Biblical Foundations Course I:
Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Mosaic Women – Biblical Foundations I Syllabus and Fall 2022 Schedule

September 8
Mosaic Women Fall Studies Kickoff
Pick up Binders
Corporate worship and teaching
Meet-and-greet your group

September 15
Week 1: Biblical Foundations I - Introduction – Why Bible Competency Matters
Your role in the Body, your circle of influence, and the world
Course Assumptions
Commitments
Course Housekeeping

September 22
Week 2: Biblical Foundations I – Bible Canonicity, Inspiration, Unity, Inerrancy
Inspiration Defined
Verbal Plenary Inspiration
The Importance of Inspiration
Short History of Canonicity
Canon Legitimacy
Unity, Inerrancy, Reliability, and Transcendence

September 29
Week 3: Biblical Foundations I – Translations
Translation Theory – Challenges
Translation Variants
Important Discoveries Impacting Translation
Translation Types
My Bible Discovery

October 6
Week 4: Biblical Foundations I – Organization
A Closer Look at the Parts of the Modern Bible:
Canon
Testaments
Genres
Books
Chapters
Verses
Cross-references, footnotes, concordance

October 13 - Mosaic Women Fall Service Day - Samaritan Center

October 20
Week 5: Biblical Foundations I – One Story
Preparing to Read and Understand the Metanarrative of Scripture:
First principles for reading the Bible
Behind the texts
Understanding story (Narrative)
Understanding “the” story (Metanarrative)
Biblical Theology defined
October 27
Week 6: Biblical Foundations I – Reading Narrative, Epistle, Psalm/Wisdom
Preparing to Read the Biblical Genres:
The primary rules for reading biblical texts
Purpose of the genre
Parts of the genre
Behind the genre
Characteristics of the genre
Principles for reading the genre
Moving the Metanarrative forward

November 3
Week 7: Biblical Foundations I – Reading Gospel, Prophesy, Law
Preparing to Read the Biblical Genres:
Purpose of the genre
Parts of the genre
Behind the genre
Characteristics of the genre
Principles for reading the genre
Moving the Metanarrative forward

November 10
Week 8: Biblical Foundations I – Reading the Revelation
Preparing to Read the Biblical Genre:
Purpose of the genre / book
Parts of the book
Behind the book
Characteristics of the genre / book
Principles for reading the genre / book
Moving the Metanarrative forward
End Course Q&A
*spill over or review

November 17 - Mosaic Women Fall Fellowship Wrap-Up
*spill over, review, Q&A

Contact information:
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479-770-9556
Biblical Foundations Course I: Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 1 - Introduction
Why Bible Competency Matters
OBJECTIVE: To know why it is important to have a firm understanding of the Bible’s history, authority, and value.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NIV)
In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage— with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV – emphasis added)
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Your Circle of Influence:

Obstacles to your influence:

Cultural Challenges:

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
**Biblical Foundations I, Week 1 - Introduction Assignment**

**PRACTICE:** One of the first tasks of the Bible reader is to learn how to OBSERVE a text. Observation is simply taking a slow and methodical look at a text that we might otherwise skim quickly without really noticing. We will build on this in the next course, but it is never too early to begin practicing. Read all of the following instructions before beginning your work.

For next week, read Psalm 119 and record your observations in a notebook or on looseleaf to add to your Workbook binder. This is the longest Psalm in the Bible, and it is exclusively about God’s word. As you read, consider things like:

How does the Psalmist feel about God’s word – what emotions does he describe? List his words in your journal.

Then consider: Which of his feelings do you share? Are there some you can’t relate to? Why or why not?

What value does the Psalmist place on God’s word? What benefits does he find in it? Which of those benefits have you seen yourself? Explain.

What does the Psalmist ask of the Lord concerning His word; what does he pray for? Which of his requests you can make for yourself concerning this study?

What words does the Psalmist use to describe God’s word? Are there any other words you might use?

How does the Psalmist use God’s word?

How do you use God’s word? What is your common practice with interacting with the Bible?

Are you content with that? Why or why not?

That’s five days of devotional work if you care to use the assignment that way. You can divide the Psalm into 5 sections and answer one set of questions for each section if you like. Otherwise, choose a method that works for you and the questions you’d like to answer and come prepared next week with something to share with the group.

**Week 1 RESOURCES:**
https://www.blueletterbible.org/
https://biblehub.com/
Biblical Foundations Course I: Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 2 - Bible Canonicity, Inspiration, Unity, and Inerrancy
Discussion Notes:
Biblical Foundations – Course I, Week 2 Bible Canonicity, Inspiration, Unity, and Inerrancy

OBJECTIVE: To understand how we got the Bible we now use, why having a closed-canon matters, and to gain understanding that will allow us to address some typical objections to its legitimacy.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV) Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Inspiration:

Verbal Plenary Inspiration – Inspiration of God to His human agents extends to the very words themselves (verbal)—not just concepts or ideas—and to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture (plenary). This is the accepted and normative view. Applies only to the original writing, and not to translations. While translations are reliable, they are not inspired. (Inspiration occurs only once!)

Why does inspiration matter?

Canon:

Canonization - the process by which the books of the Bible were discovered to be authoritative. Men simply recognized the authority of the books that God inspired.

Tests for Canonicity or Biblical Endorsement:

- 

- 

- 

SUMMARY: Men did not choose from a group of potential texts the books that supported their own particular theological prejudices and biases. No man or council decided the canon... they only recognized what was already in use (historically accepted as authoritative) by the church and generally “always” had been.
Why is it important to recognize a closed canon?

Canon legitimacy:

- 

Bible Characteristics:

- 

Inerrancy applies to:

“Inerrancy means that when all facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences” (Paul Feinberg).

“When all the facts are known, the Bible in its original writings properly interpreted in light of which culture and communication means had developed by the time of its composition will be shown to be completely true (and therefore not false) in all that it affirms, to the degree of precision intended by the author, in all matters relating to God and his creation” (David Dockery).

REVIEW:
- Men wrote God’s words as the Spirit inspired
  - Men recognized the inspired word
    - Men canonized the inspired word
  - Men organized the inspired word

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
Biblical Foundations I, Week 2 Assignment

Read the passages below and think carefully about what they tell you about Jesus’ relationship with, perspective toward, value of… the Scriptures. Look at how He used them, what He said about them… and about how others understood, and used, and valued them. Make notes as you read and be prepared to share a meaningful insight from your study.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

Matthew 5:3-6, 7-9, 17-19


Matthew 15:1-1

Matthew 22:29-31

Matthew 25:50-54 (this requires some thought… compare to Luke 24:27)

Mark 4:4

Mark 7:13

Luke 2:4-6

Luke 10:38-42

Luke 16:16-17

Luke 24:27 (45-47)

John 5:39-40

John 10:35

John 16:12-15 (14:26)

John 17:17

These are just some of the passages that record Jesus’ words and attitude toward the scriptures as they existed in His time. The rest of the Bible testifies equally strongly of its own veracity. That begs a question:

When we don’t understand a passage, or one thing in the Bible seems to contradict something else, where do we go for an explanation?

“…on ninety-two occasions Jesus and his apostles supported their position by saying “it is written” (or the equivalent) and then quoting the Old Testament. Why? Because Jesus and his apostles considered the Old Testament Scriptures to be the written Word of God, and thus the ultimate authority for life.”

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Week 2 RESOURCES:
https://answersingenesis.org/jesus/on-the-infallibility-of-scripture/
https://www.biblicaltraining.org/why-we-trust-our-bible/team-taught?page=1
https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/scholarsandscientists
https://voice.dts.edu/chapel/making-sense-of-the-biblical-canon/
https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/canon.cfm
https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/scholarsandscientists/william-tyndale.html
www.crossway.org/articles/what-did-jesus-teach-about-the-bible/
Biblical Foundations Course I:
Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 3 - Translations
Discussion Notes:
**Biblical Foundations – Course I, Week 3 - Translations**

**Objective:** To acquire a basic understanding of Bible translations, how the Bible is organized, and how to use my Bible.

**Translation theory** This theory, based on a solid foundation on understanding of how languages work, translation theory recognizes that different languages encode meaning in differing forms, yet guides translators to find appropriate ways of preserving meaning, while using the most appropriate forms of each language. (Juan Daniel Pérez Vallejo https://www.translationdirectory.com/article414.htm)

- Challenges: Bridging the Gaps of...
  -
  
  -

- there is no such thing as a literal translation (except _________________________________)

*It must also be appreciated that no translation is totally literal all of the time. It is not a simple process of finding one English word for each Greek and Hebrew word. Furthermore, words cannot be translated in isolation. Each language has its own set of idiomatic expressions that do not make sense when translated literally. If the Scripture were to be translated in a literal, or word-for-word, manner in every passage, then the result would often be something that was unreadable or non-understandable. Idioms have to be explained — not translated word-for-word.* (Don Stewart https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-translations/question7-major-theories-of-bible-translation.cfm)

**TRANSLATION VARIANTS** – differences in wording from one manuscript to another
- omission:

- addition:

- substitution:

- transposition:

**Rosetta Stone – 196 BC**

**Dead Sea Scrolls – 1st- 3rd century**
New translations continue to improve in clarity because archaeological discoveries improve our understanding of ancient language and culture. Translations that are informed by the most recent archaeological data... and the oldest original manuscripts will produce the most accurate translations. The more source texts examined and the older they are, the better clarity in the translation.

Translation types and definitions:
Formal –

Functional –

Paraphrase –

The best translation: ____________________________________________________________

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
1. **Read** the Introduction, Preface, Contributors Page, and Special Features sections of your Bible (anything that comes before Genesis begins.) If you have a good study Bible, this may be a lot of dense material. Take notes or highlight the main ideas, theories, objectives etc...

2. Look at the Introductory material to **each book of the Bible** and notice what information the translators thought was important to collate for each book. (Not the book’s specific information itself, but the foundational information like author, audience, context... )

3. Finish your “**My Bible**” handout using what you learn from examining your own Bible.

4. **Bonus: Investigate how** your Bible translators have handled the primary textual variants (the 1%). This might be challenging in advance of next week’s discussion, but see what you discover about **how** translators share the information about the variants in:
   - John 7:53-8:11
   - Mark 16:9-20
   - 1 John 5:7-8

   **Do they affect inerrancy, or undermine the authority of scripture (recall what you learned about those things)?**

   **Do they affect the essential doctrines of our salvation?**
Week 3 RESOURCES:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/Dead-Sea-Scrolls
https://www.gotquestions.org/dead-sea-scrolls.html
https://www.biblicaltraining.org/why-we-trust-our-bible/team-taught
https://www.translationdirectory.com/article414.htm
https://www.biblicaltraining.org/wycliffe-king-james/history-english-bible
# My Bible

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**Contributors/ Editors/ Translators (Senior Editorial Team, or recognizable names):**

**Special Features:**

**Material used in Introduction to each book of the Bible:**

**Other items of note:**
Biblical Foundations Course I: Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 4 - Organization
Biblical Foundations I, Week 4 - Organization

Objective: Understand how the Bible is organized generally and that the Bible uses many types of writing. Understand the various parts of a modern Bible translation and how to use them in study.

Parts of the bible?

Canon – The whole Bible is an ______________________ written by more than _____ men over ________ years.

- Divided into two __________________________: where two or more parties come together to make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities

  Old Testament – _______ books
  Covenants point ___________________ to Christ

  The Old Testament contains all the writings associated with the covenant agreement God made with Israel in Moses’ day. (Exodus 24:8) (https://www.gotquestions.org/what-does-testament-mean.html)

  New Testament – _______ books
  Covenant ___________________ in Christ

  The new covenant unfurls in the writings of the New Testament, which concerns the agreement God has made with humankind through Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25; Hebrews 8:6–8). (https://www.gotquestions.org/what-does-testament-mean.html)


  The Old is in the New Revealed, the New is in the Old Concealed

Further divided by ____________________: a grouping of writing (music, movie…) similar in form, style, or subject matter.

  C.S. Lewis – Since it is after all literature, [the Bible] cannot properly be read except as literature; and the different parts of it as the different sorts of literature they are.” (Lewis, Reflection on the Psalms, 3)

Chapters and Verses:

  Problems:

  Versification:
Headings, cross-references, concordance, footnotes (commentary), other helps:

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
Biblical Foundations I, Week 4 Assignment

To prepare for the second half of our study, practice using your Bible’s tools in Genesis 1-3 using the guide below. Record your answers in your journal or a notebook.

**Day 1** – Read Genesis 1-3 straight through, ignoring all the “helps” provided by your Bible’s Translation Committee.

**Day 2** – Read the **Introductory Material** in your Bible for the book of Genesis.

**Day 3** – Return to the Genesis 1 and now read the **Chapter Headings or the Division Headings** as you move through Genesis 3.

**Day 4** – Return to Genesis 1. Read all the **cross-references** provided for Genesis 1:1 and record what you learn from them as they bring new insight to that verse.

Look up the word “Creator” in your Bible’s **Dictionary/Concordance**. Follow any additional suggestions you find there.

Write a definition of the word here as you understand it from your study.

Study several passages listed that use that same word elsewhere in scripture and note anything that increases your understanding.

**Day 5** – If you have an **Index to Notes** section in your Bible, use it to look up where the Bible’s Commentators have discussed “Creation” in their notes outside of Genesis. Read one of those sections and note anything that increases your understanding.

Return to Genesis 1. Read all the **footnotes** provided for Genesis chapter 1 and note anything that adds to your previous understanding of the chapter.

**Additional study:** If you want to be really well prepared for our discussion of the Bible’s One Story, see if you can make an outline of the events of Genesis 1-3. Don’t make it too hard. Hit the big things and ask Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How to guide you. Try to forget everything you have been taught about Genesis before doing this personal study!! Just see what is there.
Week 4 RESOURCES:
https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/
https://www.gotquestions.org/what-does-testament-mean.html
https://pursuitbible.com/how-bible-is-arranged-main-structure-and-meaning/
https://scripторiумdaily.com/who-divided-the-bible-into-chapters/
https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/a-short-history-of-bible-clutter
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapters_and_verses_of_the_Bible#:~:text=There%20are%2023%2C145%20verses%20in,than%2026%20verses%20per%20chapter.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhwyB989UCU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBSPhlN5Q
Biblical Foundations Course I:
Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 5 – One Story
Biblical Foundations I, Week 5 – One Story

Objective: To understand that the Bible tells one story – and all its parts tell the same story. To understand and become comfortable using the term: Metanarrative.

The Role of the Spirit in understanding the Bible:
John 14:15-18, 26

John 16:7-8, 12-15

1 Corinthians 2:7-14

Unbelievers

Believers

First Principle:

3 Components behind every text of scripture:

The entire bible was written by middle eastern men, to a middle eastern audience, in a middle eastern context, about middle eastern events.

The Primary Rule that Governs Scripture – A TEXT CAN’T MEAN...

__________________________________________

The story has the same meaning and message HERE and NOW that it had THERE and THEN!
If the Bible is not about YOU... what IS it about? (John 1:1, 14, Luke 24:27)

**METANARRATIVE** - *an overarching account or interpretation of events and circumstances that provides a pattern or structure for people’s beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences. (OED)*

Parts of Plot Arc:
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Q. Where do Adam and Eve live SPECIFICALLY, and what is outside its borders?

Q. Who lives there with them?

Q. What purposes were they given?

Q. What decision did they face?

Q. What did they learn as a consequence?

Q. What was the best solution to that?

Q. What promise is made to sustain them?

Q. Do their purposes change?
Biblical Theology:
Not simply Theology that is biblical but a practice that recognizes from the Bible how God is acting with man in history, from creation and the fall, to ultimately bring about the final consummation and restoration of His plan through Jesus.

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
Biblical Foundations – Course I, Week 5 Assignment

Using the pattern you find below, investigate one of the Bible stories you thought of during our discussion and see if you can explain how it replicates the story pattern and continues to tell the Metanarrative – the plot – of Genesis 1-3. The story of Noah is fairly simple for practice. (NOTE: The progression of the stories does not necessarily happen in the order below. Follow the Plot Arc if it helps.)

God prepares a place.

God prepares a man.

Man’s purpose is to expand the kingdom.

Man’s choice is “Who has the right to rule?”

Man rebels against God.

God provides a solution. (One that points forward to a permanent resolution in Christ.)

Week 5 RESOURCES:
https://bibleproject.com/explore/themes/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=231xsmFEdVw
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEqoW51-TFA
file:///C:/Users/Melissa/OneDrive/Documents/basics-the-biblical-metanarrative-soundliving.pdf
file:///C:/Users/Melissa/OneDrive/Documents/basics-the-biblical-metanarrative-soundliving.pdf
https://pursuitbible.com/what-is-the-unifying-theme-of-the-bible/
Biblical Foundations Course I: Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 6 – Reading Biblical Genres Narrative, Epistle, Poetry/Wisdom
Discussion Notes:
Biblical Foundations I, Week 6 – Reading Narrative, Epistle, Poetry/Wisdom

Objective: To understand the various types of writing in the Bible (genres). To begin to understand the guidelines that inform how we read each of those genres.

NARRATIVE:

Rules for reading every text of Scripture:

1. 

2. The entire bible was written by middle eastern men, to a middle eastern audience, in a middle eastern context, about middle eastern events. 
So we have to consider the influence of: 

- 

- 

- 

3. The Author has a _________________________________, _________________________________ and _________________________________ message. No ONE book has the WHOLE truth of scripture. AND SO...

4. A TEXT CAN'T MEAN... ________________________________________________________
   The story has the same meaning and message HERE and NOW for US that it had THERE and THEN to THEM!

Purpose Of Narrative: To _______________________________ and _______________________________ creatively.

Parts Of Narrative:
Plot

Characters

Dialogue

Setting
Characteristics of Narrative:
1. Scripture Narrative records *real events about real people in real places doing real things*. It is not allegory!

2. Narrative is not necessarily *prescriptive or normative*.

3. Narrative *does not establish doctrine or provide exhaustive theology* but illustrates what is taught elsewhere.

4. Narrative is *selective and limited* in its details. (Author/audience/context; particular, specific, limited message)

Principles for Reading Narrative: (notes from discussion)

If we don’t learn to read the scriptures correctly, the danger is that we:

MIS_______________________
MIS_______________________
MIS_______________________
... then we feel _________________.

LETTERS / EPISTLES:
**Purpose of Letters:** inform, instruct, request, inquire, remit, order, advise, correct, and question.

The 21 letters in the New Testament have only 6 authors: Paul, Peter, James, John, Jude, and the writer to the Hebrews
Paul’s letters should always be read in partnership with Acts.

Parts of Letters:
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-
2 Kind of Letters:

3 Things +1 Behind the Letter:

- 
- 
- 
- 

Characteristics of Letters arise from the purpose or Occasion for writing, to establish:

Orthodoxy-

Orthopraxy-

EG:

Principles for Reading Letters: (notes from discussion)

POETRY
1/3 of the Bible is considered poetry, but poetry exists throughout scripture. When you encounter it, wherever you encounter it the same principles apply. Wisdom books are considered poetic because of their form, but they serve a different purpose and function.

Books considered Poetic in the Canon: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (Solomon) sometimes Lamentations.

Purpose of Poetry – meant to appeal to listeners’ emotions and imagination. They are tools for worship or prayer; songs and poems designed to creatively invite the listener to share the Author’s circumstances, experience, and feelings or enter his reasoning. Poetry has a more general and universal appeal to the emotion or reason of the listener than other genres in scripture.
The Purpose and Characteristics of Poetry carry forward and apply to the Psalms.

**PSALMS**

**Behind the Psalms** – Many Psalms include notations for musical composition. Some include a prologue that reveals the Author, and Context. The audience is typically revealed within the writing (and is often God!). When the prologue gives you background hints, take them! Otherwise, don’t get too hung up trying to put them in their chronology (only about 12 give us any hint). Recall Poetry’s purpose and general and universal emotional appeal.

**Two Basic Types of Psalms:**

- 

The pattern of the Psalms teaches us that we don’t ignore the pain in our lives or in our world... but we look forward in faith for our deliverance.

**Parts of Psalms**

The order of the Psalms is as important as the order of the chapters of any other book. Originally broken into 5 books where the last Psalm of each “book” ends with a benediction. This arrangement was guided by the Holy Spirit and established in the Canon by the time of Ezra, not by later modern editors, to mimic the books of Torah:

**Prologue – Psalms 1-2** Introduce the Collection of Psalms as a “New Torah” and point toward the blessings for all who find refuge in the coming Messianic King.

**Book 1: Psalms 3-41** - Call to covenant faithfulness, with David as a human model of the future Messianic King.

**Book 2: Psalms 42-72** - Hope for a return of the Temple to Zion and for the reign of the Messianic King over all nations, fulfilling the Abrahamic promises.

**Book 3: Psalms 73-89** -Anticipate the promised Messianic King from the position of ruin and exile.

**Book 4: Psalms 90-106** Prayers of intercession for God to show mercy to His rebellious people, recognizing that the God of Israel reigns as the true King of the world.

**Book 5: Psalms - 107-145** - Affirm that God hears His people and will respond by sending the Messianic King, sustaining the hope of the people that He will one day deliver.

**Doxology of praise: Psalm - 146-150**
**Wisdom Literature**

**Purpose of Wisdom books**: Though they are poetically crafted, they are meant to appeal to *reason* to inspire deeper *thinking, speculation, reflection, and to stimulate a corrective response*. Meant to draw man’s mind and heart back to the Lord in repentance. All the characteristics of Poetry still apply, and Wisdom Literature retains its more general and universal appeal.

**Parts and Purposes of Wisdom Literature:**

*Job* – Speculative wisdom poetry – asks “What is good and right and true?”

*Proverbs* – Short poetically crafted expressions of general truths.

*Ecclesiastes* – Speculative wisdom poetry – asks, “What is the point - the purpose and meaning of life?”

**Behind the Wisdom Books:** Authorship is important to remember, but not necessary to understanding the books of wisdom. Solomon is the primary author, and it is important to remember his request that God grant him Godly wisdom for leading His people. These books are the accumulation of that lifelong pursuit. The Audience and the Context become broader here to move beyond the immediate audience to the world… and *one of Wisdom’s roles in scripture is the highlight the contrast between man’s earthly wisdom – really foolishness – and God’s perfect wisdom.*

**Proverbs**

First Rule of reading Proverbs:

**Characteristics of Proverbs:**

Their purpose is established by Chapter 1:1-7 – To...

**Chapters 1-7**

**Chapters 8-9**

**Chapters 10-31**

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
Biblical Foundations – Course I, Week 6 Assignment

We’ve spent a lot of time on Narrative, and you’ll get plenty of practice with that in the natural course of your Bible reading, so for homework let’s take a closer look at some of the other genres. Using the “Principles for Reading” helps provided in your workbook and/or the question below to make a good reading of the following:

**Letter – Philemon**
Outline the Parts of the Letter by the verses containing each part. (In doing so, identify the Author and Recipient.)

Does it seem like a True Letter or an Epistle?

What is the occasion for writing?

What relationship seems to exist between the Author and the Recipient?

How does that affect the “tone” of the letter?

What is the orthodoxy taught within?

What is the orthopraxy expected?

Can you apply these to your own life? If so, how? If not, why not?

Where is God in this letter... what does He act as, whom does He act for...? What is His role?

**Poetry - Psalm 52**
From the Prologue determine the Author and the Context.

Use your cross-references, footnotes, concordance, or an online resource to search for “Doeg” and find the context behind the Psalm. Write a short summary of the circumstances that moved David to write this Psalm. (You’ll be reading NARRATIVE in the cross-reference... employ good practice!!)
After reading the background, what do you anticipate from this Psalm? How does knowing the story “inform” you as you approach the text?

Now Read the poem aloud!

As you apply the background to this Psalm, who is David writing ABOUT?

What do you notice about the Structure?

What kind of Imagery is used?

Can you explain the meanings behind the imagery?

Where and how is God mentioned? What is His role?

**Poetry/Wisdom – Ecclesiastes**
The 12 chapters of Ecclesiastes can feel like some of the longest reading in the Bible, but it takes only about 20 minutes to read the whole book. Do that today, and as you read notice the general message about WHERE folly resides and IN WHAT. And in the conclusion of the matter – where Solomon finds true meaning – explain how Solomon’s conclusion “answers” the rest of the book.
WEEK 6 RESOURCES:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUXJ8Owes8E
https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/plot-biblical-narrative/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9yp1ZxbxEg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9W5afjndtU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gab04dPs_uA ...
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/help-me-teach-the-bible/mark-futato-on-psalms/
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/help-me-teach-the-bible/ray-orlund-on-proverbs/
https://www.biblicaltraining.org/literary-context/inductive-bible-study
Biblical Foundations Course I:
Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 7 – Reading Biblical Genres
Law, Prophesy, Gospel/Acts
Discussion Notes:
Objective: To understand the various types of writing in the Bible (genres). To begin to understand the guidelines that inform how we read each of those genres.

LAW
The 5 Book(s) of the Law are:

Also called:

Parts of the Law:
- 
- 
- 
- 

Not all Torah is Law, but all Hebrew Law is contained within Torah.

Behind the Law:
Author-

Audience-

Context-

Purposes of the Law:

Law establishes the ideals of:
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

...prescribing how those ideals should be applied in the culture of ancient Israel.
**Law is Covenant**: a binding contract between two parties with obligations on each side

**Blessings** – the natural outworking of living a holy life AND the specific particular responses from God toward His faithful people BEFORE MESSIAH

**Curses** – the natural consequences of living in opposition to God AND His specific and particular responses toward His rebellious people meant to bring them back into fellowship with Him BEFORE MESSIAH

**Characteristics of Law as Literature:**

**Prose Discourse**: Mini speeches arranged as an argument or presentation of facts (sometimes using Historical Narrative or capitalizing on the emotion of poetry) to persuade the listener by reason and logic to act in a certain way.

**First rule for reading Law as a Messianic believer:**

If you are not under the covenant of grace, the Law is still in full effect for you, meaning that there is no salvation short of perfect obedience to every statute, every day of your life. (Galatians 3, James 2:10) However, “There is no one righteous. Not even one.” (Romans 3:9-12) But “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1)

**Read Law to Understand:**

God

The kind of Holy relationship God wants...

The kind of Holy relationship God wants...

The kind of Holy relationship God wants...

Your inability to...

How God is...

**PROPHETIC LITERATURE**

Focuses primarily on reminding the Nation of Israel of the Covenant relationship between them and their God.

Points **backward** toward ________________________________

Points **forward** toward ________________________________
**Purpose of Prophesy:** Message from God to a specific and limited audience at a specific and limited time, to elicit a specific response and to demonstrate that He alone is God.

**Nature of Prophesy:**

**Parts within Prophesy:**

**Vision:**

**Oracle:**

**Discourse:**

**Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

**Minor Prophets:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**Pre-Exilic Prophets:**

- **Pre-Assyrian Prophets** - Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah (734-722 BC) warned of the coming of the Assyrian empire, who took the northern tribes of Israel into exile.

- **Pre-Babylonian Prophets** – Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah/Lamentations, and Ezekiel (722-586 BC) warned of the coming of the Babylonian empire, who took the southern tribe of Judah into exile.

**Exilic Prophets:** Ezekiel, Daniel wrote during the exile to comfort those in captivity and to demonstrate God’s sovereign control over all of Human History.

**Post-Exilic Prophets:** Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi wrote after the exile challenging the returning Israelites to learn from past mistakes and live faithfully as they rebuilt their nation.
Behind the Books:

Characteristics of Prophetic Writing:

Best read as_______________________________________

Less about...

More about...

Written in response to the *Prophet’s own cultural chaos and crises*
Primarily written about *their own near future* rather than our distant future
Most events were fulfilled in *their* time and are *not meant to be generally or interpretively understood or applied*
Occasionally a short-term prediction was paired with a long-term prediction – *usually Messianic*
  - Less than 2% Old Testament Prophesy is Messianic
  - Less than 5% describes the New Covenant age
  - Less than 1% eschatological (distant future, end-times related)

**ASK:**

**GOSPEL / ACTS**

*Purpose:* To proclaim the **good news** that Jesus is bringing the whole Biblical story to its fulfillment, and to **persuade** the reader to **believe, repent, trust, and follow** the King of the new Kingdom being proclaimed.

**Characteristics of Gospel:**

**ONE:**

**FOUR:**

**Synoptic:**
**ACTS**

**Purpose:** To illustrate the OUTWORKING (acts) of faith in community revealing Jesus as Lord of the Church He is building by His Spirit at work in believers.

**Characteristics:**
Sequel to Luke

Historical *Narrative*

**Provides context for:**

*Arranged in concentric circles based on Acts 1:8:*

- Acts 1-7
- Acts 8-10
- Acts 11-28

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
Biblical Foundations – Course I, Week 7 Assignment

Transfer the coloring you did in your notes on the Prophets to your Library shelf.

Using your Bible’s helps and/or online resources like Blueletterbible.org or Biblehub.com to find as much as you can about the Author and Audience of each Gospel writer. If your Bible’s notes help you, also mention how Jesus is presented by this writer in his book.

Can you discover what happened between the synoptic gospel accounts and John’s account? How do you think that affected his message?

How can understanding these different perspectives help you “answer” critics that point to “inconsistencies” as a way to challenge, dismiss, and de-legitimize scripture?

Review our previous discussions and make note of anything you want to discuss further next week. Consider the “Questions I still have” section at the end of your weekly notes.
WEEK 7 RESOURCES:
https://blog.lexhampress.com/2019/03/12/two-things-you-need-to-forget-when-reading-biblical-prophecy/
https://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers/what-is-the-difference-between-vision-and-prophecy
https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/the-prophets/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sew1kBIe-W0
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrzq_X1NNaA&t=6s
https://www.uniontheology.org/resources/bible/new-testament/how-to-read-the-gospels
https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/how-to-read-biblical-prose-discourse/
https://bible.org/seriespage/30-understanding-writing-prophets
Biblical Foundations Course I:
Bible Basics - From History to Daily Use
Week 8 – Reading Biblical Genres
The Revelation (Apocalyptic)
Discussion Notes:
**Objective:** To understand the various types of writing in the Bible (genres). To begin to understand the guidelines that inform how we read each of those genres.

**Characteristics of Revelation:**
John sees everything in this Revelation as the fulfillment of the Old Testament
- 250 allusions to the Old Testament in this one book
- Descriptions of the Church here parallel Israel’s history
- Meant to be **written** prophesy from the beginning (compared to Old Testament “go and speak” first)
- Carefully arranged in numbered sets to be read and understood as whole units not individually

**Numerology: John’s sevens**
- Three
- Four
- Seven

It is clear by the patterns of 7s used here and in the gospel account credited to John, that he is unquestionably the author of both books.

**Revelation has elements of:**
- Poetry
- Narrative
- Letter

**Primarily Apocalyptic Prophesy** – *apokalupto* (Greek), to...

The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John, the Apostle.
There is only ONE Revelation.

**Aspects of Apocalyptic Literature:**

*Modeled after Old Testament Prophesy (Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Isaiah)*

Old Testament Prophesy was concerned with...
Apocalyptic looks forward to the time when God will work...

To bring...

Anticipates...

*Hebrew writing used from 200BC to 200AD

*Most apocalyptic was pseudonymous (written under a false name)

*Features an Angelic mediator who communicates and interacts with the recipient of the vision on a journey into the heavenly realms

*Warns of trials to come and encourages the faithful to persevere in light of the coming deliverance

*Uses fantastical symbolic imagery not the typical symbolic imagery drawn from reality (bread of heaven, light of the world)
  - Images the original audience would have recognized symbolically
    - a beast out of the sea = evil empire, earthquake = divine judgement,
    - woman sitting on seven hills = Rome, a city built on seven hills

Behind the Revelation:

Author:

Audience:

Context:

+1 – Occasion

**Purpose:** To warn that the collision between the Church and the Roman Empire (human empires) will get worse before it gets better. To encourage the early Christians (and future Christians) who refuse to participate in Emperor (false) worship to persevere in their cultural resistance and to stand firm in their faith, looking forward to their eternal rest. To announce God’s judgments on those who cause the suffering of His people.

The end of each 7 addresses to the Churches gives us a clue to the main theme of the book:
**Parts of The Revelation:**

**Chapter 1:** Introduction to the narrative of the letter and its primary characters
- John – narrator and recipient of the visions
- Seven (perfectly representative) Churches
- Christ – Lord of History and of the Church (images from Daniel 10) who holds the keys of death and Hades

**Chapters 2-3:** Addresses to the 7 real but representative churches (set as one letter – one message – to all)

**Chapters 4-5:** Heavenly visions of God – the Lion who is a Lamb reigning in majestic power from His throne, worthy and able to open the scroll

**Chapters 6-8:1:** The Drama Begins - Seven Seals

These chapters introduce three themes in sets of 7 that will continue through chapter 16. They are each read as ONE WHOLE theme, but in specific parts working together:

1-4

5-6

Interlude (except 15-16)

7

**Chapters 8-11:** The big picture of God’s judgment (fly over) – Seven Trumpets mimic the plagues of Egypt

**Chapters 12-21:5:** The details of that judgment (zoom in) and its results
- **Chapter 12** is the theological key to The Revelation*: Satan presented as a NOW and NOT YET defeated enemy of God and His people

- **Chapter 13:** Demonstrates how Satan works vengeance on God’s people through the Roman Empire (symbolic also of ungodly human empires – not Republican and/or Democrats, but the general unbelieving world as it exercises its influence and authority to oppress God’s people)

- **Chapter 14:** A glimpse of the blessed hope of the people of God

- **Chapters 15-16:** Seven Bowls of wrath - Demonstrate that the Ungodly Empire is doomed

**Chapters 17-21:5:** A Tale of Two cities
- Doomed Rome (symbolic also of the “city of humanity”)
- Eternal Eden in the New Jerusalem

**Chapter 22:6-21:** Concluding blessing, warning, assurance, and affirmation (Amen)
Do not confuse Tribulation and Wrath. They are not synonymous.

Tribulation -

Wrath -

Any understanding must come intrinsically from the text itself or from text available to the Seven Churches. Old Testament Septuagint. (Some New Testament books were by then circulated, but we cannot use them as sources for understanding this book since it’s uncertain to us what John’s audience would have heard or read by this writing. We can use them as loose supplements, but not as authoritative documents for understanding this book.)

It means NOW... 

=What it means to Overcome!

Something I learned today:

Questions I still have:
Biblical Foundations – Course I, Week 8 Assignment

Read and ENJOY The Revelation!

Review course material for ‘Questions I still have’ to discuss at our Fellowship.
WEEK 8 RESOURCES:


Biblical Foundations I - Glossary

**Anthology** – a published collection of writing.

**Apocalypse** – to reveal or to unveil. (Apocalyptic)

**Biblical Theology** – the PRACTICE of recognizing from the Bible how God is acting with man in history, from creation and the fall, to ultimately bring about the final consummation and restoration of His plan through Jesus. (Biblical Theology is not just theology that is biblical... it is a SYSTEM for studying scripture that honors its cohesive, consistent message.)

**Canon** – rule, measuring rod, authority. A collection of (sacred) books.

**Canonization** – the process by which the books of the Bible were discovered to be authoritative. Men simply recognized the authority of the books that God inspired.

**Context** – the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed. The parts of something written or spoken that immediately precede and follow a word or passage and clarify its meaning. (Oxford)

**Covenant** – when two or more parties make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, responsibilities, and consequences for failure to honor the agreement. (also, Testament)

**Doctrine** – (Lit.) teaching; instruction. The acceptance and arrangement of beliefs or a body of teachings or instructions, principles or positions, in a given branch of knowledge or in a belief system. The teachings of scripture by which Christians govern their lives.

**Encyclical** – a circulating communication addressed to all the members of a group.

**Foretelling** – (Lit.) tell before. Speaking a prediction about the future.

**Formal Translation** – a translation of the Bible that is as close as possible to being “word-for-word”

**Forthtelling** – (Lit.) tell forth. Publicly speaking a message from God (not by definition predictive).

**Functional (Dynamic) Translation** – a translation of the Bible that honors the words of the Source Text, while making clarity of “thought-for-thought” its goal.

**Genre** – a grouping of writing (art, music, movie...) similar in form, style, or subject matter.

**Harmonize** – an attempt to compile the canonical gospels of the Christian New Testament into a single account. (Wiki)

**Inerrancy** – to be without error.

**Infallible / Infallibility** – to be incapable of error.

**Inspiration** - that extraordinary or supernatural divine influence given to those who wrote the Holy Scriptures, rendering their writings infallible. Defined in scripture as to “breathe on” or “breathe in”. (Easton’s)

**Interlinear** – a translation where two texts of different language are written on parallel lines in the order of the Source text.

**Metanarrative** – an overarching account or interpretation of events and circumstances that provides a pattern or structure for people’s beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences. (Oxford)
**Normative** – determining what is normal, usual, or standard.

**Orthodoxy** – authorized or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or (ritual) practice. (Oxford)

**Orthopraxy** – correct (personal, moral) conduct.

**Parallelism** – the use of components in a sentence that are grammatically the same; or similar in their construction, sound, meaning or meter.

**Paraphrase** – a restatement of a source text, retaining only the writer’s own interpretation of the text.

**Pentateuch** – (lit.) five books. The first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible. (also, Torah, Books of Moses)

**Prescriptive** – to establish or impose a standard of correct or accepted pattern. (This is how it should be.)

**Reliability (of scripture)** – it never fails to accomplish the purpose for which God sent it.

**Septuagint** – a Greek version of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament), made for Greek-speaking Jews in Egypt in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC and adopted by the early Christian Churches. (Oxford)

**Synoptic** – to see the same.

**Task theology** – doctrine that speaks ONLY to the writing’s specific occasion/purpose.

**Theology** – the study of the nature of God and religious belief.

**Torah** – The first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible.

**Transcendence (of scripture)** – the way scripture has its effect in the life of the believer defies human logic or scientific reasoning.

**Translation theory** – system based on a solid foundation of understanding how languages work. Recognizes that different languages encode meaning in different forms. Guides translators to find appropriate ways of preserving meaning, while using the most appropriate forms of each language.

**Translation Variants** – differences in wording from one manuscript to another.

**Tribulation** – the suffering the Church will endure at the hands of her enemies.

**Verbal Plenary Inspiration** - Inspiration that extends to the specific words of scripture (verbal)—not just to its concepts or ideas—and that the inspiration extends to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture (plenary). This is the accepted and normative view. Applies only to the original writing, and not to translations.

**Wrath** – the judgment of God poured out on His enemies (NOT afflicted on His Church).
Biblical Foundations I – Suggested Resources

**BOOKS:**


**BIBLES:**


**Free ONLINE:**

[https://www.blueletterbible.org/](https://www.blueletterbible.org/)  [https://britannica.com/](https://britannica.com/)


[https://bible.org/](https://bible.org/)  [https://GotQuestions.org/](https://GotQuestions.org/)


[https://courses.dts.edu/](https://courses.dts.edu/)  ([Dallas Seminary)](https://courses.dts.edu/)  [https://online.hillsdale.edu/](https://online.hillsdale.edu/)  ([Hillsdale College](https://online.hillsdale.edu/))

[https://www.fellowshipnwa.org/Rogers/TrainingCenter](https://www.fellowshipnwa.org/Rogers/TrainingCenter)