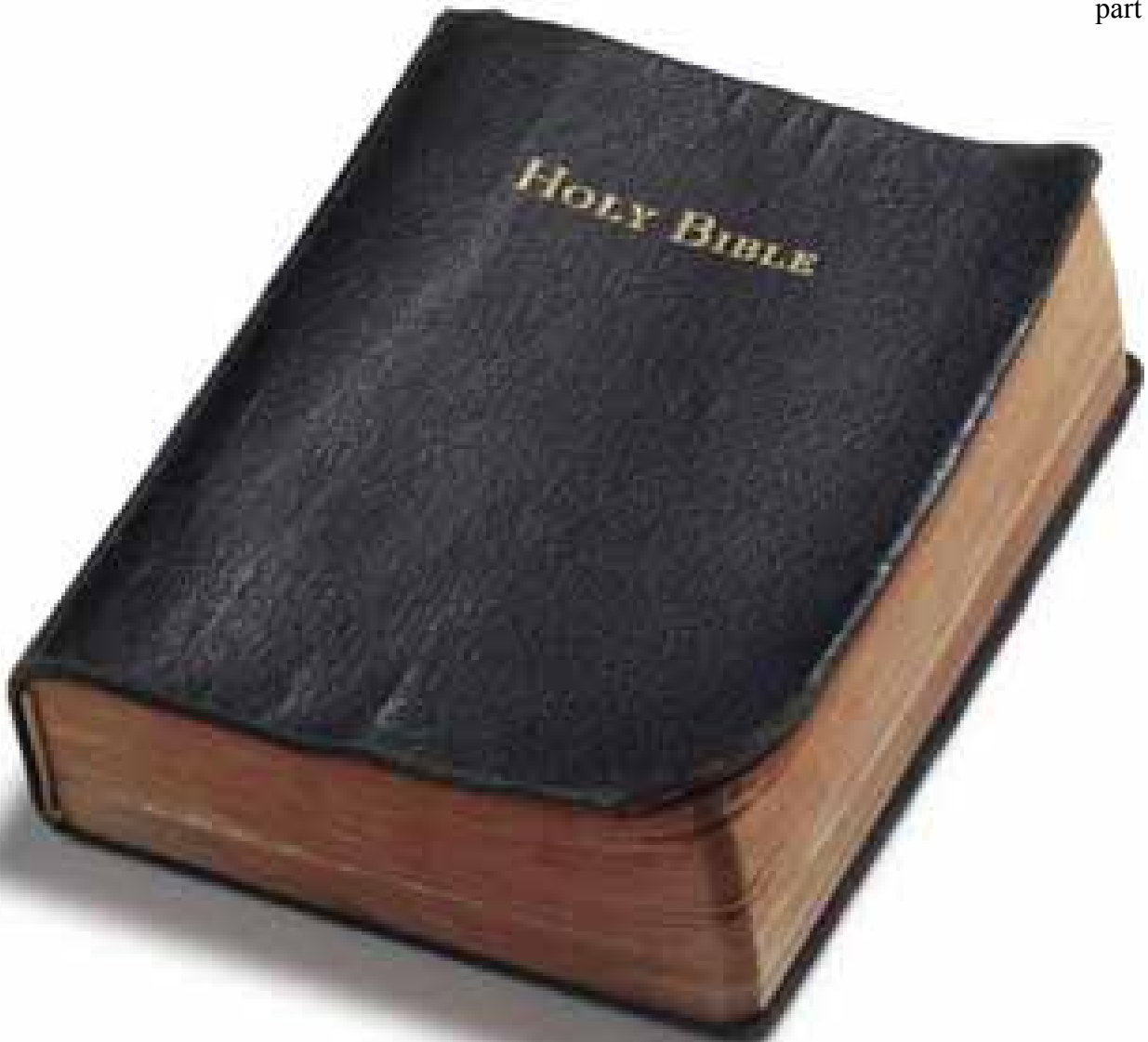


# Bible 201

Session One

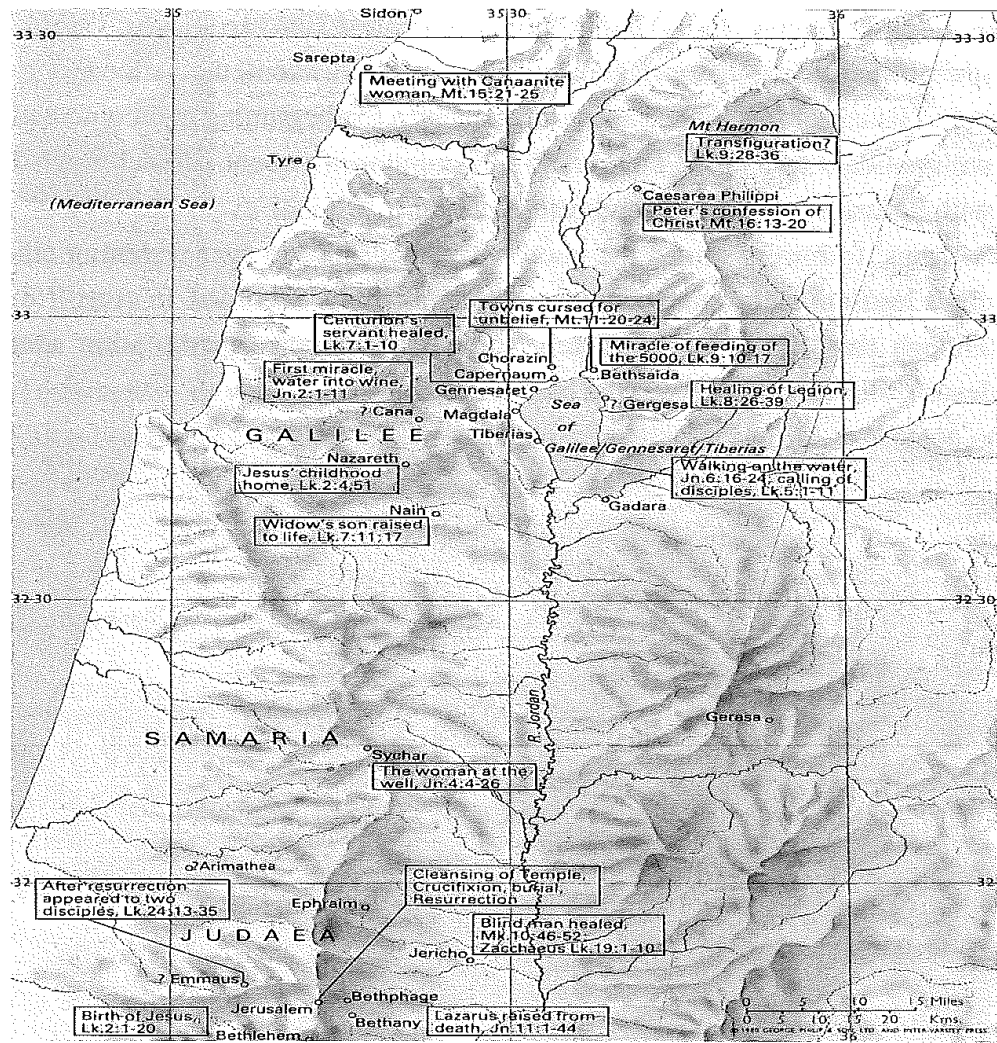
January 12, 2011

part three



ZLC Mark of Discipleship: Read <sup>the</sup> Bible

*Geography of the Bible*



**Map 4. The ministry of Jesus**

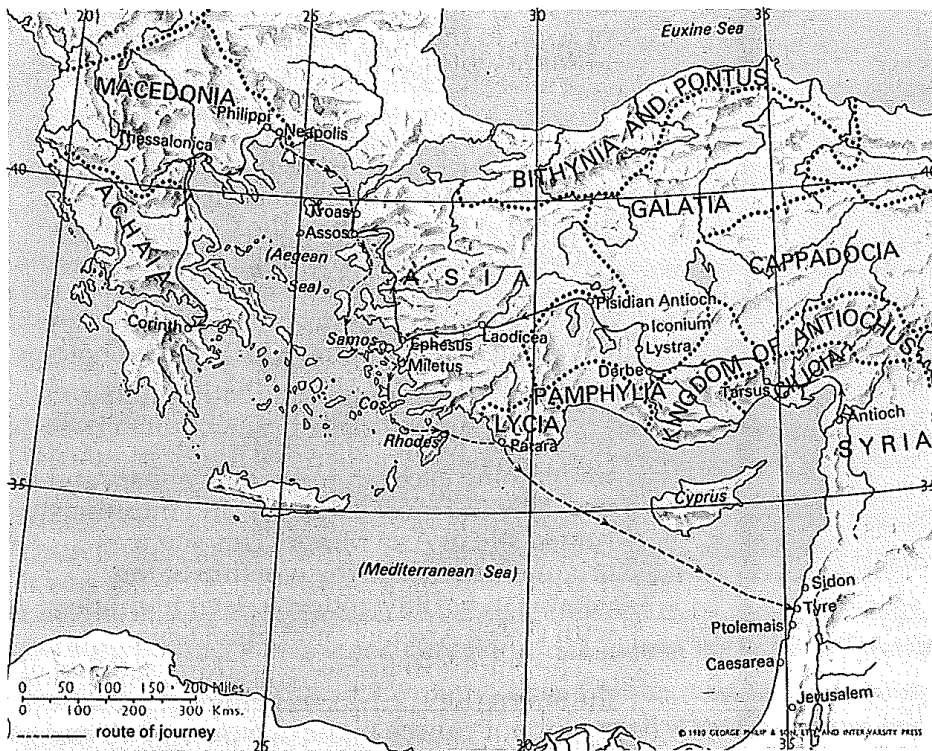
**New Testament Places to Know**

These are some of the key places in New Testament history. By the time we are done, you should be able to locate them on maps 4 and 5.

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Bethlehem         | Nazareth                   |
| Samaria           | Judea                      |
| Jerusalem         | Asia, Macedonia and Acháia |
| Rome              | Antioch (in Syria)         |
| Sea of Galilee    | Jordan River               |
| Mediterranean Sea | Aegean Sea (west of Asia)  |

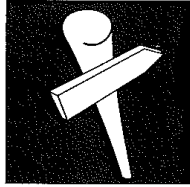
Look at map 4. Jesus' public ministry centered in two places, Galilee (the northern rural district), and Judea (mainly Jerusalem, the national capital). His trips to Jerusalem were infrequent in the beginning and coincided with national festivals. Later, his trips were more frequent and culminated with his arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

Jesus' followers spread the good news about him in ever widening circles. Jesus made a statement about their activity, recorded in Acts 1:8. Though they did not immediately spread the message, persecution sent Jesus' followers throughout the land (Acts 8:1-4).



Map 5. Paul's Aegean ministry

Paul, after being converted on the Damascus Road (Acts 9), carries the gospel to the far reaches of the world (Acts 13—28). Map 5 outlines one of his missionary journeys. If you have a study Bible or Bible atlas (such as the *New Bible Atlas*) you can review additional, detailed maps showing Paul's journeys.



### **Trailmarkers**

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 17:8, noticing that the land given to Abram (Abraham) was one of God's promises of his covenant relationship with his people. You should be able to identify this land and see its strategic importance to

God's plan for the world.

Read Exodus 3:7-8 and note the description of the land. This land signifies three things: prosperity, blessing and freedom. Throughout the Old Testament, "Egypt" becomes a metaphor for slavery and idolatry (Isaiah 30:1-3), while God's Promised Land, specifically Jerusalem, is a place of redemption, hope and blessing (Psalm 122).

Read Acts 1:8 and identify the regions listed on maps 4 and 5. This passage is a great one to memorize. You could begin now, or commit it to memory as part of your own devotion and growth.

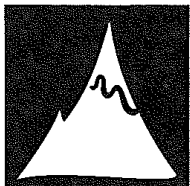


### **Teamwork**

Turn to Acts 7. Stephen, before being stoned to death because of his faith in Christ, defends himself against his accusers. Break into two groups and identify a reader for each group. Read this aloud to your group and together

identify places that are mentioned on the maps we studied (maps 1-3). Not all are listed on the maps, but many are. Notice how geography and chronology are used in Stephen's defense.

✓ Why does he spend so much time giving this history of Israel?



### **Reaching the Summit**

You have covered a lot of territory in this session (literally!) and should feel a sense of accomplishment. You have not simply looked at maps; you have been tracing the work of God in the life of his people. And you have

become more familiar with the world of the Bible. Take a moment to share any new insights you have discovered as a result of this session.

**Next Session**

In one or two minutes, how would you summarize your life over the last ten years?

**Close in Prayer**

Keep in mind the places we studied were home to people whose lives and deeds were recorded for our benefit. Challenges they faced in their culture impacted who they became. Ask God's help with the challenges that you face in this day and time.

## Reading the Bible as (More Progressive) Lutherans

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America accepts the Bible as the inspired word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.

We believe that God's word comes to us in three main ways:

- 1) written word—Bible
- 2) proclaimed word—sermon and other words shared by Christians
- 3) incarnate word—Jesus Christ (in the flesh)

The Word of God is an active, dynamic force that never returns void but accomplishes that for which it is sent (Isa.55:11). The Word of God does things: it cleanses, it heals, it creates, it judges, it saves.

The Bible does *for* us and *to* us what God wants to do.

When we say the Bible is the Word, we are saying that the Bible is a book that reveals Jesus Christ to us.

Not just the gospels and the New Testament reveal Jesus, but the whole Bible reveals Jesus to us.

Martin Luther said that the Bible is like the manger that holds the Christ Child. People knelt before the manger to worship, not the manger itself, but the Christ Child. In the same way, we don't worship the Bible, but the Christ found in the Bible.

What this means is that the Bible is only a means to an end, never an end in itself.

An important part of heritage as Lutherans is that Martin Lutheran risked his life translating the Bible into the common language of the people

Lutherans believe the Bible is important, but we don't read the Bible nearly enough.

# BIBLE TRANSLATION CHART

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy	Target Audience	2 Corinthians 10:13	Distinctives
<b>AMP</b> Amplified Bible	11	Word-for-word plus additional amplification of word meanings	Those looking for more detailed shades of meaning in Scripture	"We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our legitimate province and proper limit, but will keep within the limits [of our commission which] God has allotted us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you."	A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. Published in 1964 (updated in 1987). Break through the language barrier.
<b>CEV</b> Contemporary English Version	5.4	Thought-for-thought	Unchurched	"We won't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work that God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work."	Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published in 1995.
<b>ESV</b> English Standard Version	7.4	Word-for-word	Bible readers of all ages	"But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you."	A literal update of the Revised Standard Version, seeks to produce word-for-word correspondence. Published in 2001.
<b>God's Word</b> Translation	4.3	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Christians and non-Christians; adults and children	"How can we brag about things that no one can evaluate? Instead, we will only brag about what God has given us to do—coming to [the city of Corinth] where you live."	Published in 1995, a meaning-based, contemporary translation utilizing the thought-for-thought translation philosophy.
<b>HCSB</b> Holman Christian Standard Bible	7.5	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Bible readers of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but according to the measure of the area [of ministry] that God has assigned to us, [which] reaches even to you."	A translation that attempts to combine both formal and dynamic equivalence. Published in 2004.
<b>KJV</b> King James Version	12	Word-for-word	Conservative Protestant	"But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."	Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand." Published in 1611. Timeless Treasure.
<b>The Message</b> A Paraphrase	5.5-10 depending on the passage	Thought-for-thought. Converts the original languages into the tone and rhythms of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages	Christians who want a fresh Bible-reading experience and seekers	"We aren't making outrageous claims here. We're sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you."	This paraphrase was translated using the rhythms and tone of contemporary English to communicate to the modern reader. Complete Bible published in 2002.
<b>NAB</b> New American Bible	6.6	Word-for-word	Catholic	"But we will not boast beyond measure but will keep to the limits God has apportioned us, namely, to reach even to you."	Published under the direction of Pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books. Published in 1970.
<b>NASB</b> New American Standard Bible	11	Word-for-word	Conservative, evangelical Protestant	"But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you."	A highly respected, formal translation of the Bible. Purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971. Updated in 1995. The most literal is now more readable.
<b>NCV</b> New Century Version	5.6	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Those who want a highly readable translation of the Bible in today's language	"But we will not brag about things outside the work that was given us to do. We will limit our bragging to the work that God gave us, and this includes our work with you."	Based on the ICB (International Children's Bible), it's a readable and simple translation using the thought-for-thought translation methodology. Published in 1991.
<b>NIV</b> NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	7.8	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Evangelical Christians of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you."	The bestselling translation, widely accepted by evangelical Christians. Purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." Published in 1978. Most read. Most trusted.
<b>NIRV</b> New International Reader's Version	2.9	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought, with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification	Children ages 10 and under	"But I won't brag more than I should. Instead, I will brag only about what I have done in the area God has given me. It is an area that reaches all the way to you."	A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NIRV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Published in 1994. Updated in 1998. The NIV for kids!
<b>NKJV</b> New King James Version	8	Authors used the original KJV as a benchmark, while working to produce an accurate and modern word-for-word translation	Those who want a readable translation of the Bible that is great for study but maintains the poetry of the KJV	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you."	A modern language update of the original KJV. Purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.
<b>NLT</b> New Living Translation	6.3	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought	Adults and children	"But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you."	Based on the work of 90 Bible scholars and a smaller team of English stylists. These scholars and stylists went back to the original languages and sought to produce the closest natural equivalent of the message in natural, contemporary English. Published in 1996.
<b>NRSV</b> New Revised Standard Version	8.1-10.4	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Mainline and interconfessional	"We, however, will not boast beyond limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you."	A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Purpose was to make a good one better." Published in 1990. A Bible for all Christians.
<b>TNIV</b> TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	n.a.	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Today's generation of Bible readers looking for readability without sacrificing accuracy	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you."	Remaining faithful to the original texts while using up-to-date language of today's world, the TNIV is a highly readable and highly accurate translation. Complete Bible published in 2005. Timeless truth. Today's language.

# Looking Ahead to Session Two

Get familiar with the website [enterthebible.org](http://enterthebible.org) from Lutheran Seminary

## Ten Key Themes of the Bible (1-5)

**1. God has a plan to bless and save the world.**

Luke 4:14-44

**2. God invites us to be part of his plan—**

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 11:27-12:9

**3. God's plan gets messed up by human sin...yet God keeps calling us back to him.**

Genesis 3

Hosea 11

**4. God's plan is carried out by ordinary people like us...and sometimes in spite of us.**

Exodus 1-3

1 Samuel 8

Isaiah 1:1-2:5

**5. God shows his love for the world most clearly in Jesus.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Romans 5:1-11