


BE101- Bible Study Methods

SESSION 2: ORIGINAL LANGUAGES, MODERN TRANSLATIONS
INERRANCY, AUTHORITY, SUFFICIENCY, CLARITY
INTRODUCTION TO INDUCTIVE METHOD



Original Languages

- Bible originally written in 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- Hebrew
 - Traditional language of the Jewish people
 - Most of the Old Testament written in Hebrew
- Aramaic
 - Used by the Babylonian Empire
 - Similar to Hebrew
 - Adopted by the Jews in captivity
 - Parts of Daniel and Ezra written in Aramaic
- Greek
 - Official language of the Greek Empire and dominant language in the eastern part of the Roman Empire
 - Classical Greek -> Koine Greek -> Modern Greek
 - New Testament written in Greek (Koine)

Modern English Translations

- Many different options (NKJ, NASB, NIV, CSB, ESV, NLT...)
- Word for word (literal) vs thought for thought (meaning)
- Continuum (NASB, ESV, NKJ, CSB, NIV, NLT, MSG)
- Why do translators have to choose?
 - Language Differences: Semantic Range of Words

Greek:

Agape	Phileo	Eros
Love		

English:

De	
But	And

Modern Translations (cont.)

- Why do translators have to choose (cont.)
 - Language Differences: Grammatical Construction
 - Word order
 - Verb tenses
- Helpful to check other translations
- What are you reading for?
 - Study: word-for-word might be more helpful
 - Devotional: thought-for-thought might be more helpful

Inerrancy

- Definition: The Bible is without error.
- What is the intention of the author?
 - Lies are recorded in the Bible – “You shall not surely die” Genesis 3
 - Bad theology/advice in the Bible- Job’s friends
 - Bible uses metaphors and other literary devices.
 - Sufficiently precise vs maximally precise. (numbers, scientific principles, historical accounts, quotes, proverbs, etc.)
- Inerrant in the original writing (errors can occur in the transmission).
- Why is this important?
 - If the Bible makes mistakes in some things, how can we trust it for other things?
 - Guards against us picking and choosing what’s true (being our own gods)

Inerrancy in Scripture

- Matthew 5:17-18 “Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish, but fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.”
- John 10:35b “and the Scripture cannot be broken”
- John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth.”
- Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he might lie, or a son of man, that he might change his mind. Does he speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill?”
- Psalm 119:160 “The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.”
- Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in him”
- Any time Jesus or a NT writer quotes from the OT

Authority

- Definition: The Bible takes priority over all other sources of information. It is the final word.
- Source:
 - Authority comes from God
 - Scripture does not receive its authority from the Church, tradition, or any other human source
- Other sources of knowledge (logic, experiences, science, tradition, etc.)...
 - Are helpful to interpret the Bible.
 - But are not inerrant or ultimately authoritative
- The Bible is authoritative, not our interpretation of the Bible.
- Requires submission to God's Word and to the Holy Spirit
 - Exegesis vs eisegesis
 - Not a weapon to be used for other purposes

Authority in Scripture

- Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our god remains forever.”
- Matthew 5:17-19 “Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”
- Luke 16:17 “But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter in the law to drop out.”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 “This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe.”
- Any time Jesus quotes the OT

Sufficiency

- The Bible is everything we need to understand who we are and fulfill our purpose.
- Does not tell us everything about everything.
- God's Word does affect all aspects of our life.
- Scripture is sufficient to interpret Scripture
- The *whole* Bible is sufficient (not just the passages you like)

Sufficiency in Scripture

- 2 Tim 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- Deut 12:32 “Be careful to do everything I command you; do not add anything to it or take anything away from it.”
- Prov 30:5-6 “Every word of God is pure; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Don’t add to his words, or he will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar.”
- Rev 22:18-19 “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book, And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophesy, God will take away his share of the tree of life and the holy city, which are written about in this book.”
- Gal 1:8-9 “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!”

Clarity

- Clarity means that the Bible can be understood by anyone.
- Doesn't mean that it can't be difficult
 - 2 Peter 3:16a "He (Paul) speaks about these things in all his letters. There are some matters that are hard to understand."
- Or that we won't make mistakes
- We don't need to understand everything about the Bible for it to be profitable.
- Bible understanding grows over time in God's Word.

Questions?

Inductive Method- Three Step Approach

- Observation
 - What do I see?
 - Gathering of information
- Interpretation
 - What does it mean?
 - Making sense of the information compiled during observation
- Application
 - What does it mean for me?
 - Adjusting how I live my life to be better in line with Scripture

Final Things

- Homework: Select a passage for your project and email me your intended passage by next Wednesday (1/25)
- Next Class: Observation part 1