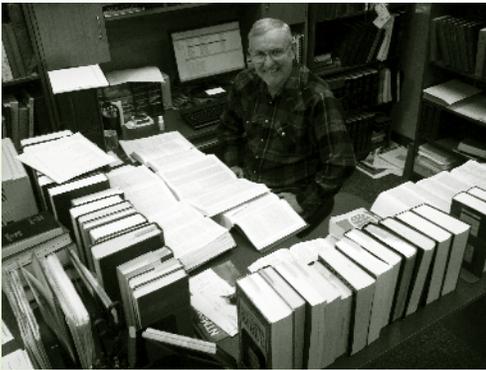


EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

# 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 • [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org)



*"Bookworm Bob"*

Search me, God, and  
know my heart; test me and  
know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any  
offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way  
everlasting.

- Psalm 139:23,24

## BOB'S LETTER:

I want to share with you a recent message I received from the Spirit. It was not audible but still life directing! I have been in vocational ministry for 45 years. During this time I have experienced what I believe has been direction from God:

- Salvation (1959)
- Call to ministry (1959)
- Surrender to vocational ministry (1968)
- Call to 3 church positions
- Led to start writing commentaries (Lubbock)
- Led to start BLI (Lubbock, 1976)
- Invitation by Bill Bright through Logos Bible Software to be a part of a CD-ROM project for Campus Crusades
- Message while teaching in Haiti to "give away for free" all Bible study materials
- Leaving the pastorate to teach at ETBU
- Leaving ETBU after 16 years to focus on the internet ministry of [www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org)

I say all this to tell you about my most recent encounter with a specific message from the Spirit. These promptings usually

come when I am quiet and awake. Just last week I felt God urging me to stop the translations of commentaries (we will complete the 60 translation projects already in progress) and focus on getting the Bible Interpretation Seminar subtitled (captioned) into several languages (at this point 10). We are in contact with a media company in California which works with ministries to provide these services. They are going to help us get the Seminar subtitled into 1) Arabic 2) Chinese 3) French 4) Indonesian 5) Korean 6) Portuguese 7) Russian 8) Tagalog 9) Urdu and 10) Vietnamese.

All of our resources are online free of charge. The commentaries flow from the hermeneutical process and exegetical procedures that I use in interpretation. It has been the goal of my ministry to help believers interpret the Bible for themselves.

Please, please pray for us as we walk through this new door. I believe I am following the will of God, but it is always a faith walk. I sense myself as a Kingdom resource, by call, gift, training and experience. I want to be sensitive to the Spirit's leadership. In these closing years of my ministry I want to be a blessing to the Body of Christ worldwide!

# COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



*Bob and friends in Armenia*

"I wanted to take the time to write and thank **Pastor Bob Utley** for his countless sermons and bible lessons that are made available for free. **Pastor Utley (you are known as "Uncle Bob" in our home), you are a fabulous Bible teacher, and you need to know how much your work has impacted my life.** I am in my final year of law school, but at the current time, I am working overnights until graduation. **I listen to 3-4 hours of your lessons every night. It is the most enjoyable part of my day, and I am constantly enthralled by what I learn every night in your "classroom."** In all of my years of churchgoing, I've never come across another teacher with your combination of intellect, anointing, passion, and - most importantly - humility. Your willingness to admit that you don't have all the answers, or that there are problems in the Bible that we can't just brush under the table, is so refreshing and different from other Bible teachers. **I'm able to get a truthful, historically-accurate, challenging and yet fulfilling view of the Bible, and it has truly, truly changed my life.** I am dreading the day that the lessons run out. However, I appreciate you and pray for you and your ministry; You will surely be blessed for your decades of hard work."

**Troy T.**

"Hello, my name is **Christian Aguilar**, I am a Church Planter in Harrisburg, PA in a Bilingual Church Vida Life Church (Evangelical Free Church).

I am Married with **Ximena**, and we have 2 kids, **Martin** and **Joaquin**. We are from Chile and, we came to plant bilingual churches here in

America.

I want to say Gracias, Mis Amigos; **You guys are giving me a powerful spiritual tool to my ministry. I am learning how to be a good Pastor and how to give the best application to the Word of God in our generation.**

I was worship leader for the last 22 years when God called me and my wife to be Church Planter Pastors because no too many people want it. I started the church with no people, no finances, no place, and a very angered wife!!!! After 5 months my wife received the call from God to plant this Church in Harrisburg, PA; **Now we are around 80 people, a lot of new believers, growing together and living like a spiritual family.**

**I am giving a lot of bible studies from you guys; The church is being challenge to be transformed, changed and repented. Now I see restoration in many people in this church.**

Thanks for everything; Thanks Peggy for being with Bob and lifting him in his life."

**Christian Aguilar Harrisburg, PA**

"Dr Utley,

Just a note from some of the final year recipients of a mini library through your CD Rom bible studies. Much appreciated – and please forward anything new that you have.

I gave a copy to the General Secretary of Mozambique – and he will be sharing your "Portuguese" materials to all the 40 pastors coming to a conference in Maputu.

You're helping Africa to "rightly divide and expound the Word of God."

*Kindest regards, Dr*

**Pohlmann, South Africa – Baptist Theological College, Randburg**

"**Dr. Utley**, just a note to let you know that we are using your material in a small group bible study on Monday nights. It is an off shoot of our Sunday School class---a middle age adult group at Pacific View Baptist Church in Encinitas, California.

**Thank you for the work you have done. It's both critical and devotional, allowing us to be academic and soul "moving" at the same time."**

*Brian Hevrin, ETBU Graduate 1989*

"If you are in contact with Dr. Utley and have the opportunity, **please give him our thanks for stirring us up to think and to read the Scriptures reasonably, intelligently, and faithfully.** "

"**Michelle**, a little story about your Dad's sermon videos: I travel around the world to remote locations producing photos and videos for New Tribes Mission. The photographer, **Dale Stroud**, introduced your Dad's ministry to me. At night, out in the boonies, we listen to your Dad's sermons, sometimes 2 or 3. Lots of times the last thing I hear at night is the buzzing of mosquitos trying to get through the mosquito net and your Dad's voice as he is preaching."

**M.H, New Tribes Mission**

"Dear **Dr. Utley**, thank you for your Bible commentary. I was very blessed when I studied OT - Hosea, Amos,

Jonah, Obadiah, Micah, and Joel, and I used your commentary. Your work helped me a lot. I am an architect and youth leader in our church – UMC Jihlava, **Czech Republic, Michal.**

First of all, we thank you and appreciate your heart in serving more than 80 Million Ethiopian people. Lately we finished Vol. 6 after six months of work. It is now online in both major Ethiopian languages. I hope many can use it, and also we are telling our friends who live in foreign countries too.

We are so grateful by getting the opportunity of involving in this historical ministry. **Today many commentaries are online, but yours are very unique.** We always praise God in the way this commentary developed and how it can be useful for Ethiopian churches. Your commentaries are very helpful for personal and group Bible study to understand the Bible."

"Hello **Bob,**

You are greatly appreciated. I will tell other believers about the work that God has done through you. Secondly, I believe where you can't reach, your prayers can reach. I hope this helps. I will continue to keep you update as I will be using your presentations and teaching notes."

*Solomon, Liberia*

**"Bob, long term, you will be such a blessing to people who crave a modern commentary, as opposed to strictly public domain works (they're wonderful but sound dated many times).** I personally find your work very useful for personal Bible study."

*Looking forward to the OT, Josh*

"Thank you so much for the work you do. Currently my wife and I have a bible study with our two teenage daughters two nights a week. I've been

looking for a quality study guide that we can each work on individually and then discuss as a family. **I was first introduced to your commentaries through Logos software. I love the way they are set up and really challenge the reader,** something I think would be extremely helpful for my family."

" I find **Dr. Utley** so interesting and greatly appreciate the depth of his work. God has spoken to my heart through your father, and I have shared many of his lessons with our church. I will pass the CD's to people who have a deep desire to know and understand God's Word.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of our people here in Western North Carolina. I believe Jesus is the answer to all our problems, and we, (The Church) as His bride, must be faithful to the end. **Mountain preachers face many problems with their congregations who want the prize of Heaven but who do not seem to know the call to Holiness which goes hand in hand with being born-again. I am afraid we have preached a cheap grace which leads people to think they can have salvation by saying some simple prayer, without a change of heart.** Pray for me that I will be able to convey God's Word with clarity and boldness. Pray that the love of Christ will be evident in my life and in our church. **We must share the Good News with the world, and the only way to do that effectively is with the Heart of Christ in us, living out His life through us daily. "**

Thanks so very much and may God

**Pastor Utley (you are known as "Uncle Bob" in our home), you are a fabulous Bible teacher, and you need to know how much your work has impacted my life.**

bless you mightily as He uses you each day."

*Pastor Paul*

"I am with great joy to render my heartfelt gratitude to you for sending me the CD Roms which is the very work of your hands. **I must admit that I was beaming with smiles when I went for it at the post office.** I should say that we are very grateful give us what we will be doing for the rest of our lives to draw people closer to Him."

"Hello, Pastor **Bob Utley,**

May our God bless you richly for the hard works you are doing there for the Lord . **What a previlage God has granted us His servant to interact and pull our abilities and resources to build up His body (Ephesians 4:).** Your ministry has been such a blessing to my life, and I really desire that we come to know one another more intimately. If you like to see some of the works I am doing here, I can send some photos to you. May God bless you, and I hope to hear from you soon."

*Remain Blessed Always,  
Rev. Koleh, Jr. , Liberia*



"Thank you, Servant of God; I would love to invite you to Kenya this year. You are highly welcome."

*Pastor Madadi*

"I stumbled across Bob Utley's teaching online and am finding it so helpful. **We will use the CD in the church which meets at our home.**"

*God bless, Felicity, UK*

"Dear Brothers, how are you and your relatives? My name is Silase Besaye; I live in Ethiopia. Today I recieved the CD from the Post Office; **I got a Bible study, verse by verse in my language, Amharic!** I am very very happy for thise study materials. **I thank my Lord Jesus for making these.**"

*Silase Besaye, Ethiopia*

"Bob: Thank you for following Him! Thank you also for this labor of love of helping others to understand and obey God's Word. I would value receiving the CD of the materials."

*In Christ, Professor, Southern Nazarene University*

"There are many in Israel who love to study the Bible and would certainly benefit from your works. A few of my friends at the Bible study I attend are starting to call you **"the Prophet to the Baptists"** with your **solid doctrinal stand on the sovereignty of God.** We are very much encouraged by your teaching. Your website address is being forwarded to many who we hope will enjoy these messages as much as we do. God bless you, My Friend."

*In Yeshua HaMashiach, Keith, LA*

"I just wanted to say how much **a number of us in Perth, Western Australia** appreciate your teaching Ministry and how Via the internet we **have benefited from your labours for our Lord.**"

**"I personally love how you so humanly, honestly and practically tackle Gods truth and convey it.** Keep up the Great work!!!"

"This is **sooo incredible!!** I took this information and ran with it. **I posted it on my facebook wall. I have 6853 followers there...**, and brought it to my **friends and prayer groups on skype!** What a blessing!!"

*Victoria*

"I have been blessed by your teaching for the last 20 years. Bro. Steve Farris gave me your DVDs, and I gave them to several Pastors and ministry leaders. We love you, and are praying for you. I am planing to come to the States so I may meet you as your a part of IC."

*Bro. Anand, India*

"Dr. Bob,

I wanted to drop you a short note to say "thank you" for your amazing gift to the body of Christ in your free bible commentaries.

**I am a 29 year Assembly of God minister in Knoxville, TN, and you have taught me so much about studying the Word of God; Our congregation greatly benefits from your study and commentaries.**

Your eternal reward in Glory will be beyond all you ask, think or imagine, and I know you will hear the words "well done thou good and faithful servant."

**Keep up the great work, this world needs the Jesus you are teaching!** You are an inspiration to me!"

*J. B., Knoxville, TN*

"Good afternoon, Bro. Bob; When I was a kid, my neighbours were Seventh Day Adventist, and there were two major books that they used, Daniel and the Revelation. **To tell you the truth, there were some things that**

**"I personally love how you so humanly, honestly and practically tackle Gods truth and convey it.**"

**had me a little confused, but your writings have really helped.** God is blessing your writings as you share with others your knowledge!"

*Pastor Walt Morgan, Nicaragua*

"I hereby express my profound gratitude to you for sending me the copy of "verse by verse computer bible study Library." I found it useful, and it's of great help to me in developing my relationship with God. Thanks so much, and God bless you abundantly as you are blessing others with the DVD."

*Ayokunle I., From Nigeria*

"Praise the Lord ! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord From this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens."

Psalm 113: 1-4

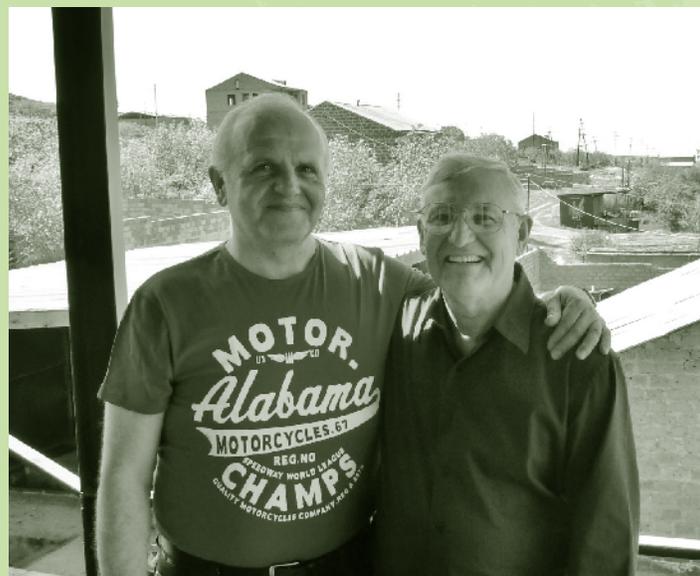
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your hearts acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BOB'S TRAVEL:

I participated in an evangelistic crusade in Armenia this Spring. I have previously taught at the Seminary in Yerevan several times. In fact, one of our translators is from the Seminary there. The churches had 1,200 appointments with friends, neighbors and family members already set up for us when we arrived. Close to 700 people accepted Jesus and are currently being disciplined!

I went to Juarez, Mexico in early June to teach at a Pastor's conference. This year I taught the five main Christological texts in the NT: John 1:1-5, 9-18; Phil. 2:1-11; Col. 1:13-23; Heb. 1:1-3; and Rev. 1:4-20. Please pray for these pastors and their wives and families. They serve in very difficult and dangerous places!



Alexander Shadov (Russian friend and translator for BLI) and Bob Utley in Armenia.

"Hi Dr. Bob,

I've stumbled onto your website about a week ago, and I've found exactly what I've been praying for - that God would help me discover resources in my quest for proper bible study and interpretation. I do believe finding your website was God's answer to my prayers.

Anyhow, I living on the South coast of South Africa. My problem is I can't find a church in my region who teaches proper bible (NT) truth. In fact, I've been kicked out of my church because I questioned the tithing doctrine they were teaching. I am an ordained minister of 30. I have decided to plant a church where proper NT truths can be taught. My problem is I don't know how to go about it. Could you perhaps offer me any advice and guidance please? Anticipating your reply."

*Many thanks, Marno McWire G.*

"Hello Marno,

Thank you so much for taking the time to email me. I am so pleased

that my Bible study material has been a blessing. I too have experienced rejection by my peers for rejecting traditional interpretations!! It is painful, but the Bible is the only source of authority.

About your other question, I am a teacher and not familiar with that question. For someone like you, it is better to start a new church where people who come want exegetical preaching and teaching. In time it will grow!!!"

*God's blessings on you brother,  
Bob Utley*

"Hi Dr. Bob;

First of all, thank you for your speedy reply. Its an honor to even be in contact with you. I truly admire you, and what you do is what I long to do in my city. Please pray for me in that regard. What I want to know is actually this, how does one go about teaching scripture on a weekly basis? I mean how do you know what to preach next? I do understand that we have to allow the Holy Spirit to

guide us, but how do you humanly go about teaching and preaching systematically as a lead pastor of a congregation? Your input would be greatly appreciated."

*Many thanks, Marno McWire*

"Marno,

My view of hermeneutics says we must preach/teach through books, usually one or two paragraphs at a time depending on the literary unit. I usually preached on Sunday morning through a context, like I Cor. 11-14 or Mat. 5-7. Then on Sunday night I taught through a NT book. On Wed. nights I taught through an OT book. I tried to pass out outlines of my exegesis with discussion questions to encourage people to come week by week. In time the people in town who want this type of Bible study will come to your meetings. If you chose to have them on days when other Christian groups are not meeting, then many hungry believers will come."

*Bob Utley*

**"I really enjoy your website and the CD I received from convention. I passed it to fellow students, and they enjoy it too, very much. We appreciate also the Vietnamese and Korea sections. I have made copies and given to people with USB flash drives. Everyone has the same respect as I have to your work. I would like to see a course in Inductive Bible Study organized in Vietnam and use your CD to teach. I cannot take the**

**CD yet, because of the hostility of the government, but once being in Vietnam, I will produce copies to distribute.**

**I hope to work more closely with you to advance the gospel in Vietnam."**

*Ha Nguyen,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada,  
Canada Southern Baptist Convention,  
Youth With A Mission*

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!  
Here are some highlights of this ministry from the technical perspective:

- BLI currently has 63 translation projects in the pipeline, with more on the way.
- The number of visitors to our website has been steadily increasing, and there is a great demand for the installer file for Bob's "Verse-by-Verse Computer Bible Study Library."
- The recent conversion of all our English commentaries to HTML (web page) format has enabled Bible software publishers, such as BibleSoft, eSword and others to convert Bob's commentaries to their format and make these works available to an even wider user base.
- Our website, FreeBibleCommentary.org, has visitors from all over the globe -from Siberia to South Africa and from Japan to Israel to California. This truly is an international ministry.
- We will soon be providing all video commentaries and sermons in the latest format to enable users who have not had access to Adobe Flash to view our online videos.
- We are starting a new multimedia project to make Bob's "Bible Interpretation Seminar" -- both video and text -- available in more languages.

**"I'm able to get a truthful, historically-accurate, challenging and yet fulfilling view of the Bible, and it has truly, truly changed my life.**

**commentaries.** May God bless you and your ministries.

*Kashif , Pakistan*

"Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ: **I am requesting permission to utilize significant portions of the seminar and reference materials developed by Dr. Bob Utley in a proposed series of short courses on how to study and interpret the Bible for preachers, teachers and serious students of the word of God. Additionally, the course is being designed for interdenominational presentation.** Being a teacher myself, I fully recognize the futility of "reinventing the wheel" every time one wishes to present a new class or course. While preparing this series on basic Bible study and interpretation requirements and techniques, I discovered **Dr. Utley's Bible Study and Interpretation Seminar.** For me, the logical approach was to ask for permission from **Dr. Utley** to utilize some of his seminar and reference materials in my own effort."

"My dear Zimbabwean brother at our home church across the line in Canada has a ministry to children and involvement with national pastors in that country. I showed him the cd-rom on Sunday. He wants to look it through and then send them to pastors there. He also has **national pastor friends in Mozambique and he was already thinking of how he would get the CDs to them.**"

*Phil,  
Port of Hope Ministries, Canada*

"Dear **Bob**, you sent us a letter with two Bible commentaries in 36 languages. We work with international Seafarers. Could you please send us some free Bible commentaries? **They will be very useful to international seafarers so that they can come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.** They will help the Christians to grow in their faith so that they will be able to share with others. Thank you so much."

*Charles and Joan,  
Pinellas Park, FL*

"Hey Sir, Greetings in JESUS name. Thank you so much for sending the wonderful bible software. **Really I am getting the richly blessings of God by Studying these**

**"Hi! I attend East Texas Baptist University. I received a Bible Commentary from your ministry this week at our missions fair. I am so impressed with the depth of the studies. It's very comforting to know that even in these times there are people who believe the true Word of God. I have been extremely blessed by the DVDs. Thank you so much for what you do for the Kingdom of God."**

**"Praise the Lord; Thank you. Your work is a great blessing. My English is poor, but the part of the Gospel of John and an introduction was for me a source of new things."**

*God bless you, Andrzej K., Poland*

**"Dr. Bob,**

I think your commentaries and all the information on your dvd is just such a blessing! I am looking to establish a non-profit entity consisting of a preaching talk radio show, and teaching on the bible. I can think of no other commentaries that I would rather use than yours sir! I am only asking that I may add my own questions to those you have in the book? This would be a not-for-profit venture so your books will remain free. As a matter of fact I am willing to mention your website as a place to gain access to the material."

*Sincerely, Ted D.*

Greetings Bro. Bob,

**I've spent 100's of hours in your archives. Ooooooh!!** I can't thank you enough!! **I'd give anything if you'd start at Genesis...and do it all over again!!** I just can't say thank you enough for posting all of this...and posting it for free. May our Father bless you abundantly for your example of faith to us sheep.

**One of your biggest fans!! Jamie,  
Lincoln City, OR**



This is Melchor, the bosun (petty officer on a merchant ship) from the Philippines on the container vessel CAPE MANILA that arrived at the Fraser-Surrey Docks at Surrey, British Columbia.

We talked for a while about the Gosple message on the Evangecube and he understood it as what he ultimately believed once we get beyond denominationaliam (he is Catholic).

Then I showed him a clip produced by The JESUS Film called My Last Day. He was inspired by it.

Then I had the Verse-By-Verse Computer Bible Study CDs on the table and he asked about them. I said it helped explain the Bible verse by verse in a very simple, easy to understand manner because the writer wrote for people like him and me in church, not for theologians...and that when I was away from home with my computer and no Internet I just kept the disk in my CD drive. So he wanted one.

Blessings,  
Phil

*Now may the God of patience and comfort  
grant you to be like-minded toward one another,  
according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one  
mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

– Romans 15:5-6



# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

## LinkedIn Recommendations

Bill Gammill has recommended your work as Founder of Bible Lessons International.

Dear Bob,

I've written this recommendation of your work to share with other LinkedIn users.

Details of the Recommendation:  
**"Bob's insightful teaching of the Bible has made a tremendous difference in my own Bible study time and in my walk with the Lord. Bob was my pastor for several years and his warmth and love for people made a lasting impression on me. The fact that he makes his commentaries available free and worldwide speaks**

**volumes about his character and integrity. I recommend him highly."**

## Michelle's Note:

BLI has done amazing work for the Kingdom and I have been blessed to work with mom and dad for the last 3 years! My parents are the most wonderful, godly people I know! The gift of family and friends is one of life's greatest treasures!

We are moving back to "Hog" country! John will start a new job as Director of Transportation for Benton ISD in Benton, AR on July 1st. I will be teaching in the Benton school district and our girls will attend the Junior High and High School.

## Bible Lessons International

PO Box 1289  
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[www.freebiblecommentary.org](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org)  
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Email: [bli@biblelessonsintl.com](mailto:bli@biblelessonsintl.com)

*Donations to BLI are tax deductible charitable gifts.*

We will certainly miss our family and friends here in God's country! Please pray for my girls; they have only known Hallsville so the adjustment will take some time. However, we can move with confidence because of who we know, love and put our trust in...our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! We have such peace and joy because we belong to Him! May Jesus continue to give you His abundant life!

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# BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL



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