

PART 1

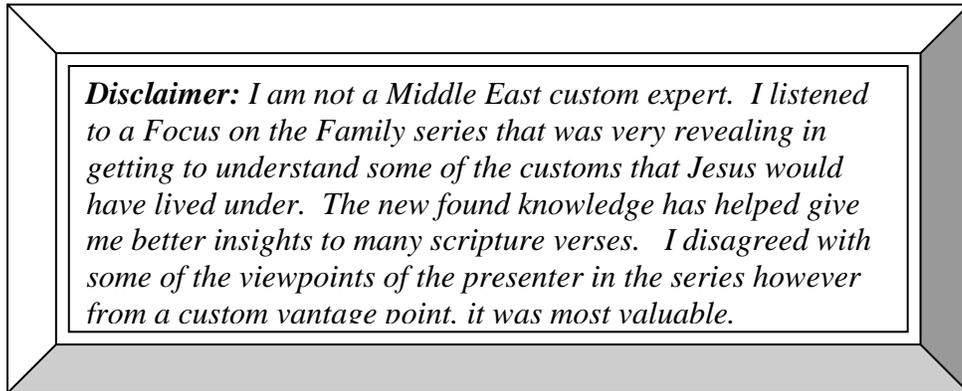
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JESUS

*Going to the **4th** Level*

*O'Malley Family Bible Study
Feb 12, 2011*

Purpose: To show the Bible is relevant to all age and knowledge groups. As you grow (2 Pt 3:18) in your knowledge of the Bible then you'll find that the same verse becomes more descriptive and more informational. This also helps to define the WWJD (what would Jesus do) by understanding WJD (what Jesus did).



This study is titled “Jesus: Going to the 4th Level” since it’s a place most persons never understand (I didn’t before listening to the series).

The 1st Level is the most important level. This is reading the Bible cover to cover. At this point you have an overall understanding of who is who, what’s contained in the Bible, where certain events occurred and when those events happened.

Example:

RSV Luke 2:4-18

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, **to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem**, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

7 And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in **a manger**, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in that region there were **shepherds out in the field**, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

10 And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;

11 for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
14 **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"**
15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to **Bethlehem** and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."
16 And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a **manger**.
17 And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child;
18 and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

The above verses describe the birth of Jesus which is a true blessing. You find that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, was laid in a manger and that shepherds saw angels giving praises about the birth.

The 2nd Level enhances the text by looking up definitions of various city & person names, places... The definitions of the words give more meaning to the verses since the words meaning help describe the person characteristics, object's use or places meaning. Concordances, Bible dictionaries and other reference books is where you are looking up the definition.

Example:

In the text above Bethlehem and manger is mentioned. Looking at the definition in a Bible dictionary:

The definition of Bethlehem in both Bamford's Bible and Hitchcock's Bible Names Dictionary is: **House of Bread**

The definition of manger in Bamford's Bible Topic is: **Trough used to feed animals**

Many times you'll see the synchronicity of the words and why they were chosen when you connect other words and phrases with what the Bible defines them as (Level 3).

Level 3 brings greater meaning to the words/phrase by seeing how the word is defined in the Bible. The Bible defines itself (2 Pt 1:20-21), knowing how the words are defined in one book of the Bible, defines it the other places that is using it in the same context.

Example: Jesus defines himself as Bread (John 6:35, 6:47) and water (John 4:14)

RSV John 6:35 **Jesus said** to them, "**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.

RSV John 6:47-51

47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

48 **I am the bread of life.**

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die.

51 **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

RSV John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the **water that I shall give him** will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

With level 3 you see connections between the words and how they are used. Jesus calls himself "Bread" and he was born in Bethlehem which is "House of Bread" or in plain terms "Bakery". He was laid in a manger, which is a feeding trough at the same time he calls himself bread and water. John 6:51 said you are to eat his flesh to live forever (unleavened bread at communion is his flesh). Very impressive that Jesus was laid in a feeding trough and later he said to live forever you had to eat him (not literally but thru communion – Luke 22:19). This description of his birth is a prophecy of what one needs to do to be saved.

All words in the Bible were placed there for a specific purpose and as you learn and grow the Bible unfurls greater information.

Level 4 brings the culture/customs of the era to help explain why something was said or done. This is a much more difficult view to gain since it mandates that you learn about the customs and the culture of that era from books outside of the Bible.

The custom connected to:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

and

shepherds out in the field

The fields are located close to Bethlehem and the goats/sheep were only allowed in the fields to eat the stubble only after the summer harvest is completed (~July 1) and before the winter planting (~ Nov 1). The animals are grazing further away in the mountains area when the animals were not in the field. In the wintertime the animals were penned up. This pegs the time

frame of when the Angels gave the message to the Shepherds: July to the end of October.

The “Glory to God in the highest” is a Sukkoth or a Feast of Booths (Feast of Tabernacles) praise [from what I was told]. Feast of Tabernacles commemorates the period that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. The Feast of Booths (Lev 23:34-36) comes right after the Fire Offering (Lev 23:24-25), Day of Atonement (Lev 23:27), Jubilee release (Lev 25:9-13). The Feast of Booths happens in mid-October which aligns with the shepherds in the field statement in the Bible.

This constrains the date to a specific month and date to when Jesus was born. If I had my guess, Jesus was born on the day of Atonement or on the Jubilee/blowing of trumpets. The latter indicates Jesus’ return after all the judgments have been poured out on the earth.

Each of the festivals in the Bible is connected with Jesus in some manner. From the lamb selection/Jesus entering Jerusalem, Passover/Jesus Death, Wave Sheaf offering/Jesus ascension to the Father after his resurrection, Feast of weeks/Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The end of the harvest festivals are the only one that haven’t occurred yet but will at some point in time.

The verses of Jesus’ birth wouldn’t have given enough information to know when the birth of Jesus without knowing the customs of the time.

Knowing the custom gives you greater knowledge of text. Another example is the typical life of an Israelite during Jesus’ time.

From age 4 to 12 girls had to memorize Psalms, Proverbs and Deuteronomy word for word. That was impressive but the boys had to memorize, memorize, and memorize all the verses in the Torah (first 5 books Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy.) I can’t imagine the time that one would have to put forth to memorize word for word 5 books (317 pages in my Bible).

There was a prize for the boys who successfully memorized the Torah. They could kill the Passover lamb in Jerusalem. The Bible is silent on where and what Jesus did after Joseph, Mary and Jesus returned from Egypt until he was 30 years old. There is a passage in Luke 2:40-42 which mentioned that he was in Jerusalem when he was 12.

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

Jesus killed the family Passover lamb in Jerusalem when he was 12 and 21 years later he was the Passover lamb being killed for his family.

Girls wouldn't proceed to the next level. They were expected to get married within a year after they began to menstruating (around 13 years old).

Boys who didn't memorize the Torah would learn a trade.

Boys who memorized the Torah would go the next level of schooling from age 12 to 15. The boys would still learn a trade from their fathers (Proverbs 22:6) while going to school. The schooling focused on learning some of the other books of the Old Testament and to learn how to explain the scriptures.

Jesus learned his trade from his father, Joseph. The Bible mentions that in Matt 14:55 that Joseph was a Carpenter. Strong's Concordance states that Carpenter is #5045 tekton. Tekton is translated as a builder of wood, stone or metal. It's implied as large scale building rather than of bird houses and furniture. If you look at the examples that Jesus used, he used references to stone or rock rather than wood. Why would a person who worked with wood not use wood but stone and rock in examples? Jesus used references to materials that he was familiar with.

A mental picture of Jesus as a stone mason gives a different perception of Jesus than that of a carpenter. Stone masons worked with stones for building and thus would have some bulging arm muscles (helps explain how he easily passed thru the crowd that wanted him dead John 8:59, and how he cleared out the temple of animals and the money changers 2:15-16).

Jesus was the head of the class in learning the books of the Bible (easy if you had lived thru it, interacted with the prophets and inspired those who wrote the books what to say). I have wondered if Jesus emptied some of his memory when he emptied his powers (Philippians 2:6-7) in order to have the same challenges in studying and learning the Bible as every other child would have had to. When Jesus was 12 he was already amazing the Biblical scholars of the day in Luke 2:46-47.

ASV Luke 2:46 And it came to pass, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them, and **asking them questions:**
47 and all that heard him were **amazed at his understanding and his answers.**

The next level was only for the elite of the elite. This was the MIT of their time. This schooling went from age 15 to 30. The students would be studying under a Rabbi who has been recognized as having authority to interpret the scriptures (2 other Rabbis with authority would need to recognize the new prospective Rabbi.) During this period the disciples would follow the Rabbi everywhere that the Rabbi would go.

At age 30 the men would be divided into 2 groups. If the man didn't cut muster according to the Rabbi then the man would be considered a Torah teacher. The Torah teacher could only repeat what was stated in the Torah but couldn't have any of his interpretations of the scriptures.

If the man successfully passed the cut then he would become a Rabbi. To get to the Rabbi with Knowledge position they would continue to memorize all the books of the Old Testament and maybe when they were 60 years old they could become a Rabbi with knowledge. Per the speaker the earliest a person got to this position was around 60 years old. Some of the others that got it was when they were in the 70s and 80s.

The question is now: **Did Jesus get his Rabbi with Knowledge recognition prior to beginning his ministry?**

The answer is Yes.

The New Testament mentions that Jesus was recognized as a Rabbi.

ASV John 1:38 And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? And they said unto him, **Rabbi** (which is to say, being interpreted, Teacher), where abideth thou?

ASV John 1:49-50

49 Nathanael answered him, **Rabbi**, thou art the Son of God; thou art King of Israel.

ASV John 3:2-3

2 the same came unto him by night, and said to him, **Rabbi**, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him.

ASV John 6:25-26

25 And when they found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, **Rabbi**, when camest thou hither?

ASV Matthew 23:8 But be not ye called **Rabbi**: for one **is your teacher**, and all ye are brethren.

Jesus at age 30 was recognized as completing all 3 education levels but the question now becomes: **Was Jesus a Rabbi recognized as having authority?**

The answer is Yes. Matthew mentions 3 times that the people recognized that he was speaking as one having authority.

ASV Matthew 7:28-29

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were astonished at his teaching:

29 for **he taught them as one having authority**, and not as their scribes.

ASV Matthew 9:8 But when the multitudes saw it, they were afraid, and glorified God, who had given such **authority** unto men.

ASV Matthew 21:23-27

23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By **what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?**

Rabbis with knowledge had disciples, Torah teachers didn't. The disciples paid the Rabbi for training. No mention of how much was required. Jesus ministry was provided by offerings of disciples made mentioned in Luke 8:3

LVB Luke 8:3 Joanna, Chuza's wife (Chuza was King Herod's business manager and was in charge of his palace and domestic affairs), Susanna, and many others who were **contributing from their private means to the support of Jesus and his disciples.**

Where did Jesus get his Authority? From John the Baptist and most importantly from the Father!

2 Rabbis with knowledge had to recognize any new Rabbi with knowledge. This was completed in John 1:31-37 and Matt 3:14-17

RSV John 1:31-37

31 I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

32 And John bore witness, "**I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him.**

33 I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And **I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.**"

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples;
36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God!**"
37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

RSV Matthew 3:14-17

14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented.
16 And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him;
17 and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**"

Jesus was recognized by John the Baptist as one having the Holy Spirit and most importantly the second witness was the Father part of the God head who declared to all that Jesus was acceptable to the Father. Jesus was the only Rabbi with knowledge to ever receive this honor.

Where did John the Baptist get his recognition? The scripture doesn't say however the Religious rulers recognized that John the Baptist had it.

KJV Matthew 21:24-27

24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one question, which if ye tell me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things.
25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven or from men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why then did ye not believe him?
26 But if we shall say, From men; we fear the multitude; **for all hold John as a prophet.**
27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We know not. He also said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus and John the Baptist had memorized the entire Old Testament by age 30. They definitely had their priorities right. One could argue that Jesus' knowledge came from living thru that period and inspiring the writers of the Old Testament however John the Baptist had to devote enormous time and effort to time and effort to memorize all the books.

Question: what does all this mean and who cares?

If you desire to be a disciple of Jesus then you have to act as a disciple

RSV John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

What are his commandments? The only way to be a disciple is to study like a disciple which means more than a hour a week (going to church). You have to study the entire book. The next message will expand this custom topic by showing you the way that Jesus spoke was to a crowd that were more familiar with the scriptures than are the people today. How many children age 4 to 12 (or any adult) could recite word for word a handful of scriptures? **[test your knowledge now. Write down 10 scripture verses by memory]**. To understand fully what Jesus said mandates you have the Scriptural education similar of the people to which Jesus spoke to. The only way to get there is to read the Bible cover to cover and to memorize verses.

After listening to the series we are going to start remembering 1 scripture verse a day. We'll leave it to the Holy Spirit to select the verses to remember knowing that when we need them that the Holy Spirit will recall them to our mind.

RSV John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, **and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

The Holy Spirit can't bring anything into remembrance if you haven't first put it into your mind (you can't pay for anything with cash if you haven't first deposited some in your wallet).

RSV 2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it

15 and how **from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 **All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,**

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The next study will cover the amazing teaching techniques used by Jesus that got the religious leaders bent out of shape.

Best Regards,
David O'Malley

6/27/2010 - Prayer Proclamations to bring down Curses from Jesus Christ
1/8/2011 - God exists
1/15/2011 - Moses: The Untold Years
1/29/2011 - The Biblical Timeline: From Adam to 2011

2/12/2011 - Jesus: Going to the 4th level part 1

Future O'Malley Family Bible studies (not in order)

- Jesus: Going to the 4th level part 2
- Abraham sentenced Jesus to death
- The fall of Babylon
- Indiana Jones vs the Bible: Location of the Ark
- Passover: from Sodom and Ghemorra to Jesus
- The Biblical Calendar: two confusing or two simple?
- The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1???
- pt 1 - The Salvation Cycle: From hearing to preaching
- pt 2 - Snake Survival Manual: Their Anatomy & Characteristics
- pt 3 - Dress Code Strictly Enforced: What you should & should not be wearing
- pt 4 - Spiritual Warfare Academy: repair the breeches & deploy counter offenses
- Book of Enoch summary
- Fall of Jerusalem: departure of the King of Kings
- Feast days then and now
- Psalms 69 - Jesus' troubled life
- 5 stones for 5 giants: Peace in the land at last
- Fear of the Lord
- To forgive or not to forgive - that is the question
- Caesarea Philippi: Portal to the underworld

Reference verses

RSV 2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

RSV 2 Peter 1:20-21

20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
21 because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

KJV Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

KJV Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

KJV John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

KJV John 2:15-16

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

KJV Leviticus 23:24-25

24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.
25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

KJV Leviticus 23:27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

KJV Leviticus 23:34-36

34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord.

35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

KJV Leviticus 25:9-13

9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

11 A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.

12 For it is the jubile; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field.

13 In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession.

RSV Philippians 2:6-7

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.