

Pastor's Bible Study Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Orientation

Introduction

My goal for this course is two-fold:

1. To create “educated readers” of scripture fully equipped to engage the Biblical text. With the ability to begin a deeper journey the proper historical, cultural and literary context.
2. To bring those attending into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ.

Lecture Segment

1. Many ways to study the Bible:
 - *Historical-critical method (foundational)*
 - *Textual criticism*
 - *Literary criticism*
 - *Historical criticism*
 - *Source criticism*
 - *Form criticism*
 - *Redaction criticism*
2. Four Foundational principles:
 - The Bible is rooted in _____
 - Three major trade routes
 - Via Maris (Way of the Sea)
 - Kings Highway
 - Spice and Perfume

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- The Bible emerges from _____
 - Real People
 - In real time
 - Real places
 - Did real things
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- *The Bible, in its final, finished form, is a _____ literary work*

Written by 44+ authors the Bible has been edited, redacted¹, and canonized².

- The Bible is the Word of _____
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3. To understand the Bible, you need to understand the World to which it is written. It was written generations ago in a particular cultural environment.

- *Patriarchal*
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- *Monarchical*
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- *Polytheistic*
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- *Slaveholding*
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¹ In literature, redaction is a form of editing in which multiple sources of texts are combined and altered slightly to make a single document.

² Canonization is the process by which the books of the Bible were discovered as authoritative. Men did not canonize Scripture; men simply recognized the authority of the books that God inspired.

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Scripture and Study

Read: Genesis: Chapter 1 through Chapter 3

Encounter the Word

Remember as you begin to read, you are reading the greatest story ever told. It is our story. Those who put together what we know as our Bible edited and redacted the stories to link together following a linear narrative. Over the next few weeks you will begin to see this linear narrative.

Written Word:

As you read think about the structure of the writing.

Is it poetic?

Are sections repeating or affirming?

Reflect on the two creation stories and think about what they are telling us?

What did you discover?

Historical Perspective:

When we think about the Bible being our own myth. The story of the early history of our faith we will be confronted with information as we read and study. When we search the web, we will discover there are many creation stories from other religions. As we have already learned God called Abraham in a polytheistic world (with many gods). What is different about our Biblical creation story?

If you would like to know more about other religions creation stories go to:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/creation-myth/Creation-by-world-parents>

or search the internet.

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