

Bible Study # 1

9/15/15

Setting the Stage for a Continuation of the Study of Acts and the Epistles of Paul

2015 - 2016

Administrative Information

- The Bible Study Class will be presented in the parish hall every Tuesday morning from **9:30 A.M. until 11 A.M.** beginning September 15, 2015 and ending **May 24, 2016** except for the following Tuesdays related to a holiday:
 - Nov 24, 2015 – Thanksgiving Week
 - Dec 8, 2015 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 - Dec 22, 2015 – Christmas Week
 - Dec 29, 2015 - New Year's Week
 - Mar 22, 2016 – Holy Week
- The same class will be given every Tuesday evening from **7:30 until 9:00 P.M.** in the parish hall
- Contact info (703) 644-5873; email roberteward3@verizon.net
- Inclement weather decision will be based on Fairfax County Public School announcements

Administrative Information (Cont)

- Please sign in with your name, telephone number and e-mail if you have one
- I will automatically forward you a copy of the class charts via e-mail every week
- Anyone who wishes may record the presentation
- Any version of the bible is acceptable – I will use the RSV Catholic Edition
- Although we will not follow a specific text it will be centered around Jeff Cavin's Bible Timeline

Administrative Information (Cont)

- Brief review of my background
 - MA Christendom College Graduate School 1999
 - Audited classes since graduating
 - Presenting Bible Study for over 15 years
- Overview of this course
 - Introduction
 - 1st Century Jew named David, son of Abraham
 - Review of Acts 1-19; 1st and 2nd Thessalonians and Galatians
 - Return to the letters of Paul beginning with 1st Corinthians
 - Completion of Acts and the rest of the Epistles of Paul

Introduction

- The charts that follow are in support of a fictitious narrative from a First Century Jewish man named **David bar Abraham** that someday may become part of a historical novel by Bob Ward entitled *The Shepard Boy Who Held the Baby Jesus*
- The goal of the book will be to present the Gospel Stories within the First Century Jewish World View
- This charts identified as **First Century Worldview** are factually correct and are in support of David's narrative as presented in class

Worldview of St Paul

The story of David bar Abraham - a 1st Century Jewish
boy

The Story of David bar Abraham

- Born around the 15th year of Caesar Augustus (16 B.C.)
- Son of Abraham and Miriam (Mary) who farmed a small plot of land near Bethlehem
- I have an older brother, a younger brother, and two younger sisters

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Abraham** (wife Sarah)
 - The Covenant - circumcision
 - 3 promises
 - Descendants
 - Land
 - The blessing of the nations

First Century Worldview

- ***Pentateuch - 5***
 - Genesis
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
 - Deuteronomy

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- ***Septuagint (LXX)*** – Greek version of Hebrew scriptures translated in Alexandria, Egypt from 300 to 200 B.C. (In use at the time of Christ)

46 Books:

- Pentateuch – 5
- Prophets - 18
- Historical - 16
- Wisdom - 7

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Isaac** and Rebecca
 - Esau and **Jacob**
 - 12 sons
 - Joseph
 - Sold into bondage in Egypt
 - Second to Pharaoh in dealing with 7 year famine
 - Clan of Jacob moves to Egypt for 430 years

The Story of David bar Abraham (Cont)

- **Mother** – *Miriam* (Mary), Sister of *Moses*
- **Older Brother** – *Joshua* (Jesus), Successor to *Moses*
- **Sister** – *Sarah*, Wife of *Abraham*
- **Sister** – *Rebecca*, Wife of *Isaac*
- **Younger Brother** – *Benjamin*, Last son of *Jacob*

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Moses** (his brother Aaron and sister Miriam)
 - Burning bush and the name of God
 - 10 plagues
 - The Passover
 - Crossing the Red Sea
 - Mt Sinai
 - The Law - Kosher
 - Golden Calf
 - Levitical priesthood
 - Covenant (Ex 24:6)

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **David** and the Kingdom
 - **Solomon** and the Temple
 - Civil war
 - 20 Kings in North and South
 - The 15 Prophets
 - Assimilation of the North in 722 BC

David bar Abraham's Story (Cont)

- **Bethlehem in the 1st Century**
 - Tribes of Judah and Benjamin known as “Jews”
 - Between 300 and 1000 residents
 - Grazing land for the sheep and goats raised for sacrifices

David bar Abraham's Story (Cont)

- **Family Life in Bethlehem Includes**
 - Work on a small farm
 - Crops
 - Animals
 - Religious education at village Synagogue
 - Lived in one room stone house
 - The family reclined on the floor for meals

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Languages:**

- **Aramaic** – of the people
- **Hebrew** – of the scholars and priest
- **Greek** – of commerce and culture
- **Latin** – of the occupation

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **The Role of The Synagogue**

- Place of assembly and prayer and study for the village
- Religious activities included:
 - Readings the Torah and or the Prophets on Sabbath
 - Followed by dialogue and discussion
 - Formal prayers were not a part of the service at the time of Jesus
 - Hebrew schools were often held in the main room of the synagogue

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Temple Worship**

- Every morning and evening a priest enters the **Holy Place** to burn incense (*Zachariah*)
- Every day a priest enters the **Holy Place** to trim the wicks on the oil lamps (*Menorah*)
- Once a week a priest enters the **Holy Place** to change the holy show bread
- Once a year the High Priest enters the **Holy of Holies** to speak the name of God
- The priests lead the community in prayer three times a day: at daybreak, after noon, in the evening

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- Babylonian Captivity **587 BC**
- The Fall and destruction of the Temple **538 BC**
- The Return and rebuilding of the Temple and Jerusalem **538 BC**

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Political domination:**
 - Babylon – 722-540 B.C.
 - Persia – 540-336 B.C.
 - Greece – 336- 63 B.C
 - Rome – 63 B.C

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **The Role of the Temple**

- Political and religious center of Judaism
- Home of the Sanhedrin
 - 70 member council
 - Under the leadership of the High Priest
- Under construction by Herod the Great for 46 years

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Sanhedrin**
 - Sadducees
 - Pharisees
 - Lawyers
 - Scribes

First Century Worldview (Cont)

- **Temple worship**

- High Priest
 - Levitical priesthood
 - Aaron's descendants
 - Other Levites
 - Essenes
 - Zealots

Transition

- For the next two weeks we will review **Acts 1-19; 1st and 2nd Thessalonians and Galatians**