



Biblical Heritage Center's

Exploring the Bible, Biblical Heritages & Belief Systems

JANUARY 2026

Whose Beliefs Will Govern America?

By Jim Myers

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of my long-time friend **David Murdoch** (August 6, 1940 – January 3, 2026). David was a fellow disciple of Jesus the Anointed One, Sr. Chaplain Johnson County Sheriff Office, and CEO and founder of the Chisolm Trail Outdoor Museum.

- Favorite Quote: “Don’t overload your Donkey.”
- Favorite Saying: “Tight as the bark on a tree.”
- “Study the Manuscripts ~ Don’t take man’s word for what the Bible says.”

His spirit of service and love for humanity will forever be celebrated.

I met David in the 1980s when he walked into my office at the Believers Word Center. I was the pastor and our church was the one in town with a 10' diameter satellite dish. David was a successful businessman who was also a Bible scholar with the heart of a chaplain. Many discussions about the Bible would follow.

In July 2025 I walked into his office at the Johnson County Sheriff Department. I asked him if he received the book I sent him – *Tzedaqah* by Jacob Neusner. It was written in 1982 and I could only find a few copies. **I sent those books to friends I have known for many years; they love the Bible; and they do tzedaqah!**

I took the **latest version** of my latest research on Genesis to show David. He knew that I had been working on the Genesis Project before we first met. I told him I knew that I was very close to putting the final pieces together. Then I went over the latest version with him. When I finished, he was really excited. I thought he would be because I knew what was in the Preface of his book, *The Bible was not written in English* (2015).

You have been taught the traditions of men by good, well meaning people that meant only the best for you. The problem is much of what is taught is handed down generation to generation and is now taught as gospel. The majority of churches today regardless of the denomination, do not teach the Bible chapter by chapter and verse by verse. They read a scripture or two and then speak their own words which may be heart rendering, but they are not the truth from God's word. The sad result is people don't really understand the Bible . . .

This writer will make you a promise, if you are able to find anything in this writing that is not in agreement with the manuscripts, I will apologize and immediately change it. We are not talking about the English translations of the Bible. We are talking about the original languages as found in the manuscripts . . .

After hearing my latest update to the Genesis Project, instead of talking about the pieces I was looking for -- in his true "Murdoch style" -- he asked me the questions below:

*What have you become?
What are you?*

That caught me off guard. I had never been asked those questions before. I sat there and thought about them for a few minutes. Then I said, asked him:

"Do you remember the prayer I prayed in August 1980? Do you remember the answer? I asked God to show me what He wanted me to study in the Bible?" The answer I received was, *"Unless you know how words work, you cannot understand the words of the Bible."* Today, I know how words work, so I guess that means, *"I am a scribe!"* I think that caught David off guard! Two very important things from that meeting helped me very much:

- *Remember that good, well-meaning people are simply passing on the traditions (Biblical Heritages) that they received from their ancestors.*
- *Guide people and help them understand the ancient manuscripts.*
- *Let the words of the manuscripts tell their own stories.*

That made it possible for me to write this newsletter. I wish I could run by the Johnson County Sheriff Office or the Chisolm Trail Outdoor Museum and discuss this with him!

The First Laws of Organic Languages

- Organic languages are communications generated by human bodies. Artificial languages are communications generated by machines called computers.

1. Understanding How Words Work

A word is a symbol or group of symbols with an attached bundle of associations and those associations are a product of the Source's culture, time period, geographical location, and personal experiences.

- The symbols are the letters of the alphabet and other symbols inked to punctuation.
- The Source is the one who wrote or spoke the words.
- The Bundle of Associations create the meanings of words.
- Culture is a very complex concept.

Culture is the whole behavior and technology of any people that is passed on from generation to generation. Culture consists of the knowledge, beliefs, morals, laws, religion, customs, concepts, habits, skills, institutions, and any other capabilities of a given people in a given period. A culture is more than a set of rules to guide behavior; it is a comprehensive worldview and way of relating to one's fellow human beings. Like all complex cultures, Jewish culture does not spell everything out literally, but leaves much to inference. A culture's strength lies not only in what it says, but also in what it chooses not to say, and this too must be learned.

- Time Period and Geographical Location need no explanation.
- Personal Experiences are placed on a timeline that begins with conception.

2. Examine the Context as well as the Content.

- A word must be examined in light of the sentence in which it is used. The sentence must be examined in light of the paragraph, etc.

- Context is defined as the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning.
- Context can also be defined as the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs – environment.
- Content is the substance or gist. A part, element, or complex of parts also describes content.

3. Guard Against Ethnocentrism!

- Ethnocentrism is the belief that one's own group, race, society and culture is good, normal, right and superior to other groups, other races, other societies, and other cultures. It is a historical fact that everywhere humans have displayed their own interests, value systems, cultural patterns and normative orders as right, normal, and superior to others.
- We cannot possibly understand the words or actions of other groups if we analyze them in terms of our motives and values. We must interpret their words and behaviors in light of their motives, habits and values if we are to understand them. We are usually quick to recognize ethnocentrism in others and slow to see it in ourselves.

The BHC Primary Guideline

*My belief system will be large enough for all facts,
open enough to be examined and questioned,
and flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.*

Now we are ready to Explore the Bible.

First Exploration **Observing Differences in Christian and Jewish Scriptures**

My First Bible as a Pastor

Title Page: Holy Bible - Containing the Old and New Testaments, Authorized King James Version, Red Letter Edition - Kenneth Copeland Reference Edition - Translated out of the

original tongues and with previous translations diligently compared and revised - Self-Pronouncing.

Opening Verses: Genesis 1:1-2

¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Closing Verses: Revelation 22:17-21

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. ¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. ²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Sections: Old Testament and New Testament.

Jewish Scriptures

Title Page: The Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures ~ The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text

Opening Verses: Genesis 1:1-2

¹ When God began to create heaven and earth – ² the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water.

Closing Verses: 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

²² Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up

the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, ²³ Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there* among you of all his people? The Lord his God *be* with him, and let him go up.

Sections: Torah, Nevi'im (Prophets), Kethuvim (Writings)

Quote from **The Newer Testament: Hear What They Heard**

An English translation which affirms the New Testament's authentic Hebrew heritage.

By Dr. Brad H. Young

¹ When Yeshua saw the crowds of people, He went up on the mountain. After He set down, His disciples gathered around Him. ² He opened his mouth and started saying . . . ¹⁷ “Do not even begin to think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come with the purpose to cancel them but rather to interpret them properly.” (Matthew 5:1-2, 17)

Second Exploration **The Queer Bible**

Queer Biblical Hermeneutics

**Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University¹**

Queer biblical hermeneutics is a way of looking at the sacred text through the eyes of queer people. It is important to understand the meaning of these terms in relation to the exegetical process. “Queer” is a term that collectively refers to people who are LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender) and to people with fluid and non-binary genders and/or sexualities.

Queer interpretations do not follow essentialist ways of defining gender or sexualities. A “hermeneutic” is “one’s whole method of understanding or interpretation.” Thus “queer biblical hermeneutics” is the approach, theory, and prospective that queer people use to understand the Bible.

¹ Queer Bible Hermeneutics (OT8317) at Perkins School of Theology – Queer Bible Hermeneutics

The queer hermeneutical approach intersects queer theory, theology, and exegesis. Queer theory seeks “to deconstruct hegemonic heteronormativity, looking at sexual identities in their intersectional manifestations, expressions and performances.” Queer theorists seek to make changes to society through intellectual discourse and social change. These theorists maintain that intellectual discourse and social change need to happen in order to deconstruct society’s hegemonic heteronormativity. They also argue that society needs to adopt language not rooted in hegemonic and binary language.

Then queer hermeneutics brings in Theology. Theology is “language or discourse about God” which examines how people talk about God. The merging of queer theory with queer views, talk, and understanding of God frame the biblical interpretation.²

Queering Judaism:

LGBT Activism and the Remaking of Jewish Orthodoxy in Israel

By Orit Avishai

“One feature that distinguishes religious from other LGBTQ+ movements is that they turn theology into an activist arena . . . But the politics of authenticity is more than a variation on the theme of sameness. Orthodox LBGT persons’ demand that their communities make space for them rests on claims not that they are “like” their heterosexual counterparts but rather they are Orthodox. This claim, in and of itself, presents a radical challenge to social order.³

The Human Rights Campaign

The Human Rights Campaign and Human Rights Campaign Foundation fight to make equality, equity and liberation a reality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. As the nation’s largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, we drive impact by inspiring, engaging and mobilizing millions of pro-equality voters and supporters to elect pro-equality leaders and to demand equity-based policies and legislation; changing hearts and minds through programming that increases understanding, visibility and support for the diverse LGBTQ+ community in all aspects of our identities; and transforming the institutions and systems that shape our everyday lives by advancing LGBTQ+ inclusive policies and practices in schools, workplaces, hospitals, communities and beyond.⁴

² [What Is Queer Biblical Hermeneutics – Queer Bible Hermeneutics](#)

³ *Queering Judaism* by Orit Avishai; pp. 7, 40.

⁴ [HRC | About](#)

The Western Metamorphosis of Post-Brotherhood Islamism

Hussein Aboubakr Mansour (Substack Blog May 12, 2025)

It is within this ideological landscape that Western Islamism learned to speak . . . that provided the discursive grammar through which Islamism could translate itself. Brotherhood-affiliated organizations, actors, and intellectuals gradually mastered this idiom, embedding themselves within institutions already calibrated to elevate voices that claim systemic victimhood. October 7, 2023, did not simply mark a geopolitical crisis. It revealed the internal incoherencies—the moral ambivalences—of the Western progressive consensus. It exposed the degree to which Islamist violence could be misrecognized as resistance, and the degree to which Islamist rhetoric had become legible, even intelligible, within elite spaces.

BHC

January Memorials

In Loving Memory

MURLIN BENTLEY

May 24, 1929
January 20, 1996

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

GLADYS GERALDINE MYERS

October 1, 1916
January 29, 2009

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Their Remembrance

*May their memories inspire us to
seek those qualities of mind and
heart which they shared when we
walked life's journey together.*

*May we help to bring closer to
fulfillment their highest ideals
and noblest strivings.*

*May their memories deepen our
loyalty to those things which we
valued and shared --
faith, love, peace and devotion
and our biblical heritage.*

*As long as we live, they too will
live; for they are now a part of
us, as we remember them.*

(Inspired from prayers found in
Yitzhor Reflections - The New Mahzor
- The Prayer Book Press)

In Loving Memory

JULIE FALLIN KELSOE

January 12, 1960
January 19, 1990

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

HOMER MELTON (DOC) PITNER

October 7, 1914
January 10, 1971

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*