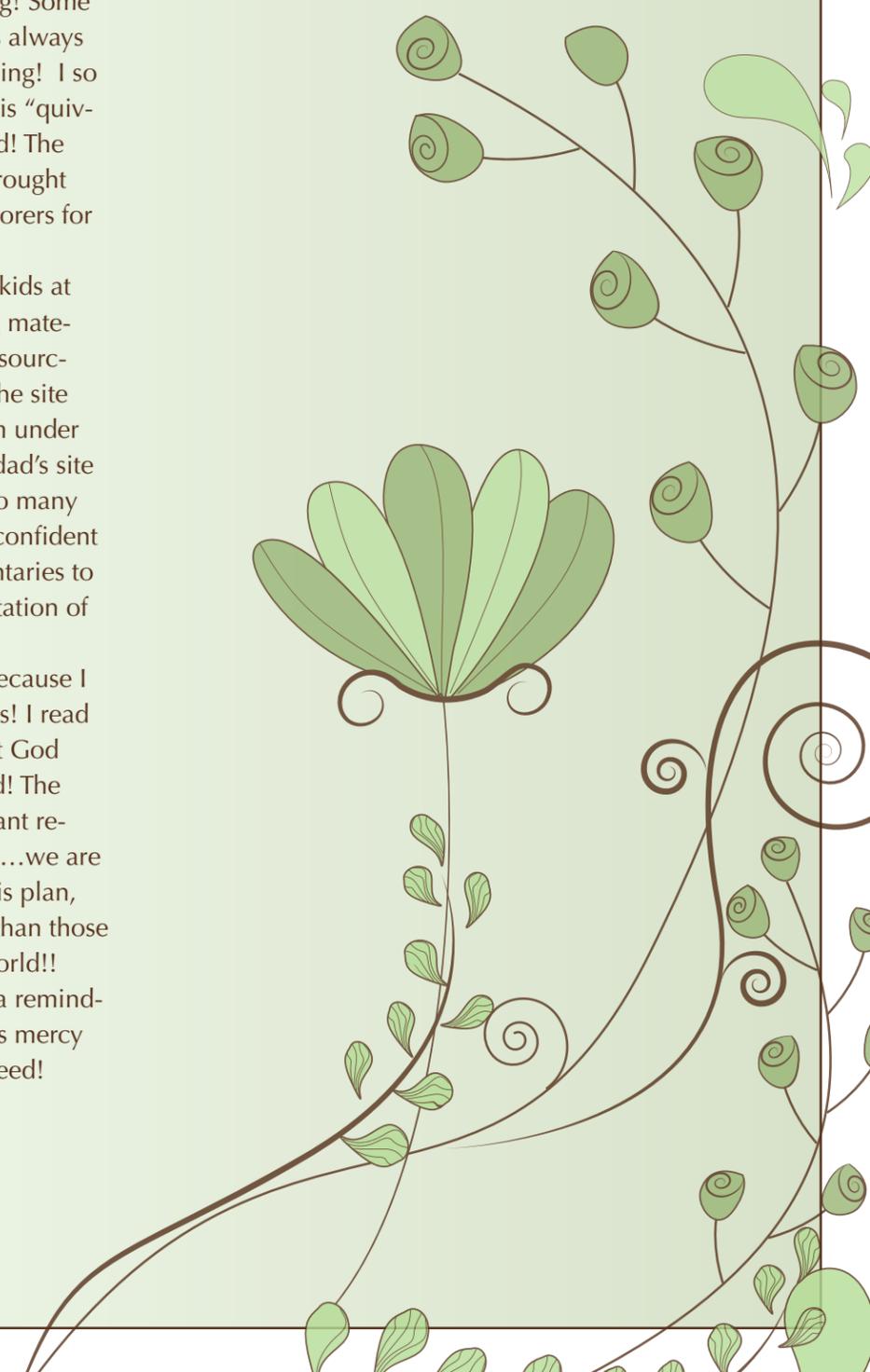
### From The "Firstborn" of The Utley Clan

(aka Michelle Utley Thompson)

It's hard to believe I have been working at BLI for 8 months. It is so nice to drop my girls off at school and then anticipate what the day may bring! Some things, of course, never change... daddy is always witty, fun, and so passionate about his calling! I so admire him and I am proud to be part of his "quiver!" My mama is so gentle, loving and kind! The Lord knew what He was doing when he brought them together! They have been true co-laborers for Christ all these years!

I am currently working with junior high kids at church and was looking for some teaching material. I was given a website called [www.thesource4ym.com](http://www.thesource4ym.com) (youth ministry). I was surfing the site and found [www.freebiblecommentary.com](http://www.freebiblecommentary.com) under recommended sites. I was so excited that dad's site was listed as a reliable source! There are so many resources and options available, but I am confident that God is using BLI and the free commentaries to strengthen commitment to proper interpretation of His word.

I enjoy putting the newsletter together because I get to sort through all the emails and letters! I read them again and again, always amazed that God really does love all the people of the world! The emails, phone calls and letters are a constant reminder to us of God's love for all mankind...we are blessed in America to be a small part of His plan, but we are not special or loved any more than those precious saints and unsaved around the world!! Even the letters from prison chaplains are a reminder to remember the "forgotten ones." God's mercy and forgiveness and hope is what we all need!



# U.S. ONLINE COMMENTS

Dear Dr. Utley, at the recent BGCT annual meeting I picked up a copy of your PC Bible Study Commentary. Wow! What a blessing & sacred offering. I've used it for the past 2 weeks as I've prepared Sunday School lessons on I John 4 & 5. Thank you for freely sharing what the Lord has entrusted to you. I will endeavor to "correctly handle the word of truth," "entrusting it to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

I returned from vacation to receive with utmost joy, this great gift of the free CD ROM from your ministry. How do u continue to provide for the billions of people like me? I must confess it is very rich and enlightening. I really appreciate this immeasurable favor.

Greetings! I'm writing you, first of all, to congratulate you on the Chinese introduction of the website. Please allow me to remind you again how valuable your work truly is in China. I just came back from a M trip to a place that has the potential to be the largest church in Asia...the students love your work. And the senior pastor is Chinese Korean, so he appreciates your work in Korean. Plus, they have a vision of taking

the Good News into Africa and other parts of the world in the future! So in the long run, I bet there is a huge hunger, some resources like yours would really be needed.

Just wanted to let you know I'm making use of the pre-recorded lessons on your website and how much I appreciate them. You're quite a blessing. Most times when I'm having a problem with reconciling something in the Bible that doesn't appear to add up (like how many times Jesus cleared the temple), you generally have the logical answer. It's a great boost to my faith.

I wanted to let you know that your commentary is being used to reach seeking Turks. I have a friend that was a missionary in Turkey for many years and is now ministering to the Turkish community here in Houston as well as an online community that seeks to answer questions about Christianity to curious Turks. I sent him a link to your site/commentary and he let me know that he has been using it and sharing it with others. Thanks for offering this great tool, and what a blessing that it is being used to teach new Turkish believers!

Thank you so much for the shipment of Bible Commentary CD's – this is going to be a huge resource for the pastor's and other church leaders who will attend the Possibility Place Christian Ministry retreat this year.

– Faith Based and Community Partnerships, Baltimore, MD

I want to thank you for putting your commentaries online. I have always had trouble just reading, but with your video commentary and sermons I can bring the two study tools together for a better grasp. This has been a great tool and I so appreciate your humble heart to put God's message and mission ahead of westernized greed. Keep

on preaching Bob, God's message needs to be shared.

Thanks for the discs, I took them to Honduras and even the brother who teaches at the CAM (Central American Mission) seminary was excited to have something to give his students. For the pastors in the remote area I printed up some of the Spanish commentaries. I couldn't afford to print many, but to sit there and watch the pastor pouring over it with a flashlight thrilled my heart as he smiled and said, "Gracias, gracias!"

I was looking online at some commentaries and came upon yours. This is a God send. I am going over to Ghana to teach and I was wondering how I could get a copy of this commentary to take with me, to help with my studies and lessons plans (we sent a box of 65 for her to distribute to those she was teaching).

I am just running through websites that have been submitted to free Christian resources, and was quite excited when I saw one that was submitted by you. I am a keen user of Logos Bible software and the base package I use has lots of your commentaries in it. As such, whenever I preach I see what you have said on a passage. So thank you for the dedication you have shown over many years to produce not just commentaries, but com-

mentaries of a high standard that are edifying for the church.

I have been watching the seminar and want to get more out of the Bible and this is the place to start. Amazing work, Dr. Bob, truly amazing.

These past few months you have taken me through Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, I & II Kings, I & II Samuel and parts of NT scripture. I have enjoyed listening to you and thinking about your comments for several months. May God continue to allow us to be enriched by everyone's efforts.

Bob has worked wonders for my Sunday School teachings and Bible Study time. I was seeking truth and Bob's website popped up...I use his website everyday...please tell him what a blessing he is.

I enjoy your notes. They are precise and to the point. Furthermore, the variety of the materials is helpful in many ways.

I have been assisting a prison ministry from my church and have now assumed the lead role. What you have here is a wonderful way for me to put together weekly Bible studies for inmates in our county prison system!

## EMAILS FROM OTHER WEBSITES

**Free Bible Commentary:** Dr. Bob Utley (Bible Lessons International) has built a free commentary in written, audio, and video formats. We can't explore every one, but if you listen to his "You Can Understand the Bible" opening seminar, you'll know where he's coming from. He's unabashedly Baptist, but doesn't hesitate to quote from How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by charismatic author Gordon Fee. He takes manuscript errors and translation problems to task without dishonoring the overall accuracy and holiness of God's Word. Some may disagree on points of denominational difference, but overall, Dr. Utley helps one consider the historical context, author's original intent, the original recipients, manuscript variants, and encourages thorough Bible study and dependence on God's Spirit for understanding.

[www.thesource4ym.com](http://www.thesource4ym.com)

# OVERSEAS ONLINE COMMENTS

I only want to praise God and to thank brother Bob Utley for his act of service on putting to the world's availability such a rich and profound resources. For those who do not have the resources but have the fire, passion and innermost desire to understand and better equip themselves to hold and present the Word in a rightly manner.

– *Peruvian Brother Grados*

Thank you very much for the CD! I'm happy to receive such a gift from God! I'll send you 10 dollars, as an act of gratitude.

– *Lidia, Bucharest, Romania*

Praise king Jesus Dr. Bob. This is Kato a student of Busitema University Uganda. I received the parcel you sent me of free bible commentary almost a month ago. The entire message has blessed me and I have got a new reliable way of reading the bible and understanding it. Thank you for making such resources free such that people like us can access them freely may God richly bless you and your Ministry.

Greetings Dr. Bob, we are very happy to get NT Survey in Hindi language, please work for OT in Hindi. It will be great resource to the people around the globe as the people who speaks hindi around the world. We are praying for you.

– *Krishna*

My name is Cecilia and I am a Bible Teacher in Pakistan. I always surf the web for my lectures and knowledge. I found your commentaries are really wonderful. Another wonderful thing is you are doing work in different languages. What a good idea and good way to serve Him. I am really

impressed as these things are available on net without any cost. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Roland Moku posted on your wall: "Thank you so much pastor..I've just received your "v-b-v (verse by verse) Computer Bible Study" I've been blessed so much from that CD..I'm a junior pastor from Indonesia and now I'm studying at Theological School at Manado ones again...thank you and my pray for you that God will use you and your ministry more and more.."

I would like to let you know how grateful I am to have found your site on the internet. Your commentaries are truly awesome and I thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that he has blessed you in bringing the gospel to our hearts through this wonderous technology. I'm a new Christian who needs to feed off the word and to understand the revelation of the wonderous book the bible in plain form and you certainly offer this.

– *David, Staffordshire, England*

I was overjoyed to receive my free copy of the 2010 Computer Bible Study Library. I could not wait to: 1. Play and listen to CD's...since I had been downloading the MP3s from the net before. 2. See your face. I had come to know your heart through your message and was eager the more to see your face. 3. Feed on the undiluted word of truth. I guess my greatest challenge is to unlearn the many religious doctrines and start this new journey to sound Bible teachings. Lastly my prayer is that one day God will enable us to meet face to face. You have opened up a whole new chapter in my young family and ministry.

– *Peter, Johannesburg S. Africa*

"I'm happy to receive such a gift from God!"

I just want to thank you for your free Bible Commentary! I am using it a lot...my theological studies are very limited. I am leading some small groups and I am also a kind of "pastor" for Baptist women in Finland. – Anneli

I am Anand, 40, Indian, married and living in New Delhi, India. I work at the Irish Embassy. In my free time, I involve in preaching ministry in churches, retreats and small groups. I wish to THANK you from the bottom of my heart for sending a precious CD and DVD containing a treasure trove of commentary, audio, video and other important reference material totally FREE of cost. Day before yesterday, despite my needs, I helped a friend with a little money. This morning, I received your CD, which I take as a mark of God's faithfulness, towards me, a humble "Bible lover".

Thank you so much for the recent email. I am very much thankful to you about the work you have done for the people like me who don't know about the Bible. No doubt the material written in Urdu language is very helpful and clear. This is the best book I have read ever in my life span. You have done wonderful efforts for us and I am always obliged.

– *Imran, Pakistan*

This is such a wonderful tool in understanding God's Word.

Thanks, Bob!! – *Kingsley, UK*

I am blessed for visiting your website. I have learned many things which is beyond my imagination. – Fred, Ghana

I am a librarian at St. Paul's National Seminary. We are grateful for the copy of the CD which we received. It is extensively used, and another copy would be most appreciated. Thank you for your work in making God's word available and understandable.

– *Sr. Lillian, Uganda*

Your teachings have been edifying Bob. More grace.

– *Ephraim, Cameroon*

Thank you for sending your free cd-rom to help disabled people with their bible studies.

– *Donald, Melbourne, Australia*

I am a pastor and I frequently use this site which is very helpful for my studies.

– *Rishi, Guyana*

Your website is really amazing and extremely helpful to all serious Bible students and pastors. May God blessfully reward you for what a wonderful job you have done for and to HIS community of faith. Keep blessing the people all over the world!

– *Kato, Hong Kong, China*

Used some of your material in teaching (I'm a full time minister in the Church of England) – a great encouragement. I value all your help in this remarkable series of studies.

– *John, Tipton, UK*

This is very fascinating....I just want to read it and see all of whats inside....

– *Daryal, India*

Appreciate that there are those out there who believe that the gospel message should be free and not charged for. Thanks.

– *Barry, Saskatchewan, Canada*

My study groups are expanding along with teaching opportunities... I'm seeking a greater knowledge and greater understanding to teach the word simply to those asking...God bless you.

– *Mark, Hungary*

It was such a blessing for me to heard about your ministry. I have just accepted Jesus Christ, and I have been thirsty for material like this in order to enhance my spiritual growth in Jesus Christ.

– *Adeniyi, Nigeria*

I am just encouraged by the effort you have put into making the word of God available to all.

– *Nelson, Uganda*

May the Lord continue to bless this work, I could not have found a better resource for bible study.

– *Richea, Jamaica*

God bless u for translation in Urdu and Punjabi language. I am Shakeel from Pakistan Assembly of God Church.

Thanks Bob for your kindness and generosity in availing these spiritual resources to us.

– *Winston, S. Africa*

It is a great present for addressing the words of God for

the nonbeliever as well as the children of God follower.

– *Roedijito, Indonesia*

Sir, I really need your cd to develop me on my mission here in Fiji.

I am passionate for learning Gods word more deeply beside this it will help me to spread God's message more better ways in Muslim community.

– *Philip, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Dr Utley, what God has used you to accomplish may not be well understood here on earth, but in heaven you shall surely have the reward. This is simply a blessing to this generation.

– *Edunro, Nigeria*

Can you please send me this as soon as possible. I have just started Bible College and this is precisely what I am looking for and need. Thanks very much!!

– *Gordon, Edinburgh, UK*

I saw a friend with this material and my word, I only wished I could have my own copy. God bless you Dr. Utley for the great work you are doing.

– *Ernest Nana, Ghana*

Dear Bob, your life, ministry and generosity must certainly bring pleasure to our great God. The com-

"Keep on the track. God's kingdom is expanding."

– *Adesina, Nigeria*

## “The Scoop” from our webmaster

Mike Miga, East Texas Technology Solutions, Marshall Texas. He is the “brain” for our website and a wonderful laborer for the Lord. We are grateful and blessed to have him on our team

After making the transition from printed page to Adobe’s PDF format several years ago, BLI is now undergoing another format change in its written commentaries that will make them

- 1) faster to download
- 2) more searchable
- 3) more easily viewable on a larger number of devices, including phones
- 4) more editable
- 5) able to be converted to BibleWorks <http://www.bible-works.com/> and
- 6) able to be accurately converted to Microsoft Word for our translators. Look for the transition to this format (HTML, or Hyper Text Markup Language) over the next 12 months.

## How To Explore Bob’s Commentaries

1. “Kindle”: go to [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) and search “Bob Utley”, select “Texts” in the Media Type dropdown list. Double click on the commentary you wish to read. You may view the commentary in the following formats (see left side of screen)
  - a. Read online
  - b. PDF
  - c. EPub
  - d. Daisy
  - e. DiVu
2. [www.freebiblecommentary.mobi](http://www.freebiblecommentary.mobi): this is the latest form for mobile phone users. We are still in the process of adding more commentaries in different formats to this site. Now you can take Bob’s commentaries to church! (sorry, his jokes are not available for download, yet!!)
3. Logos Bible Software: includes all of Bob’s NT commentaries and the OT commentaries will be included soon.

## OVERSEAS ONLINE COMMENTS continued . . .

mentaries, charts and topical dictionary are scholarly and very thorough. I am sure that many people from around the world benefit from your ministry. I am pleased to see the array of translations you offer. Thank you for the generous offer to help us through your materials. We do give our teaching leaders a list of commentaries which can be used for their lecture preparation. We could certainly take yours into consideration when we revise our manuals and teaching resource list under the guidance of our Board of Directors. They lead in the spiritual direction of our organization. May God continue to bless the work of Bible Lessons International. For the fame of Christ in the nations.

– BSF International  
(Bible Study Fellowship International)

**Gary:** I’ve used his material from the website and thought it was well written. I’m impressed with the amount of work he has put into these studies. I also like his philosophy of personal study.

I don’t know the author, but my friend’s daughter sat under him in college. She spoke highly of him.

**Ralph:** I’ve also found his Logos material helpful in prep-  
ping/studying for sermons/bible studies.

**D Bouey:** Utley’s study guide from his commentary series entitled “The Beloved Disciple’s Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II and III John”, is one of the resources I’m finding useful in my current studies in 1 John. I would be inclined to include other of his series in future in-depth studies based on this one. I like his style and hermeneutic integrity.

**Jim:** The nice thing about his material, it is very easy to understand and to follow, even if you are new to whatever he is covering.

I have been following his website for some time and could hardly believe it when I saw his materials in Logos, I believe it will be a real blessing to the body of Christ.

**Blair:** Utley is an excellent teacher. He taught hermeneutics for years. When he writes his commentaries, it is done strictly hermeneutically. He does not deviate from his method one bit. Dr. Utley also lets you know what his presuppositions are, that way you can watch for it in his interpretation. Over all he is solid, I do not agree with him on some of his approaches to Calvinism and other theological issues, but then again I have never agreed with anyone 100% of the time. I would definitely recommend him to others looking for some solid commentary. He also has made available his seminars on hermeneutics via video on his website.

**Chuck:** His works were really the hidden surprise in my recent upgrade. I had never heard of him or his writings and stumbled across them as I was looking for something else.

**Terry:** In my quest to read all the resources in my Gold package, I ran across this author and have been impressed by comments on Bible study.

Utley, R. J. (1996). You Can Understand the Bible! Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

For those of you that don’t have him in your base packages yet, I suggest you google his website, and take a look. Has anyone else had much experience with this author?

**Terry** (another comment): If I did not hold the same views on the Bible and how to study it, I might respect him, but probably wouldn’t like him. And I consider myself open minded when it comes to other’s whose views differ from my own. I started out being impressed by the volume that I mentioned above, but then I started using one of his commentaries in study on 2 Timothy and liked his methodology even more. Then I found out that he had put all of his commentaries and lectures on the web for free, that is when he really started to gain ground in my eyes.

**Terry** (another comment):

Ok, this author just took another step up in my estimation. This quote from his 2 Timothy commentary should be posted in all commentaries. “This is a study guide commentary, which means that you are responsible for your own interpretation of the Bible. Each of us must walk in the light we have. You, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit are priority in interpretation. You must not relinquish this to a commentator.”

**Jim** (response to Terry): You are right, Terry, how many teachers help keep this in the minds of their students, this is one of the reasons I like his materials, he places God at the center of study!

**“Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to the nations, beginning from Jerusalem’.”**

– Luke 24:45-27

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# Spring 2011

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