

Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures

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*Catholic Bible Institute – Diocese of Orange
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*Loyola Institute for Spirituality
<http://loyolainstitute.org>*



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- 8:30** *Arrival & Setup*
- 8:45** *Opening Prayer / Initial Announcements*
- 9:00** **Session 1 – Why Was Marcion Wrong?**
- 10:00** *Q & A*
- 10:15** *Break*
- 10:30** **Session 2 – The Rise of the World Empire**
- 11:30** **Group Discussions:** What difference does the social context of living under world empires make to reading the Old Testament?
- 11:45** **Presentation – Whose Bible Is It Anyway?** (Felix Just, S.J.)
- 12:00** *Lunch*
- 1:00** **Session 3 – Ten Essential Dates: Part One**
- 2:00** **Group Discussions:** In what way does the Mosaic Covenant as the basis of Israelite Religion challenge/change Christian ideas about our relationship with God? Does it change anything? Does it challenge us to think differently about the Biblical image of God?
- 2:15** *Break*
- 2:30** **Session 4 – Ten Essential Dates: Part Two**
- 3:30** *Q & A*
- 3:45** *Final Announcements / Closing Prayer*
- 4:00** *Clean-up & Departure*

Catholic Bible Institute – Sept. 6, 2014 – Opening Prayer

Hymn: Your Words Are Spirit and Life (Bernadette Farrell) – Verses 1 & 2 (*next page*)

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Reader: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

This then is the commandment, the statutes and the ordinances, which the LORD, your God, has commanded that you be taught to observe in the land you are about to cross into to possess, so that you, that is, you, your child, and your grandchild, may fear the LORD, your God, by keeping, as long as you live, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly; for the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 1

All/Refrain: *Blessed are they who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked.*

Women: Blessed is they who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the way of sinners,
nor sit in company with scoffers.
Rather, the law of the LORD is their joy;
and on God's law they meditate day and night. **(Refrain)**

Men: They are like a tree planted near streams of water,
that yields its fruit in season;
its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers. **(Refrain)**

Women: But not so are the wicked, not so!
They are like chaff driven by the wind.
Therefore the wicked will not arise at the judgment,
nor will sinners in the assembly of the just.
Because the LORD knows the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin. **(Refrain)**

Intercessions

For the Church: that we may be reconcilers and peacemakers through our words and offer compassionate care to all who are alienated or wounded.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

For all world leaders: may they courageously work to end violence and implement steps to establish just and life-giving societies.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

For all who have fled warfare and violence, particularly the people of Syria, Iraq and South Sudan: that God will guide and sustain them on their journey and open the hearts of many to assist them.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

For us gathered here today and our families: that God may gift to us His peace and radiate through our communities true bonds of friendship and love.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

ALL: Amen.

Pope Francis, 8 June 2014

YOUR WORDS ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE

Bernadette Farrell

Refrain



Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord: rich - er than
gold, strong - er than death. Your words are spir - it and
life, O Lord; life ev - er - last - ing.

Verses



1. God's law is per - fect, re - fresh - ing the soul, re -
2. God's pre - cepts keep us; their pur - pose is right. They
3. Liv - ing by God's truth is ho - ly and sure; God's
4. God's word is pre - cious, de - sired more than gold; worth

1. viv - ing the wea - ry spir - it. God's
2. glad - den the hearts of peo - ple. God's com -
3. pres - ence is ev - er - last - ing. God's
4. more than we dare i - mag - ine and,

1. rule can be trust - ed: bring - ing us wis - dom,
2. mand is so clear it brings us new vi - sion;
3. truth is e - ter - nal, bring - ing us jus - tice;
4. sweet - er than hon - ey, this word will feed us,

to Refrain

1. bring - ing God's wis - dom to birth.
2. bring - ing God's light to our eyes.
3. bring - ing God's jus - tice to earth.
4. bring - ing ful - fill - ment and joy.

Text: Based on Psalm 19:8-11. Text and music © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Catholic Bible Institute – Sept. 6, 2014 – Closing Prayer

CALL TO PRAYER

READING: Leviticus 26:1-6

Reader: A reading from the book of Leviticus.

Do not make idols for yourselves. You shall not erect a carved image or a sacred stone for yourselves, nor shall you set up a carved stone for worship in your land; for I, the LORD, am your God. Keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

If you live in accordance with my statutes and are careful to observe my commandments, I will give you your rains in due season, so that the land will yield its crops, and the trees their fruit; your threshing will last till vintage time, and your vintage till the time for sowing, and you will eat your fill of food, and live securely in your land. I will establish peace in the land, and you will lie down to rest with no one to cause you anxiety. I will rid the country of ravenous beasts, and no sword shall sweep across your land.

The Word of the Lord. *All: Thanks be to God.*

(Pause for silent reflection on the reading.)

RESPONSE: Psalm 119

ALL: Lovers of your law have much peace / for them there is no stumbling block

Men: Seven times a day I praise you / because your judgments are righteous

Women: I look for your salvation, LORD / and I fulfill your commandments.

Men: I observe your testimonies / I love them very much.

Women: I observe your precepts and testimonies / all my ways are before you.

ALL: Lovers of your law have much peace / for them there is no stumbling block

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words “division”, “hatred” and “war” be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be “brother”, and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

ALL: Amen.

by Pope Francis, 8 June 2014

CLOSING SONG: Your Words Are Spirit and Life (refrain twice, from Morning Prayer)