

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- ~~INTRODUCTION~~

- ~~Week 1 Introduction and Overview (CH 1-4)~~

- OBSERVATION

- Week 2 Observation (CH 5-7)
- Week 3 Ten Strategies To Reading 1-5 (CH 8-12)
- Week 4 Ten Strategies To Reading 6-10 (CH 13-18)



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **OBSERVATION**

- **Week 5** Six Things To Look For (CH 19-23)
- **Week 6** What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)

- **INTERPRETATION**

- **Week 7** Interpretation Intro (CH 27-29)
- **Week 8** Five Keys to Interpretation (CH 30-34)
- **Week 9** Don't Stop (CH 35-38)



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- **Week 11** Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



The Value of Observation

Chapter 5



The First Step

- The first step in Bible study is:
 - OBSERVATION
 - This is where you ask,
 - “What do I see?”
- What makes one person a better Bible student than another?
 - They can see more



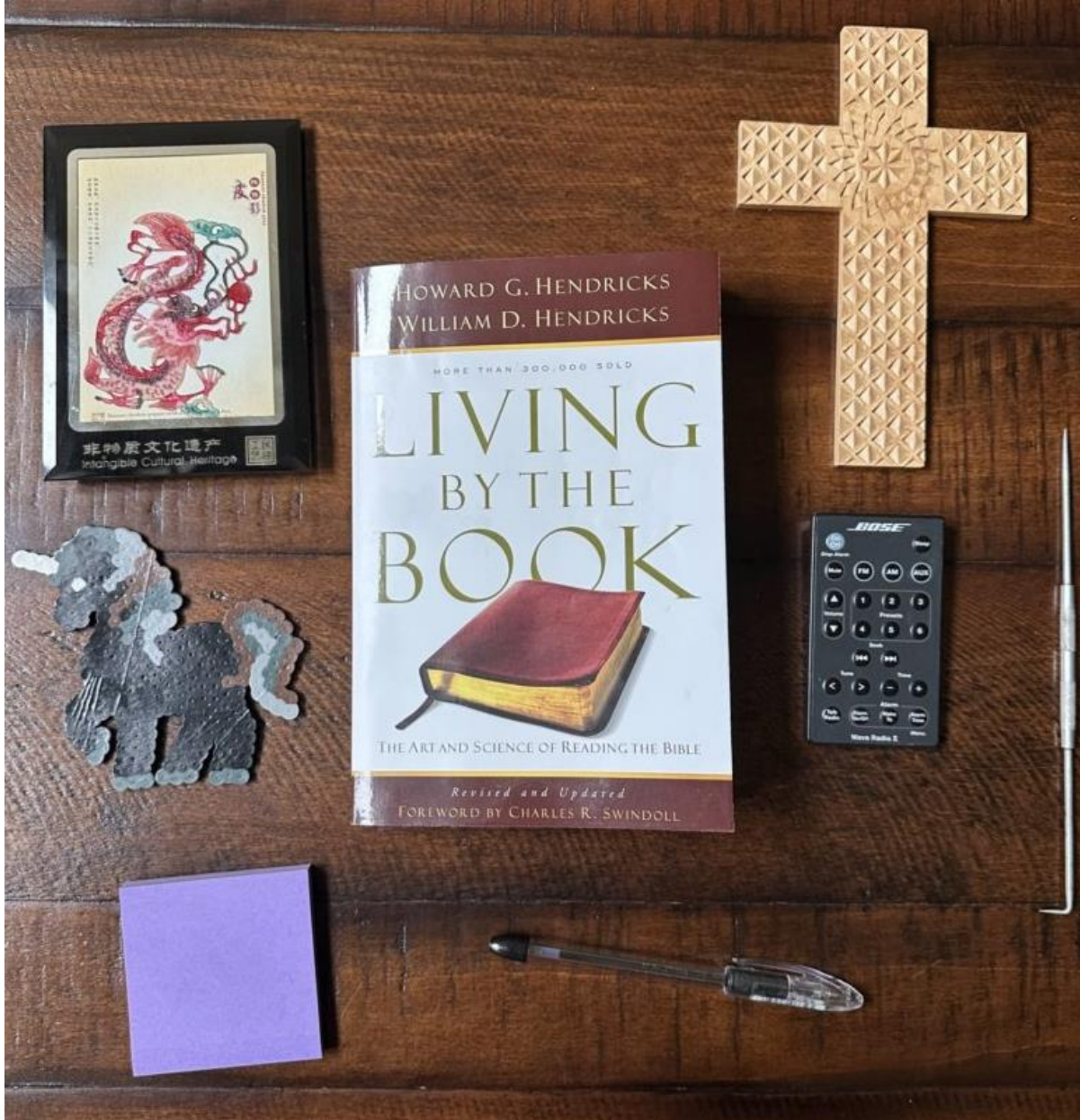
But We See the Same Thing

- You may “see” the same thing, but you may not “observe” the same things
- The ability to observe can be taught and developed
 - This class will teach you how to observe the Bible
 - You will need to practice the things you learned to develop the skill



Test Time!





Observation Quiz

- How many items did you see?
 - What color was the paper?
 - What brand was the remote?
 - What was the name of the Book?
 - Who was the author?
 - What were the items sitting on?
- 8
 - Purple
 - Bose
 - Living By The Book
 - Howard Hendricks
 - Wood Table

The Next Chapter

- Let us practice our observation skills in the next section as we look at a single verse in the Bible
 - What will you observe?



Let's Start With A Verse

Chapter 6



Are You Ready

- Are you ready to get into the scriptures?
 - I hope so because here we go
- We are starting with observing a single verse
 - Acts 1:8
- As we read look for terms that jump out



**⁸but you shall receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses
both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea
and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth.**



Start With The Terms

- What is the most important term in this verse?
 - But: mark this word, underline, highlight, etc...
 - It indicates a contrast
 - What does *but* force me to do
 - Go back, but where?
 - To the previous verses
- One of the cardinal sins, never study a verse in isolation



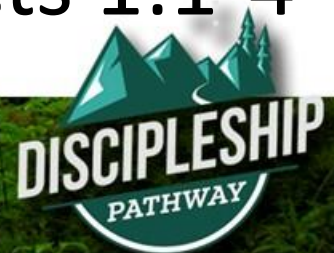
Contrast

8 but you shall receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses
both in Jerusalem,
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¹The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;

Acts 1:1-4



⁵for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1:5-8



What Came Before the “but”

- Verse 1 “The first account I composed”
 - So, there was a first account making this the second
 - This book is a continuation of another book
 - The gospel by Luke
 - So, Acts was written by Luke
 - But who is Luke?
 - Maybe we should investigate who Luke is
 - I’ll leave that to you, let’s move along



We Are Still Before “but”

- Next, we see Acts and Luke have the same subject
 - “all that Jesus began to do and teach”
 - This tells me that Acts is a continuation of Christ's ministry through His disciples
- And both Acts and Luke are written to Theophilus
 - Who is Theophilus!?



Who is Theophilus!?

- In Luke he is “most excellent Theophilus”
 - A man of some importance?
- In Acts he is just “Theophilus”
- Why the change?
 - Did he lose his title?
 - Maybe because he became a Christian?
 - Maybe Luke is on more familiar terms with him?



The Question

- Verse 6 begins the account
 - Jesus and His disciples are talking about the kingdom of God
 - “they were asking Him”
 - “Is this it? Is it time?”
 - Is what it time?
 - “is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?””

The Answer: Negative/Positive

- Jesus answers their question
 - First with a negative (v.7)
 - It's not for you to know
 - Second a positive (v.8) This is where the “but” comes in
 - But here is what you need to do
- Verse 8 is part of a dialog between the disciples and Jesus
- Is verse 8 the end of the dialog? Let's look at Acts 1:9-11



Dialogue Question
Answer / Negative
 Positive

Contrast

8 but you shall receive power
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⁹And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; ¹¹and they also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:9-11



Jesus Is Out

- Verses 9-11 are a recounting of Jesus' ascension
 - This means the question-and-answer session is over
- Also, we should not only be looking at the terms
 - We need to look at the atmosphere
 - Jesus is leaving, their daily companion for three years
 - Jesus is giving His final in person commands
 - They are now the ones to lead



Now To Verse 8

- Now that we have looked at the context,
 - Let us look at verse 8 specifically
- We have looked at and investigated the “but”
- The second term we see is *you*
 - *You* shall receive power
 - *You* shall be my witness
- Who is the *you*?



Who Are The People Involved

- From the context it is the apostles
 - What do I know about the apostles?
 - Jesus chose them
 - They walked with Jesus ~3.5 years
 - They are all Jewish
 - Some are fishermen
 - And on and on
 - Books are written on the apostles



Why The *You* Is Important

- The *you* are the people who know Jesus the best
 - Their question is probably the question they have been wondering about for awhile
 - Verse 8 is Jesus' answer to the *you's* question
- “You shall receive power”
 - Let us break this down
 - Grammatically speaking



“You Shall Receive Power”

- What is the verb?
 - “shall receive”
- What tense is it in?
 - Future tense
 - This means they have not yet received something
- So, what is that something?



“You Shall Receive Power”

- Power
 - Power can be translated to ability
 - Jesus is not talking about superpowers
 - Jesus is talking about the ability to accomplish the task He has for them
- Next, when will this power come?



When Will This Power Come

- “When the Holy Spirit comes upon you”
- What does this add to verse 8?
 - It indicates a cause-and-effect relationship
 - The effect is power will be given
 - The cause is the Holy Spirit
- This phrase also answers our “when” question
 - When the Holy Spirit comes



Another Person

- Notice another person is added into the mix
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Who is He?
 - We can generate another long list here
 - He is the third person of the Trinity
 - He is supernatural
 - He is the bringer of power



Contrast

8 **but**

Who?

you

Dialogue / Question / Negative
Answer / Positive
future

shall receive power

ability

supernatural

time

when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

and **you** shall be My witnesses

both in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea

and Samaria,

and even to the remotest part of the earth.

(9-11) Assentation

Atmosphere – Last Words



Term Upon

- What does “upon” mean
 - Upon, an event that happens immediately after another event
- What does it signify?
 - This power does not currently reside in them
 - It is not going to be drawn out of them
 - It is going to happen suddenly and quickly



“and you shall be My witnesses”

- We Just saw cause-and-effect relationship in timing
 - Holy Spirit and power
- Next, we see a cause-and-effect relationship between
 - Cause: Power
 - Effect: Witness
- First you will receive power
- Second you shall be my witness



Why Does It Matter

- You do not have to be a witness first
- You do not have to be Gods messenger first
- You do not have to do it under your power
- God will give you the power FIRST
- With this power then you will be a witness
 - But whose witness?
 - Christs witness



Define the Terms

- They are to be Christ's witness
- What is a witness?
 - someone who has seen and can tell others about an event, person, or circumstance
- That is what the apostles are
 - Witnesses to the life of Christ



Witness With Power

- What kind of witness were they when Christ was alive?
 - Not the best witnesses
 - Why?
 - Their power was insufficient for the task at hand
 - They lacked the “power” of the Holy Spirit
- Now they have power and a mission
 - Where do they go?



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Contrast
C/E

Who?

Dialogue / Question / Answer / Negative / Positive
future

ability

supernatural

Not within – with out

time

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(9-11) Assentation

Atmosphere – Last Words



Next Term, Both

- Both in Jerusalem, ...
 - Both means two of something
 - But there is a list of four here
 - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, earth
- Is both a typo?
 - This would be a good time to utilize a commentary



Commentaries

- Commentaries are helpful
 - They are written by knowledgeable people/groups
 - That know Greek, Hebrew, and other languages the Bible was originally written in
 - Cultural specifics of the people at that time
 - Construction of the language of the time
- Commentaries will be discussed in more detail in the Interpretation section, week 7



Both

- Both indicates the beginning of a series
 - There may be 2 or 200 items
- If we were to read this in other versions, it might also help
 - witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (CSB)
 - Here both is removed for clarity



The Importance of Place

- Four places are mentioned in the following order
 - Jerusalem
 - Judea
 - Samaria
 - Earth
- Does the order matter?
- Do the places matter?



Map in Jesus Time

- Let's start with where and what all these places are
- This is where a good source for maps comes in





Ancient Jerusalem

Circa AD 63

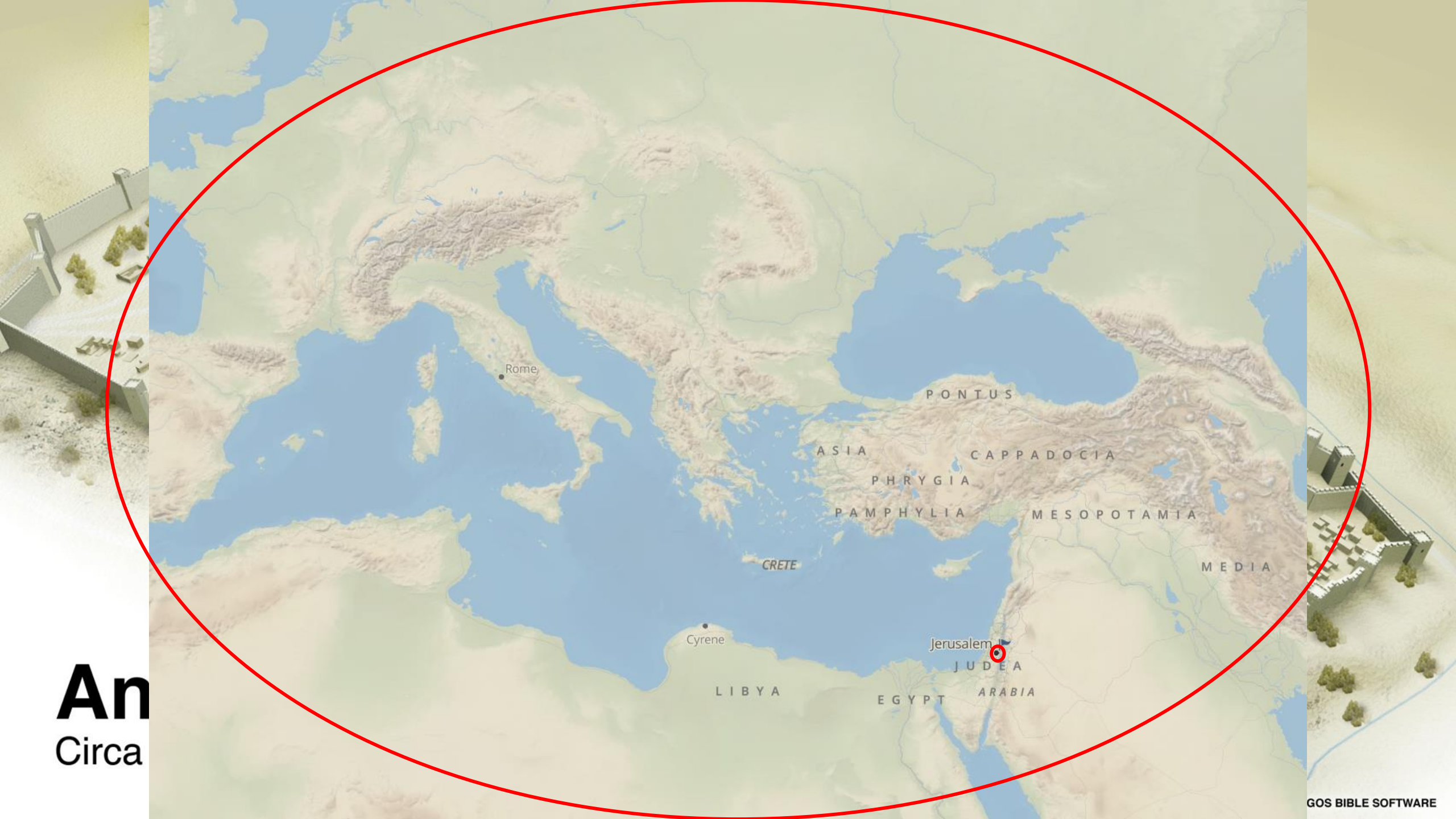


Ancient
Circa AD 63



Ancient
Circa AD 63





An
Circa

Jerusalem

- What do we know about Jerusalem?
 - It's a city
 - The Temple is here
 - It is where the apostle are right now
 - It is where Jesus' crucifixion happened



Judea

- What do we know about Judea?
 - Referencing our Bible map
 - We see Judea is like a state
 - As Houston is to Texas, Jerusalem is to Judea
 - Notice the ands and the comas
 - “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”



Samaria

- What do we know about Samaria?
 - The Jews are not fond of the Samaritans
 - “For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.”
John 4:9
 - Jews avoid walking through Samaria



Earth

- Does this mean every location on this planet?
 - Looking up the word earth as used here in a Bible dictionary we find
 - Jesus is saying to all the “populated” portions of this planet



Does Location and Order Matter

- Does the order matter?
 - We see an explosion
 - Start local, move to the state, then the nation and then the whole world
- Do the places matter?
 - Witness locally, people you know, where you are comfortable
 - Move onto places that are uncomfortable and scary

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Contrast
C/E

Who?
time

Dialogue / Question / Answer / Negative / Positive
future

ability
supernatural

Not within – with out

(1)
Beginning of a series

(2)
(3)
Linked/ Usually separated, John 4:9

(4)
Inhabited

(9-11) Assentation
Atmosphere – Last Words



Relate the Verse to the Book as a Whole

- When you look at Acts you see the apostles
 - Start in Jerusalem?
 - Yes
 - Did they move on to Judea and Samaria?
 - Yes, but it was forced by persecution
 - To the occupied world?
 - By the end of Acts they are well on their way



A Break Down of What We Did

- Start with the terms
- Who are the people involved
- Watch for cause-and-effect relationships
- Define the terms
- The importance of place
- Relate the verse to the book as a whole



No Limit to Observation

- How many observations do you think we made here?
 - At least 30 specific observations
 - And how many are there?
 - To date over 600
- This is what the observation section of this book will teach you
 - How can I become more observant?



You Must Learn To Read

Chapter 7



But I Know How To Read

- What did you think of Acts 1:8?
 - Easy, everyone reads that way
 - Or, what in the world were you doing?
 - No one reads that way
- There is reading and there is understanding
 - When you need to understand how something works what do you do?
 - YouTube it, watch the video



We Live in a Visual World



But The Bible Is Not A Meme

- The Bible is the written word of God
- If we want to hear God
 - We need to recapture the art of reading
- So how can I read netter?
 - “How to Read a Book” by Mortimer J. Adler
 - Netter should be better, just curious if anyone was reading carefully



Read the Bible as a Love Letter

- Lastly read the Bible as a man hungrily reads a love letter
 - I'll read a little today and then maybe the rest later
 - NO!
 - You read it savoring every word! Analyzing every word
 - Why did she start the letter Dear Brad,?
 - Why so formal why not My Dearest Darling Brad?
 - Does she hate me?! I must read on!



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Observation: What do I see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Application: How does it work?

