

HERMENEUTICS 101

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

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Introducing the Bible

Bible- Greek: *biblos* (lit: “book”)

Scriptures- Greek: *graphe* (lit. “writings”)

Word- Greek: *logos* (lit: “word” or
“discourse”)

The Canon

Canon- The list of all the books that belong in the Bible (lit. “reed; measuring rod; standard of measure”).

The Canon

Total Old Testament Books: 39

Total New Testament Books: 27

Total books of the Bible: 66

The Canon

The Apocrypha

- Additional books added with Greek translation of the Bible (the Septuagint) c. 200 B.C.
- Translated by Jerome into Latin (c. 400 A.D.) as “ecclesiastical” books but not canonical.
- The Roman Catholic Church deemed the apocryphal books as canonical at the Council of Trent (c. 1550 A.D.) in response to the Protestant Reformation.

*Eastern Orthodox also affirms canonicity of apocryphal books.

Development of the Bible

Number of authors: 40+

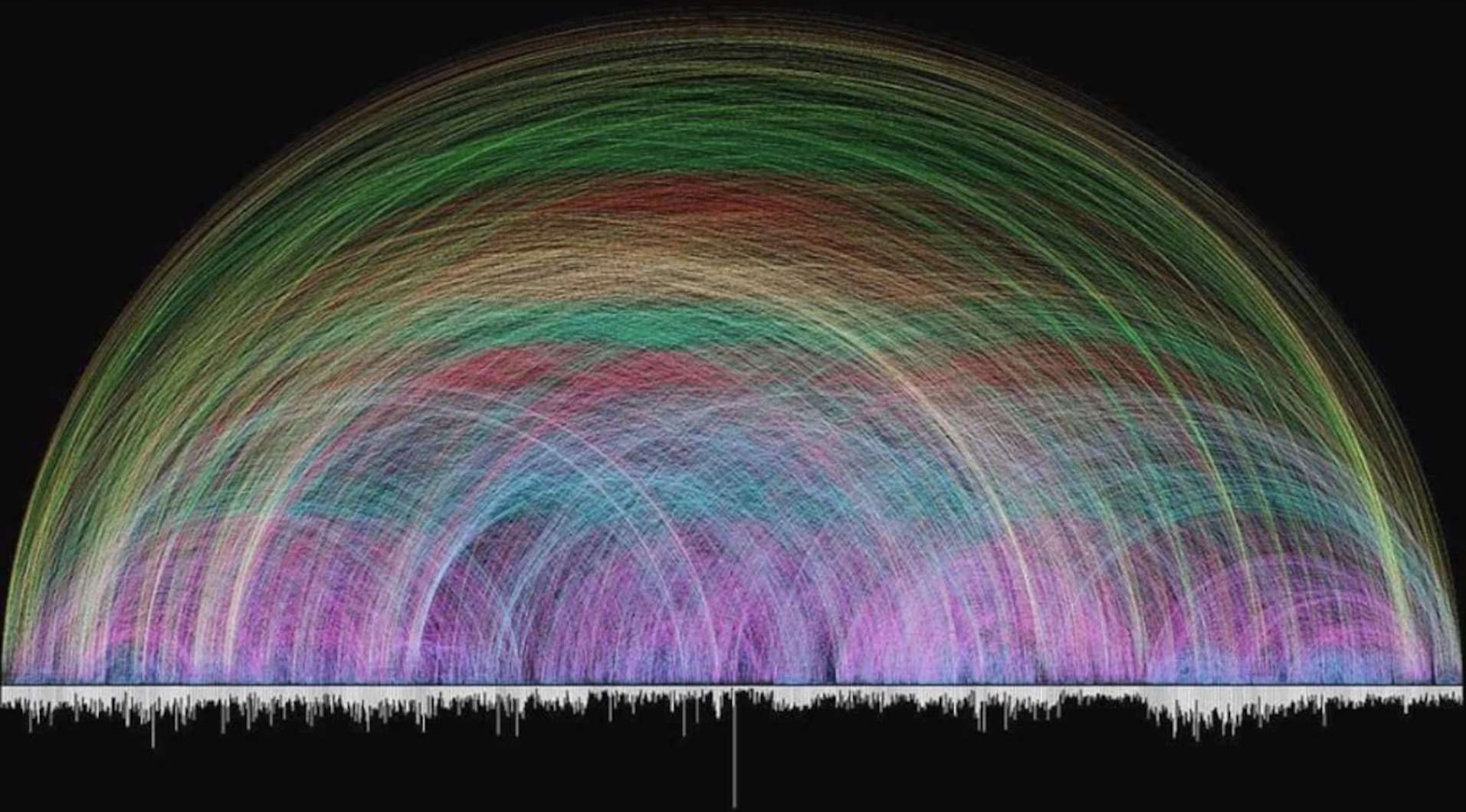
Time Span of Writing: 1,500+ years

- Genesis (c. 1400 B.C.) or Job (c. 2000 B.C.)
- Revelation (c. 90-100 A.D.)



63,779
Cross-references!





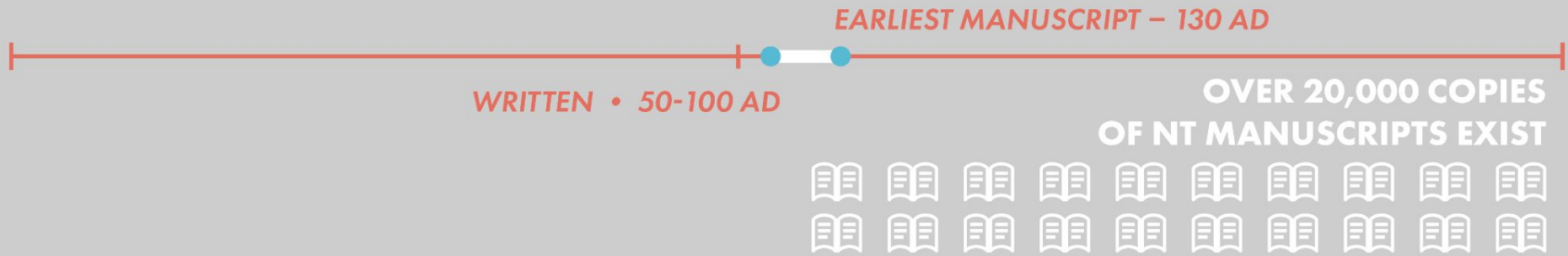
Development of the Bible

*THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN IN
TWO PRIMARY LANGUAGES*

HEBREW
דְּבַר-יְהוָה

GREEK
λόγον τοῦ κυρίου

*AND ONE SECONDARY
LANGUAGE, ARAMAIC.*



OT

**MASORETIC TEXT
1000 AD**

OT

DEAD SEA SCROLLS
200 BC-70 AD

MASORETIC TEXT
1000 AD



OT

DEAD SEA SCROLLS
200 BC-70 AD

EN-GEDI SCROLLS
3RD-4TH CENTURY AD

MASORETIC TEXT
1000 AD

OT

DEAD SEA SCROLLS
200 BC-70 AD

EN-GEDI SCROLLS
3RD-4TH CENTURY AD

MASORETIC TEXT
1000 AD

95% THE SAME

99.9% THE SAME

Development of the Bible

The Bible is comprised of 2 acts

- Old Testament and New Testament
- Old Covenant and New Covenant
- Awaiting Messiah and Arrival of Messiah
- Ultimately 1 story of God redeeming His creation and His people (John 5:39)

Genres of the Bible

Old Testament

- Law (Torah)
- History
- Wisdom
- Poetry
- Prophecy

New Testament

- Biography (Gospel)
- History
- Letter (Epistle)
- Apocalyptic

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

35 1033 Gn Moses	40 1213 Ex Moses	27 859 Lv Moses	36 1286 Nu Moses	34 959 Dt Moses/Joshua
24 659 Js Joshua	21 613 Ju Samuel	4 85 Ru Samuel	31 910 Sa ¹ Samuel	24 605 Sa ² Nathan/Gad
			31 818 Ki ¹ Jeremiah	25 713 Ki ² Jeremiah
23 942 Ch ¹ Ezra	36 922 Ch ² Ezra	10 290 Ez Ezra	13 406 Ne Ezra	10 167 Es Mordecai Ezra/Nehemiah
42 1570 Jb Job/Elihu Moses/Solomon	150 2461 Ps David/Various	31 915 Pr Solomon	12 222 Ec Solomon	8 117 So Solomon
66 1292 Is Isaiah	52 1364 Je Jeremiah	5 154 La Jeremiah	48 1273 Ek Ezekiel	12 357 Da Daniel
14 197 Ho Hosea	3 73 Jl Joel	9 146 Am Amos	1 21 Ob Obadiah	4 49 Jh Jonah
				7 105 Mi Micah
				3 47 Na Nahum
				3 56 Hk Habakkuk
				3 83 Zp Zephaniah
				2 38 Ha Haggai
				14 211 Zc Zechariah
				4 55 Ml Malachi

Chapters Verses	Date of Writing
Bt	
Author (Traditional or faith)	

PENTATEUCH
HISTORY
WISDOM LITERATURE

MAJOR PROPHETS
MINOR PROPHETS
GOSPELS

PAUL'S LETTERS
GENERAL LETTERS
APOCALYPTIC

NEW TESTAMENT

28 1071 Mt Matthew	16 678 Mk Mark	24 1151 Lk Luke	31 879 Jn John
			26 1007 Ac Luke
16 433 Ro Paul	16 437 Co ¹ Paul	13 257 Co ² Paul	6 149 Ga Paul
			8 155 Ep Paul
			4 104 Pp Paul
4 95 Cl Paul	5 89 Th ¹ Paul	3 47 Th ² Paul	8 113 Ti ¹ Paul
			4 63 Ti ² Paul
			3 46 Tt Paul
			1 25 Pm Paul
13 303 Hb Paul/Apollos Barnabas/Luke	5 108 Ja James	5 105 Pe ¹ Peter	3 61 Pe ² Peter
			5 105 Jn ¹ John
			1 13 Jn ² John
			1 14 Jn ³ John
			1 25 Ju Jude
			22 404 Re John

Genres of the Bible

Narrative- 42%

Poetry- 33%

Prose/Discourse- 25%

Key Themes of Scripture

1. Kingdom
2. Sacrifice
3. Dwelling
4. Word
5. Grace

Key Themes of Scripture

6. Promise/Covenant

7. Restoration

8. Holiness

9. Babylon

10. Seed

Big (And Important) Words

Inerrancy- The Bible is without error in the original autographs.

Infallibility- The Bible is incapable of leading astray (re: faith & practice).

Perspicuity- The Bible is able to be understood by all (clarity of Scripture).

Self-Attestation of Bible

- “Your word is a lamp to feet and light to path.” (Psalm 119:105)
- All things that “pertains to life and godliness through knowledge of Him.” (2 Peter 1:3)

Self-Attestation of Bible

- “My word goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)
- “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

Self-Attestation of Bible

- Not “produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:19-21)
- “At many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Self-Attestation of Bible

- “Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)
- “And take up...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

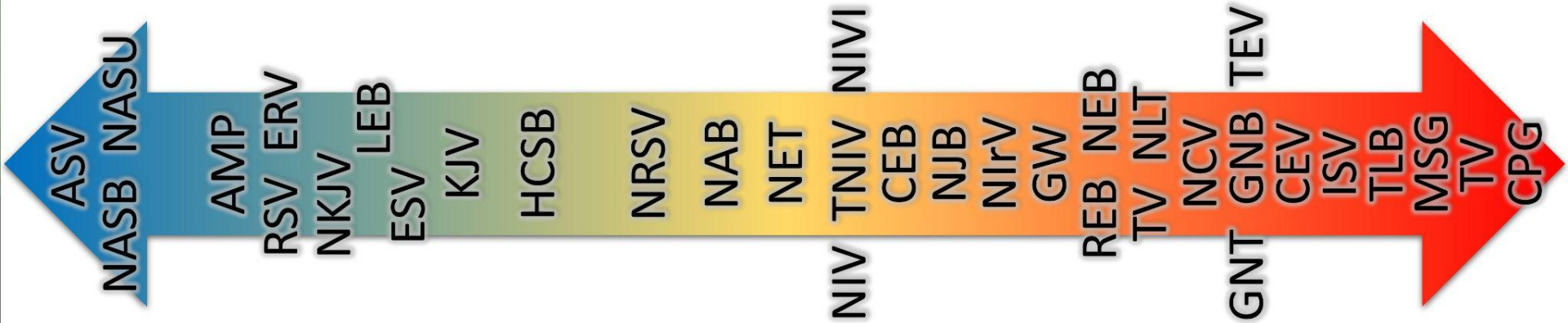


Understanding Translations

Word for Word
Formal Equivalent
Literal
Form Based

Thought for Thought
Dynamic Equivalent

Paraphrase
Functional Equivalent
Paraphrase
Meaning Based



AMP - Amplified Bible (12)
CEB^{*^} - Common English Bible (7)
CEV^{*^} - Contemporary English Version (5)
ERV[^] - Easy to Read Version (3.5)
ESV^{*} - English Standard Version (9.5)
GNB^{*} - Good News Bible (6)
GNT - Good New Translation (6)
GW - Gods Word (4.5)
HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)
ISV^{^^} - International Standard Version (8.5)
KJV^{*} - King James Version (13)
MSG - The Message (4.5)
NAB^{*} - New American Bible (7)

NASB - New American Standard Bible (11)
NASU - New American Standard Update 1995 (11)
NCV[^] - New Century Version (5)
NEB^{*^} - New English Bible (7)
NET^{***} - New English Translation (7)
NIrV - New International Readers Version (3.5)
NIV - New International Version (8)
NIV2011^{^^} - New International Version 2011 (8)
NIVI[^] - New International Version Inclusive (8)
NJB^{*} - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)
NKJV - New King James Version (9)
NLT[^] - New Living Translation (6.5)
NRSV^{*^} - New Revised Standard Version (10.5)

REB - Revised English Bible (7)
RSV^{*} - Revised Standard Version (11)
TEV^{*} - Todays English Version (6)
TLB - The Living Bible (8.5)
TNIV[^] - Todays New International Version (7.5)
TV - The Voice (7)

^{^^} No gender neutral language for God, moderate inclusive language for man.
[^] Gender neutral language
^{*} Apocrypha available or included
^(#) Grade reading level

An Example of Translation Impact

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

22-23 But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Galatians 5:22-23 (MSG)

An Example of Translation Impact

3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.^[c] 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

John 5:3-5 (ESV)

3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

John 5:3-5 (KJV)

An Example of Translation Impact

A fool rejects his *father's* discipline, But he who complies with rebuke is sensible.

Prov. 15:5 (NASB)

Behold, your people are *women* in your midst!

Nahum 3:13a (NASB)

5 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, 'You shall not be deprived of a *man* on the throne of Israel.'

1 Kings 9:5 (NASB)

A fool spurns a *parent's* discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Prov. 15:5 (NIV, 2011)

Look at your troops— they are all *weaklings*.

Nahum 3:13a (NIV, 2011)


5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a *successor* on the throne of Israel.'

1 Kings 9:5 (NIV, 2011)



TAKEAWAY:

All translations involve
interpretive decisions. No
language is a direct 1-to-1.





The World of the Bible



Historical Backdrop

Key Epochs of Biblical History

Antediluvian- Pre-flood world (Gen. 1-9)

Flood to Egypt

- Table of Nations (Gen. 10; Deut. 32)
- Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob)
- Egypt (From Joseph to Slavery)

*Genesis represents $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world's history!

Wilderness Wanderings- Inauguration of Mosaic Covenant

The Table of Nations (Genesis 10)



The Near East During the Time of the Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50)



Canaan Before the Conquest of Joshua



Key Epochs of Biblical History

Pre-Monarchical Israel

- Conquest of Joshua
- Cycle of Judges

Monarchical Israel

- Unified Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon)
- Divided Kingdom (Northern Israel & Southern Judah)

Israel During the Time of the Judges (Judges)



The Kingdom of Saul (1 Samuel)



The Kingdom of David (2 Samuel 5-24)

- Kingdom of Israel
- Conquered kingdoms of influence



The Kingdom of Solomon (1 Kings 1-11)



The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12–2 Kings 17)



Key Epochs of Biblical History

Exilic Period

- Assyria conquers northern Israel (722 B.C.)
- Babylon conquers southern Judah (587-586 B.C.)
- Diaspora

Post-Exilic Period

- Rebuilding of Jerusalem (Ezra & Nehemiah under Persian rule)
- Intertestamental Period (400 years of silence)

The Assyrian Empire (745-609 BC)



Assyrian Districts in the Land of Israel



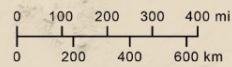
The Babylonian Empire (609-539 BC)



The Persian Empire (539-331 BC)



The Greek Empire of Alexander III (334-323 BC)



Key Epochs of Biblical History

When Jesus Enters

- Seleucid Rule & Defilement of Antiochus Epiphanes IV
- Maccabean Revolt and Hasmonean Expansion
- Roman Occupation
- Sectarian Judaism (Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, & Zealots)

Pauline Missions & Gospel Expansion

- “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)
- A reversal of the judgment of Babel

The Greek Empire of the Seleucids (200-139 BC)



Jewish Expansion Under the Hasmoneans (164-67 BC)

- Judea before the Maccabean Revolt
- Conquest of Jonathan
- Conquest of Simeon
- Conquest of John Hyrcanus I
- Conquest of Aristobulus I
- Conquest of Alexander Janaeus





The Roman Empire (1-45 AD)

0 100 200 300 400 mi
0 200 400 600 km

The Mediterranean World During the Time of Acts



The Table of Nations (Genesis 10)



Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18:24-21:16)



Sociological Features

1st Century Middle East

- 2-3% Literacy Rate
- ALE 35-40 Years
- 53% of children under 16 lost one or both parents to death
- 90% Rural/Agrarian

21st Century U.S.

- 2-3% Illiteracy Rate
- ALE 75.5-79 Years
- 3% of children under 18 lose one parent one parent to death
- 90% Industrialized

Sociological Features

Cultural Mores (cultural principles)

- No “adolescence”
- Arranged marriages
- Headcoverings
- Hospitality and fellowship guidelines
- Hand holding and kissing

Sociological Features

Individualism vs. Collectivism

- Family and village-centric
- Identity found in group, not self
- Purpose in life is in pursuing good of the whole, not personal advancement
- “Self-expression” and “self-actualization” are not categories in Biblical culture
- “You” would be automatically understood as plural

Sociological Features

Honor/Shame Culture vs. Guilt/Innocence Culture

- Shame is more “bad” than guilt (ex. Lying & Saving Face)
- Honoring one’s “groups” is greatest good

Time Orientation

- *Chronos* time- Sequence of events (calendar, clock)
- *Kairos* time- Significant events/moments (Christ being born in the “fullness of time [kairos]”)
- Time & Tasks (monochronic) vs. Events & People (Polychronic)

Sociological Features

Language

- Denotation vs. Connotation (ex. “fire”)
- Turns of Phrase & Colloquialisms (ex. “Long of nose”)
- Direct vs. Indirect Communication Style
 - Telling Truth & Guilt/Innocence (emphasizes prose)
 - Saving Face & Honor/Shame (emphasizes story and poetry)

Sociological Features

Examples:

- The “Prodigal Son’s” biggest scandal was about the shame he brought his father.
- The “Good Samaritan” and woman at the well lose the punch when purity standards aren’t understood.
- Symbolism like “7 stars and 7 lampstands” was not an uncommon type of literature.
- Disordered chronology in Gospel accounts made sense, and 7 literal 24-hour days (while likely the case) was probably not Moses’ focal point in writing Genesis 1.
- The spiritual realm was a given reality that impacted every facet of life.


Sociological Features

Examples:

- Roman slavery was categorically different from American slavery.
- Intermarriage was a matter of fidelity to Yahweh, not a racial issue.
- National pride was a matter of religious identity and security.
- It was unbelievably difficult for Peter to eat pork and share a table with Gentiles.
- Patriarchy was the standard and the nuclear family was not a thing.

TAKEAWAY:



We naturally interpret the Bible through our Western cultural lens, but the world of the Bible is about as polar opposite as you can get culturally speaking.





*You will seek Me and find Me,
when you seek Me with all your
heart.*

-Jeremiah 29:13





Next Week: Biblical Theology, Covenants, and Tracing Themes of Scripture

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1. Find what works for you
 2. Devote yourself to lifelong study
 3. Expect never to arrive
 4. Read books about the Bible
 5. Read the Bible with others
 6. Pray