

Sunday Morning Message

May 21, 2023

Title – *Have You Found the Book – Part Two – The Effect of the Bible Upon a Nation*

Text – 2 Kings 23 (Parallel Passage – 2 Chronicles 34)

Congregational Reading – 2 Kings 23:1 - 2

Introduction

The first week of May marks the 412th anniversary of the first publication of the King James Version. Two weeks ago, we preached a message from 2 Kings 22 on what happened when King Josiah found a copy of the Word of God.

BIBLE STATISTICS (King James Authorized):

Number of Books in the Bible: 66

Chapters: 1,189

Verses: 31,102

Words: 783,137

Letters: 3,116,480

Number of promises given in the Bible: 1,260

Commands: 6,468

Predictions: over 8,000

Fulfilled prophecy: 3,268 verses

Unfulfilled prophecy: 3,140

Number of questions: 3,294

Longest name: Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1)

Longest verse: Esther 8:9 (78 words)

Shortest verse: John 11:35 (2 words: "Jesus wept").

Middle books: Micah and Nahum

Middle verse: Psalm 103:2-3

Middle chapter: Psalm 117

Shortest chapter (by number of words): Psalm 117

Longest book: Psalms (150 chapters)

Shortest book (by number of words): 3 John

Longest chapter: Psalm 119 (176 verses)

Number of times the word "God" appears: 4,094

Number of times the word "Lord" appears: 6,781

Number of different authors: 40

Number of languages the Bible has been translated into: over 1,200

Interesting Facts About the King James Bible

Note: The following article by Pastor David Harness was first published in two parts in the local newspaper where the writer lives under the caption "The Pastor's Pen". It was directed at a general audience.

Interesting Facts about the King James Bible

Christians are told to "hold fast the form of sound words" (1Timothy 1:13), yet when it comes to Bible Translations many are guilty of being "carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men and cunning craftiness" (Ephesians 4:14).

The King James Bible has been the standard Bible for English speaking believers for almost four centuries, but it is now being forsaken by many Christians for modern translations. I would like to present some interesting facts about the King James Bible (KJV) which will hopefully cause the reader to re-examine the version issue and stay with "the good old book".

a. The KJV was completed in 1611 after seven years of translation work by 42 of the best Hebrew and Greek scholars who have ever lived. King James of England did not translate it: he only authorized the translation of a new Bible. In Great Britain the KJV is referred to as the Authorized Version.

b. No modern English Bible has the beauty and majestic grace that the KJV has. It is considered one of the greatest pieces of English literature ever produced, even by those who are not Christians.

c. The English language was at the height of its grammatical accuracy during the Elizabethan period. The KJV is the most accurate English translation on the market today.

d. The KJV is the only English version available today which is not copyrighted outside England. Everyone can freely use it and reproduce it. Many early reformers and translators such as John Wycliff, John Huss, and William Tyndale suffered hardships, were persecuted, and even burned at the stake for trying to distribute the Scriptures.

Nowadays, a person could be sued in court for reproducing a modern version without the written permission of the copyright owner!

e. Many criticize the KJV because it uses some out-of-date or archaic words. However, there are only about 100 or so of these often used in the Bible and each of them can be found in a good dictionary like Webster's. There are many study editions of the KJV with either glossaries or reference columns which give the modern equivalent of these words. [Besides, these words are Bible words.]

f. Thee and thou, you and ye are more than style in the KJV; they identify singular and plural. Thee, thou and thine are always singular. Ye, you and your are always plural. In modern English, you and your are interchangeably singular or plural. An example of the need for this accuracy is found in John 3:7: "Marvel not that I said unto thee (Nicodemus), ye (everybody) must be born again".

g. The Bible has not been translated, re-translated, and changed throughout the centuries to where it would not be like the original. There are at least 5,309 Greek manuscripts (the language in which the New Testament was written) in existence today. Compare this to only 7 manuscripts of Plato's writings and 49 of Aristotle's existing today. The KJV is the only English translation translated from a body of Greek manuscripts called the Received Text. The Received Text comprises over 95 per cent of the existing manuscripts and agree almost perfectly together.

h. The modern versions are based upon some faulty manuscripts and have been tainted with the theology of the skeptical higher criticism. Especially important is how the doctrine of Christ is treated. I invite you to make a careful comparison using the KJV with your modern version of the following verses: Mark 16:9-20; Acts 8:37; John 8:1-11; John 9:35; Acts 2:30; Acts 8:37; Colossians 1:14; I Timothy 3:16; and I John 5:7-8.

The issue of modern translations and the numerous English versions available today has brought much confusion among saved and unsaved alike. A person need not be caught up in this confusion if they will take an honest look at the evidence supporting the good old book which has been the firm foundation of Christians for over [400] (390 years at the time of the writing of Pastor Harness).

Introduction to Today's Message

Review the story from Week One:

- I. **A Man That Wanted to Please God (vs. 1 – 7)**
- II. **A Missing Copy of the Word of God is Found and Read (vs. 8 – 11)**

III. A Man of God is Sought For (or in this case a woman of God – vs. 12 – 20)

The important thing that I want to emphasize this morning is that Josiah had a heart to please the Lord. According to 2 Chronicles 34:3 – 8:

"Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images. And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them. And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about. And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem. Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God." - (2 Chronicles 34:1-8)

All of this happened before he found the Word of God.

We know that the Word of God will increase our faith once we have it and read it:

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." - (Romans 10:17)

Is there a desire within your heart for reading and studying the Word of God?

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." - (Matthew 5:6)

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." - (Job 23:12)

I believe God put a desire in the heart of Josiah for the things of God, and I am praying that He will increase my desire and your desire for the things of God:

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." - (Philippians 2:13)

Illustration – When I was first saved, I had a tremendous desire for the Bible.

I. There Will Be a Re-Ordering of Society (vs. 3; 21 - 23)

Illustration – We have seen the opposite of this in American Culture throughout the last century

In 1925 – thanks to the help of the newly formed ACLU, evolution began to be taught in the public schools.

In 1962 – prayer in the classroom was considered unconstitutional.

In 1963 - the Bible was removed from the public schools. Since that time there has been a moral decay.

In 1980 – The Ten Commandments was considered unconstitutional in the public school.

Since these things have taken place, there have been dramatic increases in every negative statistic – i.e., child pregnancy levels, crime rates, etc. While at the same time educational standards have dropped, and student academic performance has declined.

II. There Will Be a Removal Of Idolatry (vs. 4 – 6; 8 – 15; 19 – 20)

Idolatry is anything that comes between you and God.

III. There Will Be a Revival In Morality (v 7)

Read Romans 1:21 – 32

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." - (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Illustration – sex is the number one search item on the web - there are over a half a billion pornographic internet websites out there. A very large number of internet porn consumers are in the 12 – 17-year-old age bracket.

Conclusion

The affect that the Bible had on the nation of Israel is the same affect that it can have on America, if she will once again FIND THE BOOK OF THE LORD.

It is also the same affect that can take place in your home.

Find the Book – Desire the Book

Read the Book – Study the Book

Apply the Book

The Bible Can Change Your Life

The Bible can change not only a life but an entire lifestyle. Most of us have heard the story of the Mutiny on the Bounty, but few of us have heard how the Bible played a very vital part in that historical event. The Bounty was a British ship, which set sail from England in 1787, bound for the South Seas. The idea was that those on board would spend some time among the islands, transplanting fruit-bearing, and food-bearing trees, and doing other things to make some of the islands more habitable. After ten months of voyage, the Bounty arrived safely at its destination, and for six months the officers and the crew gave themselves to the duties placed upon them by their government. When the special task was completed, however, and the order came to embark again, the sailors rebelled. They had formed strong attachments for the native girls, and the climate and the ease of the South Sea Island life was much to their liking. The result was mutiny on the Bounty, and the sailors placed Captain Bligh and a few loyal men adrift in an open boat. Captain Bligh, in an almost miraculous fashion, survived the ordeal, was rescued, and eventually arrived home in London to tell his story. An expedition was launched to punish the mutineers, and in due time fourteen of them were captured and paid the penalty under British law.

But nine of the men had gone to another distant island. There they formed a colony. Perhaps there has never been a more degraded and debauched social life than that of that colony. They learned to distill whiskey from a native plant, and the whiskey, as usual, along with other habits, led to their ruin. Disease and murder took the lives of all the native men and all but one of the white men named Alexander Smith. He found himself the only man on an island, surrounded by a crowd of women and half-breed children. Alexander Smith found a Bible among the possessions of a dead sailor. The Book was new to him. He had never read it before. He sat down and read it through. He believed it and he began to appropriate it. He wanted others to share in the benefits of this book, so he taught classes to the women and the children, as he read to them and taught them the Scriptures.

It was twenty years before a ship ever found that island, and when it did, a miniature Utopia was discovered. The people were living in decency, prosperity, harmony, and peace. There was nothing of crime, disease, immorality, insanity, or illiteracy. How was it accomplished? By reading, the believing, and the appropriating of the truth of God!