

November 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The fall season has been full! I began in September with another Bible Teachers School, similar to the ones I've done in Mexico and Colombia, but this one in Lausanne, Switzerland. This is a school oriented toward Bible teachers who teach in the Discipleship Bible Schools around the world to provide them with three weeks of instruction in teaching strategies as well as coverage of some of the deeper content in areas of the Bible. These BTS's are set up in a three-year cycle, **Year 1** covering Adam to David, **Year 2** covering Kings and Prophets, and **Year 3** covering the New Testament. In Lausanne, I had teachers from several nations, including Armenia, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Germany, Venezuela, Brazil, South Korea, Costa Rica, South Africa, and Canada and the USA.



This is part of the University of the Nations campus in Lausanne.

One of the joys this time around was that everyone knew English, and I was able to lecture without translation. This made possible much more dialogue and discussion in the classroom, which I very much encourage and enjoy. Since this was Year 1 for the Europeans, I addressed the **ancient texts and early translations** (Masoretic, Targums, Septuagint), **important literary genres** (narrative, law, poetry, and wisdom), **key characters** (Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel and David), and **major ideas** (God as Creator, uniqueness of Israel's faith in the ancient Near East, concepts of sacrifice and impurity, Canaanite

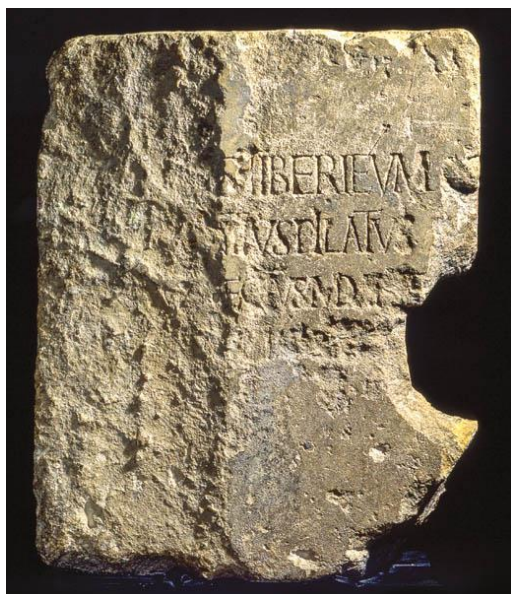


ABOVE Classroom shot of one of my lectures.

RIGHT Here, I'm standing by the display of the flags from the various nations of the students at this BTS I.



the creation and the flood stories and their relationship to other ancient Near Eastern versions, the date of the exodus, the emergence of Israel in the land of Canaan, and the moral problem of the wars against the Canaanites. Pretty exciting stuff (well, maybe for nerds like me)!



In early October, I was once again at Macomb Community College, this time to lecture on the Archaeology of the Life of Jesus. I was truly amazed, since I had 130 registered for the lecture. It was held at the University Center, and was quite full of retirees who were part of the continuing education program.

The inscription containing the name of the Roman Governor who condemned Jesus to crucifixion reads: "Pontius Pilate, the Prefect of Judea, has dedicated to the people of Caesarea a temple in honor of Tiberius." Even though in Latin, you can make out the name "Pilate" at the end of the second line.



We had a stimulating afternoon together, fielded many questions, and have

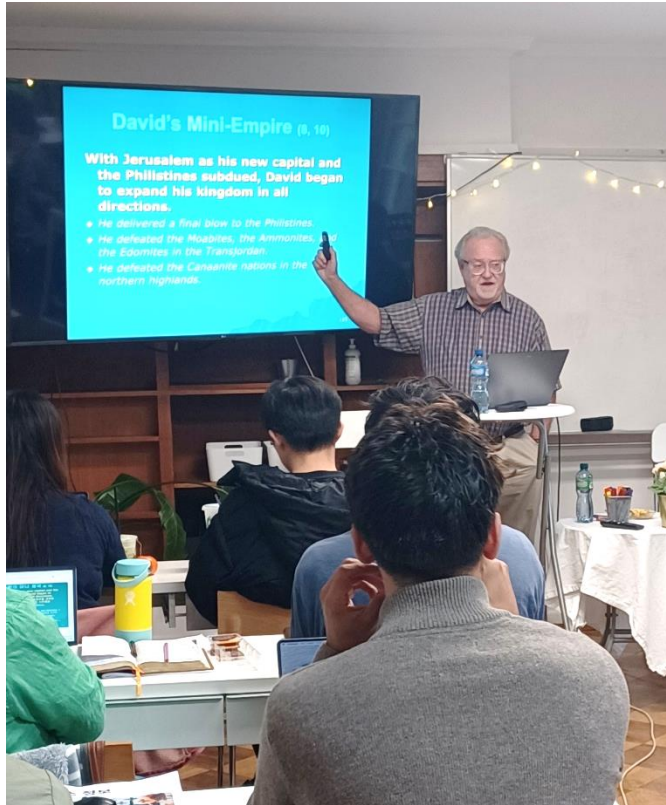


been invited back for lectures in the winter and spring of 2025. It is really quite remarkable to have a public institution that is open to lectures concerning Christianity! We had a wide range of attendees from various Christian denominations, including Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran, as well as some with no religious affiliation at all but who were simply interested in the subject.



If you've ever wondered what a Philistine might look like, here is an Egyptian depiction from Medinet Habu.

In mid-October, my lectures took me back to Switzerland for two weeks, and this time Peggy was able to come with me. During the first week, I taught in a Discipleship Bible School on the Period of the Tribal League and the Early Monarchy to an all-Korean class with a translator. Besides handling the very tricky issue of the invasion of Canaan, which is all the more



challenging due to the increased modern sensitivity to ethnic cleansing, we also covered various archaeological artifacts unearthed from this period. My Korean group was delightful, energetic, and very responsive. The second week, I taught in a School of Biblical Studies covering the Book of Isaiah. This group was mostly European and North American, so no translation was necessary. Switzerland was beautiful this time of year, similar to Michigan with the changing of the season, and on most days, the Alps were clearly visible across Lake Geneva.

We did have a somewhat exciting event while we were there. The University of the Nations campus is just across the street from another university, and we awoke one morning to see soldiers and police everywhere, even on the roofs of the campus across the street. Later, we discovered that government officials from the Ukraine were meeting with other European government officials in the university across from us, and all the uniformed and armed soldiers and police were there for protection.

While we were in Switzerland, Chad, our son, was lecturing for U. of N. in Honolulu Hawaii, covering Intertestamental History and the writings of John. Altogether, U. of N. has more than 100 campuses around the world, serving missionaries, pastors, and teachers from almost any Christian denomination you can name.



Here I am with the Campus Director, Markus Steffen who has served on this campus for some 30 years.



Chad lecturing on the Gospel of John in Honolulu.

My final lectures this quarter were via Zoom to the KAIO Ministry Academy in Coventry, England. This was my first occasion to teach for them, and I covered an introduction to the Gospels plus a full set of lectures on the Gospel of Mark.

The upcoming winter quarter will be full as well. I'll be lecturing in Seattle, Kona, Brazil, and Russia (the latter by Zoom), and I'll be covering the writings of John, the Letters of Paul, another Bible Teachers School, this time on the New Testament, and Deuteronomy, Job and Joshua for the Russian School of Bible Studies in Rostov.

Your prayers are appreciated!

Dan and Peggy Lewis