

Session Six

The Bible:

The Word of the Lord

Oral Tradition

Long before the stories were written down, they were spoken...telling stories and singing songs (melodies help the memory retain the story...singing readings in the Temple and Synagogue...later in church and monastic communities). Later, the words were written down...

Book?

Scrolls - unrolled (Hebrew written right to left)
(Jesus in the Synagogue)



When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,



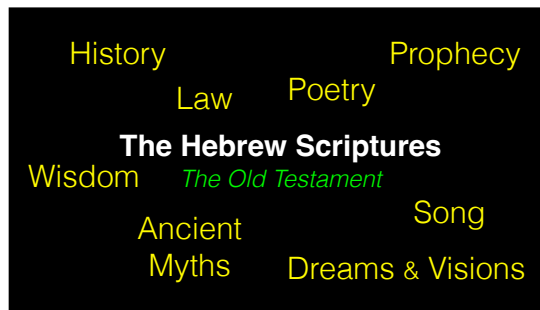
Hebrew - a language of consonants - vowels (if used)
are dots above or below the characters.



Yad or Torah Pointer



in two sections...



Hebrew Scriptures (expand the various genre)

History, Law, Prophecy, Poetry, Wisdom, Song, Ancient Myths, Dreams & Visions



New Testament

Gospels (Good News), History (Acts and in the Gospels), Epistles or Letters, Theological reflection
Pastoral advice, Church order, Dreams & Visions

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE BIBLE

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Gn Genesis	Ex Exodus	Lv Leviticus	Nm Numbers	Dt Deuteronomy	Jo Joshua	Jg Judges	Ru Ruth	1Sm 1 Samuel	2Sm 2 Samuel		
1Kg 1 Kings	2Kg 2 Kings	1Ch 1 Chronicles	2Ch 2 Chronicles	Er Ezra	Ne Nehemiah	Es Esther	Jb Job	Ps Psalms	Pr Proverbs	Ec Ecclesiastes	Sg Song of Songs
Is Isaiah	Je Jeremiah	Lm Lamentations	Ez Ezekiel	Dn Daniel	Hs Hosea	Jl Joel	Am Amos	Ob Obadiah	Jo Joel	Mi Micah	Na Nahum
Hb Hebrews	Zp Zephaniah	Hg Haggai	Zc Zechariah	Ml Malachi							

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mt Matthew	Mk Mark	Lk Luke	Jn John	Ac Acts							
Rm Romans	1Co 1 Corinthians	2Co 2 Corinthians	Gl Galatians	Ep Ephesians	Ph Philippians	Cl Colossians	1Th 1 Thessalonians	2Th 2 Thessalonians	1Tm 1 Timothy	2Tm 2 Timothy	Ti Titus
Pl Psalms	Hb Hebrews	Js James	1Pt 1 Peter	2Pt 2 Peter	1Jn 1 John	2Jn 2 John	3Jn 3 John	Jd Jude	Rv Revelation		

Legend:

Green

Blue

Red

Law, History, Prophecy, Poetry, Wisdom, Song, Ancient Myths, Dreams & Visions

Gospels (Good News), History (Acts and in the Gospels), Epistles or Letters, Theological reflection

Pastoral advice, Church order, Dreams & Visions

I like this because it gets us thinking about the genre of literature in the bible - so many people when they start to read the bible think they should start at the beginning (Genesis) and read until they get to the end (Revelation)...no wonder so many people give up...it's kind of gripping until you get to Leviticus! We will touch on this later...Is

everything in the Bible true? Did it actually happen? Doesn't science contradict lots of things like the Creation in seven days?

Hermeneutics

From Greek and Hebrew words for 'to interpret' - the different ways of studying the scriptures, philosophical texts etc.

Literalism

Literalism means letting the words of the scriptures speak for themselves - plainly and simply.

Fundamentalism

Fundamentalists believe that every word in the Bible must be taken literally but has come directly from God and that there can be no real interpretation.

Allegorical or Symbolic

Many biblical scholars believe that some part of the Bible are symbolic - expressing truths through story or myth that is more important as to whether they actually happened. Some believe that there in the Hebrew Scriptures, there are allegories, or 'types' that pre-figure the life of Christ: Abraham and Isaac/The Red Sea/Suffering Servant in Isaiah etc.

Cultural Relativism

Of course, the New Testament tradition is almost 2000 years ago, and took a couple hundred years to be formed; The Hebrew Scriptures took over 1000 years to be formed and from many sources. It is not surprising that many biblical commentators say that we must interpret the scriptures according to the time in which they are set - the culture in which they are formed. Others say we must also interpret them according to our own culture. Sometimes the scriptures contradict our world-view; at other times, our world-view needs to be challenged. Examples: Polygamy and Slavery in the Bible: The 'clash of cultures' even in the New Testament itself - Paul as a Pharisaic Jew leading the emerging church into the Greco-Roman world: women leading the Greek Church etc.

Q.
Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?
A.
We call them the Word of God because God inspired
their human authors and because God still speaks to us
through the Bible.

Anglicans, like Roman Catholics and Lutherans, generally do not hold to a literalist or fundamentalist view of the Bible. Interpretation, and understanding the context is important. Nevertheless we believe the Scriptures to be inspired by God, and contain all things necessary for salvation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to *N*.**
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

How we welcome the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

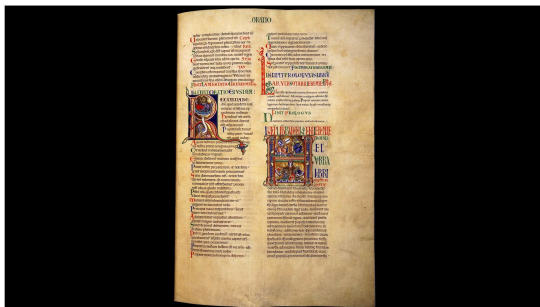
How we welcome the Gospel...



Old Testament Hebrew/ Septuagint (Greek)
/New Testament Greek (with a smattering of Aramaic
in it)



Monks (scribes) copying the texts and handing them
down



But only rich people, churches, cathedrals,
monasteries, colleges, could afford to have such
beautiful books...the people still had to LISTEN in

church (reminiscent of the oral tradition).



Illuminated manuscripts



Revolution of the Printing press! The printing press is very old...originated in China. The oldest printed manuscript in the world is "The Diamond Sutra", a Buddhist book from Dunhuang, China from around 868 A.D. during the Tang Dynasty. Meanwhile woodblock printing was replacing scrolls in Japan and in Korea about the same time. By 13th c. Korea had

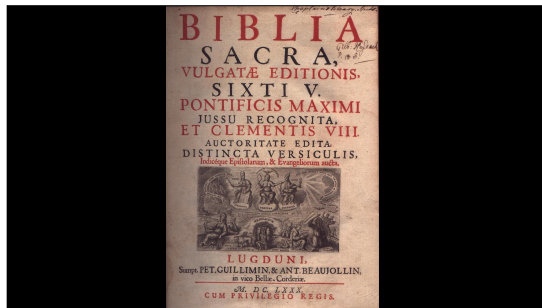
discovered moveable type. However, the printing press does not appear in Europe until 15th c. when Johannes Gutenberg, a political exile from Germany began experimenting with printing in Strasbourg, France in 1440. He returned to Mainz several years later and by 1450, had a printing machine perfected and ready to use commercially: The Gutenberg press.



The Gutenberg Bible was printed in 1455 - probably the most famous printed bible in the world...first mass-produced bible. As the Reformation took hold in Europe, and people argues over accessibility to the Scriptures, one of the greatest achievements of Thomas Cromwell and Miles Coverdale was to persuade Henry VIII to have the Great Bible



printed and placed in every parish church...The Great Bible was printed in English! It incorporated work by Tyndale, but Coverdale translated from the Latin Vulgate and German translations, rather than directly from the Hebrew and Greek Versions.



Printing Bibles



King James Bible - 'The Authorized Version' - commissioned by King James VI in 1604 and published in 1611 - a panel of 47 translators worked together

from the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic texts available, checking against the Latin. This Bible, alongside the works of William Shakespeare, and the previous work

Understanding the
context

Context - culture - science etc. (the cosmology of the bible..world is flat)

Understanding the
context

Rabbinic Tradition - the law was given orally by God to Moses, then written down.

The Rabbis discussed the Law and the prophets. Then, under times of stress (Babylonian Exile for example), the Rabbis also wrote down their teaching - this became known as the Talmud. Notes were written...including 'around' the text



Example of the Talmud

Oral Tradition

The same was true of the New Testament...Oral tradition, then the texts were written down, then copied, then commented on.

Q.
How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

A.
We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.

Commentaries

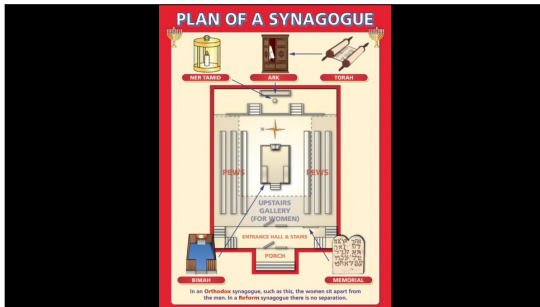
Interpretation

Cultural Relativism

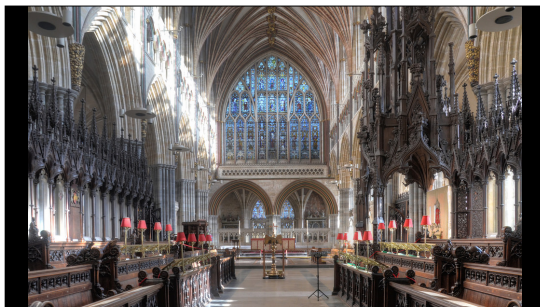
Fundamentalism

The Bible in the Liturgy

Praying the Bible...Next synagogue



Next Exeter quire (spot the similarity)





The Divine Office



Electronic Office

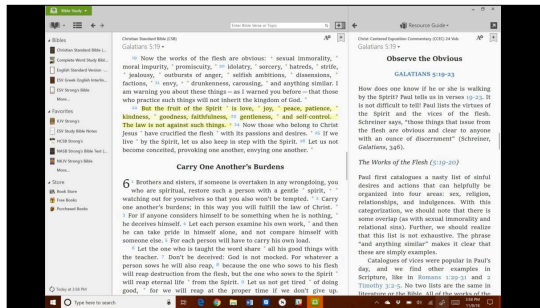


Electronic Bible software:

Bible Reading Plans.

Read chronologically or thematically

Starting at Genesis and working through not necessarily a good idea as the Bible is not arranged as simply as that. Luke followed by Acts, followed by



Electronic Bible software



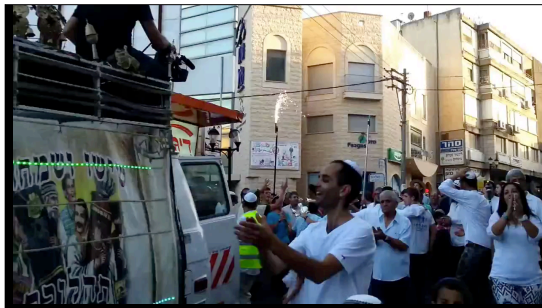
Bible Study



Listening to the Word of God in the Liturgy of the Church (Lector)

Honoring the Word of God

In many traditions, the scriptures are honored...





NOTE: the sign of the cross on the book, then three
on the body, then incense

Next - Anglican Gospel Procession in West Africa

(note the little boy!) (will need to stop to move on but
the drummer are good!)



*Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
Grant that we may in such wise hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that,
by patience and comfort of thy holy Word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ;
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Let us pray.