

ROUTE 66

Session Number One

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

WHY THIS STUDY?

Today in the United States we are blessed with nearly 50,000 miles of interstate highways. The system idea was born in 1947 but it was funded until Dwight Eisenhower became President in 1953. Hence is known as “the father of the interstate highway system” in this country.

Prior to that time, one of the best-known roads was Highway 66. It was also known as Route 66...and the Will Rogers Highway. Some named it “the Main Street of America.” It was a 2,448 mile road that went from Chicago to L.A.

Years ago, while driving down the famous roadway, jazz musician Bobby Troup began formulating some lyrics to describe the route.

*Well if you ever plan to motor west
Just take my way that's the highway that's the best
Get your kicks on Route 66.*

*Well it winds from Chicago to L. A.
More than 2,000 miles all the way
Get your kicks on Route 66*

*Well it goes from St Louie down to Missouri
Oklahoma City looks oh so pretty
You'll see Amarillo and Gallup, New Mexico
Flagstaff, Arizona, don't forget Winona,
Kingman, Barstow, San Bernadono.*

*Would you get hip to this kindly tip
And go take that California trip
Get your kicks on Route 66.*

In my teenage years, first driving years, we lived in Springfield, Missouri. It was in Springfield, officially recognized as the birthplace of U.S. Route 66, on April 30, 1926, that officials sfirst proposed the name of the new Chicago-to-Los Angeles highway. A placard in our old Park Central Square was dedicated to the city by the Route 66

1 Association of Missouri, and traces of the “mother Road” are still visible in downtown
2 Springfield along Kearney Street, Glenstone Avenue (site of Evangel College) and St.
3 Louis Streets and on Missouri 266 to Halltown, Mo.

4
5 Much of this early-vintage road was gravel or graded dirt. Route 66 became the first
6 highway in the United States to be completely paved by 1938.

7
8 I remember with great joy driving my ‘49 Plymouth on “old bloody 66” - so named
9 because it was the cause of many traffic deaths - to St. Louis to visit the baseball park to
10 watch Stan Musial and many other baseball greats.

11
12 In reliving those days in my mind, I got to thinking about our spiritual journey, from here
13 to Glory, our Eternal 66, if you will. And the 66 necessary helps God has given us to get
14 there - the 66 books of the Bible.

15
16 In this study today, we will discuss what we mean when we say “the canon” of Scripture.
17 What is the difference between “versions” and “translations” of the Bible? We will
18 begin our joyful task of memorizing the 66 book titles in their correct order. And we
19 will take most of tonight’s time discussing “The Pentateuch” - the Torah, the Books of
20 Moses.

21
22 It is important for you to note that as we go through each book of the Bible, the basic
23 theme of Redemption through Jesus can be seen.

24
25 I know no study more needed today than this for most Christians are pretty lost when it
26 comes to the Scriptures. That’s tragic. David acknowledged this in Psalm 119:11: **Thy**
27 **word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.** And the Apostle
28 Paul was right on with his declaration in 2 Tim. 3:16: **All scripture is given by**
29 **inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for**
30 **instruction in righteousness:**

31
32 Lack of knowing the Bible, therefore, can lead to sinful living and a life far short of
33 God’s expectations of us. With that in mind, let’s begin.

34
35 ONE OF THE FIRST QUESTIONS WE SHOULD CONSIDER IS THIS: WHICH
36 VERSION OR TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE IS RIGHT? AND WHAT’S THE
37 DIFFERENCE IN THEM?

38
39 There are so many: the beloved King James, the Amplified, the Good News Bible, the
40 Living Bible, the Revised Standard Bible and the New International Version. And that’s

1 only a partial list.

2

3 The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.
4 Most of us cannot read either of those languages and so we would be unable to know
5 God's Word without help. We rely therefore on those who are fluent in English and
6 Greek. These scholars read the original Greek Bible and come up with the English
7 equivalent.

8

9 These translations are very accurate. The New American Standard Bible, for example,
10 was translated over 10 years by over 45 scholars and was published in 1962. The same
11 effort was expended for the New International in 19978 and the King James in 1611 and
12 the New King James in 1982. Each translation has its own strengths and weaknesses. I
13 happen to prefer - for my own study - the King James. However, I have hundreds of
14 books to help me which many others do not. The New American Standard Version is
15 believed by many to be one of the most accurate translations and is an excellent study
16 Bible.

17

18 Are there variations in some of these translations? Yes. However, not one alters even
19 one article of faith which cannot be abundantly sustained by other undoubted passages.

20

21 Our Lord Himself made it clear in Matthew 24:35: **Heaven and earth shall pass away,**
22 **but my words shall not pass away.**

23

24 LET'S BEGIN TO LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE IN ORDER....so that when
25 we have completed this study in a few months, we can easily say them from memory:

26

27 THE PENTATEUCH - meaning "five books." "Penta - 5, hence the Pentagon.:"

28

29 1. GENESIS this means "beginning". The beginning of everything started in this
30 book. In this book we learn of Creation....of the sinful fall of man....of the universal
31 great flood, the beginning of order with such greats as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.
32 The book ends with the death of Joseph and his family, numbering in the thousands, in
33 Egypt.

34

35 2. EXODUS this means "exit" or leave. We learn in Exodus that a new and
36 virulently anti-Jewish government took over with the determination of exterminating the
37 Jews. This was the first effort at "the final solution." God raised up Moses and led the
38 people out of bondage. At the end of the book, the people still have not arrived in "the
39 promised land," and Moses has died (buried by God on Mount Nebo). Joshua is his
40 designated successor.

1 3. LEVITICUS means pertaining to the Levites, the tribe (out of twelve) of the early
2 Jews given the mandate by God to be the priesthood. To them God gave many laws by
3 which the people were to live. Levi was the leader of this tribe, hence the name
4 Levites. Moses' brother Aaron and his sons were set apart to be priests. Their duties
5 were the care of the Tabernacle, and later the care of the Temple.

6
7 4. NUMBERS this generally had to do with a census of the people coming out of
8 Egypt. There are many fascinating stories in this book, some dealing with the trials and
9 tribulations piled on Moses and his leadership by rebelling factions of the Jews.

10
11 5. DEUTERONOMY means "second law." In Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers,
12 laws had been promulgated at various intervals. Now, on the eve of their entrance into
13 the Promised Land, these laws were rehearsed and expounded.

14
15 So now we start the memorization of these five book titles:

- 16 • Genesis
- 17 • Exodus
- 18 • Leviticus
- 19 • Numbers
- 20 • Deuteronomy

21 22 WHO WROTE THESE SIXTY SIX BOOKS OF THE BIBLE?

23
24 The Bible was written by the Holy Spirit, utilizing some forty human sources. Thirty of
25 them in the Old Testament and ten in the New. For example, the Psalms are a collection
26 of the works of several authors, of whom David is the best known. But psalms were also
27 written by Moses, by Asaph, by a man named Ethan and by the sons of Korah.

28
29 The accounts which have been preserved in the Old Testament date from the earliest
30 times and were both written down and transmitted orally. As time passed they were
31 collected together and received by the Hebrews as coming to them by God's mandate.

32
33 It is amazing that all forty of these authors, spread out over 1600 years, have such a
34 unified message in spite of their great diversity in language, culture and time. There is a
35 reason for that. The reason is that these forty writers are all **SECONDARY WRITERS**.
36 There is only one actual primary author. The Bible came to us from God Himself who
37 used all these human authors to give us his message, through the presence and inspiration
38 of His Spirit.

39
40 It is important to understand that God did not simply dictate His messages to these forty

1 men because as we study each book we see unique personalities of the authors and
2 varying styles of writing. But God's message and authorship are always there, providing
3 in the end through all the years, exactly what He wanted us to have.
4

5 **2 Tim. 3:16-17**

**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for
reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God
may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

6
7 Now let's take a brief look at each of these five books, the PENTATEUCH - OR
8 TORAH.

9
10 **GENESIS**

11
12 This is such a glorious book that God gives to us through Moses. Let me give you a brief
13 outline:

14
15 Genesis chapters 1 - 11: From Creation to the Tower of Babel

16 Genesis Chapters 12 - 50: Abraham and his family, ending with them all in Egypt.

17
18 **CREATION - DAY ONE - LIGHT**

19
20 **Genesis 1:3-5**

**And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. [4] And God saw the light,
that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. [5] And God called
the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning
were the first day.**

21
22 **CREATION - DAY TWO - FIRMAMENT**

23
24 **Genesis 1:6-8**

**And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it
divide the waters from the waters. [7] And God made the firmament, and divided
the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the
firmament: and it was so. [8] And God called the firmament Heaven. And the
evening and the morning were the second day.**

25
26 Firmament is taken from the Hebrew word RAQIA, which simply means air-spaces.
27 God put water above us and below us.

1 CREATION - DAY THREE - DRY LAND AND PLANT LIFE

2
3 Genesis 1:9-11

4
5 **And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. [10] And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. [11] And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.**

6
7 What tremendous planning on God's part to prepare a place for his masterpiece: the
8 human being!

9
10 CREATION - DAY FOUR - SUN, MOON AND STARS

11
12 Genesis 1:14-18

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: [15] And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. [16] And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. [17] And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, [18] And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

13
14 Verse 16 has an amazing line: "...he made the stars also." Five words. Yet in this
15 same book God will take nearly 20 chapters to tell the story of Joseph. Why? It's
16 because the story of Joseph is really the story of God's redemptive plan, something He
17 apparently holds far more important than stars in space.

18
19 CREATION - DAY FIVE - ANIMAL LIFE

20
21 Genesis 1:20-22

22 **And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that**
23 **hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.**
24 **[21] And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which**
25 **the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after**
26 **his kind: and God saw that it was good. [22] And God blessed them, saying, Be**
27 **fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the**

1 earth.

2

3 We can certainly see “evolution within a specie” through the centuries. For example: the
4 horse 100 years ago was smaller than the one today. However, the horse did not turn
5 into another animals. This is only one of the reasons I do not believe in evolution.
6 God created a masterplan. It is magnificent!

7

8

CREATION - DAY SIX - FERTILITY OF ANIMAL LIFE

9

10

11

Genesis 1:24-25

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. [25] And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

12

13

And then came God’s masterpiece:

14

15

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

16

17

Made in the image of God? Yes, not physically - but spiritually.

18

19

THE ENTRANCE OF SIN IN THE WORLD

20

21

Genesis 3 gives the grim details. The Lord had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; other than that, they had free rein in Eden. So what was Satan’s pitch to Eve: YEA...HATH GOD SAID?

24

25

Either denying or twisting God’s words to mankind have been a bonanza to Satan; yet we keep falling for the same pitch

26

27

28

We then have the story of the sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. Cain killed his brother and cold-blooded murder entered the human race

29

30

31

In chapter 6, we come across the epic story: THE FLOOD: Genesis 6:5-6

1 **And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every**
2 **imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6] And it**
3 **repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his**
4 **heart.**

5
6 Following the flood, God commanded Noah's family to disperse and begin a new God's
7 creation. But instead the people stayed together at Babel. Genesis 11:1 **And the**
8 **whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.**

9
10 They decided to build a tall tower, a ziggurat. This structure revealed an arrogant,
11 defiant, rebellious attitude of man against God. God said, "Scatter." Mankind said,
12 "No, let's build a tower and stay right here." It was this point that God came down and
13 confused their language into many so they could not understand each other.

14 15 ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN OF ALL TIME – ABRAHAM

16
17 God called this man when he was 75 out of an idolatrous family and society in Iraq.
18 Genesis 12:1-3

19 **Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy**
20 **kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: [2] And I**
21 **will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and**
22 **thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that**
23 **curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

24
25 What made Abraham so great? His faith! Hebrews 11:8-10

26 **By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after**
27 **receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**
28 **[9] By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in**
29 **tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: [10] For**
30 **he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

31
32 From Abraham came an astounding family. God has promised him and Sarah his wife a
33 son. Abraham was pushing 90 and Sarah almost that....and they jumped the gun and
34 went with their own plan....Abraham impregnating Sarah's Egyptian maid (at Sarah's
35 request). Ishmael was born and you can read today's paper to see how well that has
36 turned out!! **Never go to your own plan when God has given you instructions on**
37 **what to do!**

38
39 Abraham and Sarah finally had a son they named Isaac. He had twin sons (chapter 25),
40 Esau and Jacob - actually twins. But they were as different in temperament as day and

1 night. Jacob was actually crooked. He stole his brother's birthright and hightailed it
2 out of town before Esau could catch him. However, in later years, Jacob met the Lord
3 and God changed his name from Jacob to ISRAEL

4 5 JOSEPH

6
7 Jacob had sewn a lot of illegal and unethical seed in his youth and the Bible declares that
8 a person reaps what he sows. Jacob sired twelve boys, one of them being Joseph whom
9 he loved more than the others. Jacob actually had four women in the house, two of them
10 his wives, and the other two his wives helpers. Those twelve sons, born of four different
11 women, would become the twelve leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel.

12 Born to Leah (first wife): 1. Reuben 2 Simeon. 3. Levi 4 Judah 5
13 Issachar 6 Zebulun 7 Dinah, a daughter

14 Born to Bilhah: 1 Dan 2 Naphtali

15 Born to Zilpah: 1 Gad 2 Asher

16 Born to Rachel (second wife) 1 Joseph 2 Benjamin

17
18 The sons of Leah, Bilhah and Zilpah despised Joseph and sold him into slavery in Egypt,
19 where several decades later he became the governor of that land and God used him to
20 keep the world from starvation. It was Joseph who brought his family into Egypt where
21 they flourished. End of Genesis

22 23 EXODUS

24
25 We left the people of Israel, the Jews, in Egypt as we closed Genesis. But time had
26 passed and the scriptures put it plainly:

27
28 Exodus 1:7-8

29 **And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and**
30 **multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. [8] Now**
31 **there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.**

32
33 The Pharaoh of Egypt during Joseph's time was a foreigner. Sometime between Genesis
34 and Exodus, the people of Egypt overthrew the government (probably the Hyksos
35 dynasty) and instituted their own. Thus.... "there arose up a new king over Egypt which
36 knew not Joseph." This new Pharaoh decided to eradicate the Jews (one of the earliest
37 attempts at a "final solution"). A Jewish boy was born - named Moses - whom his
38 parents hid in a basket in bullrushes along the Nile. He was found by one of the
39 Pharaoh's daughters and raised as her own. According to one writer, "Pharaoh's
40 daughter may have been the oldest daughter of Remeses II - or she may have been his

1 sister. According to the Egyptian customs of the day, her firstborn son had the right to
2 the throne. So Moses would have been the next Pharaoh had Rameses II and his queen
3 remained childless. Which gives this verse incredible clout: Hebrews 11:23-27 **By**
4 **faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they**
5 **saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**
6 **[24] By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of**
7 **Pharaoh's daughter; [25] Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God,**
8 **than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; [26] Esteeming the reproach of Christ**
9 **greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence**
10 **of the reward. [27] By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for**
11 **he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

12
13 Thrown out of Egypt at age 40, Moses spent the next 40 years in anonymity in the
14 wilderness, probably herding sheep. Then on one very ordinary day, he saw the bush on
15 fire, but it was not being burned up. As he approached, God spoke to him from the bush
16 with this alarming challenge: Exodus 3:9-10 **Now therefore, behold, the cry of the**
17 **children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith**
18 **the Egyptians oppress them. [10] Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto**
19 **Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.**

20
21 Moses courageously pursued this impossible task and following the Ten Plagues of Egypt
22 the Pharaoh let the Jews go. Many of his soldiers drowned in the Red Sea while in
23 pursuit of the Jews. And now the people of Israel would spend forty years wandering in
24 the wilderness due to lack of faith. They moaned and groaned and schemed against the
25 very man who had got them out of bondage.

26
27 One of the great highlights of this book is the study of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness -
28 Exodus 25 to the end. I will deal with this later.

29
30 Next week I will quickly run through Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and then
31 usher us into what we call the Historical Books of the Old Testament - an adventure book
32 if ever there was one!