

# THE BIBLE IS THE SAYINGS BOOK

1. In our previous session, we looked at The Bible as being The Book!
2. In particular we looked at The Bible as a scientific book.
3. This session we look at The Bible being The Sayings book.
4. Sayings have always been a part of mankind's existence. Sayings are words that guide our thinking, communicate values and even govern our social interaction to a large extent. The degree to which a societies' sayings are right, balanced, just and fair is the degree to which that society will know the life which God intended for mankind.
5. The word 'saying' or 'sayings' is over 1,400 times in the Bible
6. **Revelation 22:9-10** *Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*
7. **Revenue/ Mart/ Isaiah 23:3** *And by great waters the seed of Sihor, the harvest of the river, is her revenue; and she is a mart of nations.* This demonstrates that the English of the King James Bible set a standard that is in use to this day. The significance is that the King James Bible represents a living language while the so called 'original Greek' represents a long dead language. To this day two very common words are 'revenue' and 'mart'.
8. **Tossed/ thrown out/ Isaiah 22:18** *"He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory shall be the shame of thy lord's house."* To this day, when someone is thrown out of a job, a ball game etc. we call it getting "tossed" or "thrown out".
9. **Eat, drink,... for tomorrow we die./ Isaiah 22:13** *And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die."* This fatalistic saying has been around for all those years. And in English it goes back to the publication of the King James Bible.
10. **Not a straight shooter!/ Psalm 78:57** *"But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow."* A deceitful bow in archery is one that will let you down by not delivering the arrow where you intend it to go. As in not shooting straight. So a person that you cannot count on to be faithful is like a 'deceitful bow'.
11. **Liberty leave/ Acts 27:3** *"liberty" And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.* To this day when a sailor, soldier, etc. are given time off it is often referred to as "liberty".

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12. **That winds it up**/ Acts 5:6 *And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. To this day there are situations in which we refer to one with authority as “your honor”!* This phrase indicates finishing something up and it goes back four hundred years to these men winding up the body of Ananias for burial. We find it used in various situations that have nothing to ‘wind up’ but it indicates finishing the task.
13. **Keeping a watch**/ Matthew 27:65 *Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.* The English of the King James Bible set the pattern for word uses. Here we see that in a multitude of places it is still common to describe those who keep security and observation over things as keeping a ‘watch’. Sailors, soldiers, security and the like keep times assigned to them called ‘watches’.
14. **“half baked”** Hosea 7:8 *Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.* A cake or pancake that doesn’t get turned is ‘half baked’. The use of this saying has a few applications which may include not behaving as is appropriate.
15. **“Good for nothing”**/Matthew 5:13 *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”* Salt has its main value in ‘savor’ or flavor, and if it loses that quality then you can easily picture opening the back door of the kitchen and tossing out the salt into the backyard. To be walked over as if it had no value. It has become “good for nothing”!
16. **“Clean gone”** Psalm 77:8 *Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?* ‘Clean gone’ as if no evidence or trace whatsoever.
17. **“you said it yourself”** Matthew 26:64 *“Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”* Jesus says “you said it yourself” and is putting their words back onto them. And then he goes on to correct the veracity of their own words. Which gives the saying even more power.
18. **“What do you know, anyway?”** Job 15:9 *What knowest thou, that we know not? what understandest thou, which is not in us?* Quippy sayings when people are having a strong difference of opinion are significant and this saying has been passed on through four centuries.

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19. **“Apple of my eye”** *Deuteronomy 32:10/Psalm 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,/Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye./Lamentations 2:18 Zechariah 2:8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.*  
There is a ring to this saying that communicates that the ‘apple of an eye’ is something with special meaning. When we dig a little deeper and find that originally it had reference to the center of one’s eye; as in something that one would protect and highly value; we get it.
20. **“Decently and in order”** *1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”* There may not be any better way to describe how certain things are to be done; since this saying has been passed on for over four hundred years. It is a very descriptive saying.
21. **“Highways and hedges”** *Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*  
In this present day there may well be less than fifty percent of all readers who would know that the saying above comes from a four hundred year old Book! Readers, not those who read the Bible but the everyday person on the street.
22. **“Crystal clear”** / *Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;* Few people would naturally think of a crystal as being clear; for most people have never actually seen a crystal. However, this phrase has, for hundreds of years, both educated and illustrated for its hearers. A child can know that crystal is clear **and** that in eternity there is an amazing sight we will behold. How can a child know this, you say? By simply believing the words of God! And the next time you say, or hear someone say “is that clear?” and the reply is “crystal clear”; remember it all started with the King James Bible four hundred years ago!
23. **“Bite the dust”** *Psalm 72:9 They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.* Many would think that ‘biting the dust’ is a fairly new expression. But, it is not. This saying was written over three thousand years ago and was translated into our King James Bible over four hundred years ago. How amazing!
24. **“the powers that be”** *Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.* Hardly a more descriptive saying could be created. That is why it has continued through the centuries.

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25. **“Thorn in the flesh”** 2 Corinthians 12:7 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.* Again, few things could describe Paul’s situation as this saying does. Larger than a typical splinter, the idea of a thorn stuck into one’s flesh is very illustrative. And I, for one, understood this saying long before I ever had an idea it came from the Bible.
26. **“talented”** Matthew 25:15 *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.* One of the original uses of the word ‘talent’ or ‘talented’ was money. With time any ability that can turn into money became associated with the word ‘talent’! Hence, the interchangeability of the word ‘talent’ with both ability and money.
27. **“Bring me the book”** commanded Sir Walter Scott in his final illness. “What book?” “Need you ask? There is but one.” “The Book” is none other than the Bible!
28. **“The ruin (ruination) of him/them”** 2 Chronicles 28:23 *For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.* Proverbs 24:22 *For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?* It is a common thing to refer to something that led to someone’s trouble and especially severe trouble as contributing to their ‘ruin’.
29. **“the Postal service”** 2 Chronicles 30:6 *So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah ....* So, today it is USPS as United States Postal Service, or Australia Post and the like. Even in technology we ‘post’ news, items, ads etc.. It all began centuries ago and is alive today.
30. **“losing face”** 2 Chronicles 32:21 *And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.* Although most English speakers pick up on the gist of this saying, someone who is learning English might take it to literally mean that someone’s face fell off (which is comical). But this verse of scripture actually gives clear explanation as to what the phrase, saying, means; which is to be shamed and to not want to show one’s face.

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31. **“waste” (as in kill etc) Psalm 91:6** *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.* Most people have a good idea what is meant by the saying “waste someone”. It is used commonly in literature, plays, movies and the like to this day. It is associated with death; especially death by certain means.
32. **“put him down” 2 Chronicles 36:3** *And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in an hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.*  
This saying is used to describe the defeat, dethroning, or the diminishing of someone. I think we all know how frequently this phrase is used even in its more modest form of merely making someone look like less than others think of them or than they think of themselves.
33. **“to give a grant” Ezra 3:7** *They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.* The distribution of funds for various activities such as education, research, charitable projects, etc. is used to describe what we find in Ezra’s day. Hence the enduring nature of the King James Bible.

As you read through your Bible keep a keen ear and eye out for sayings and make a note in the margin of your Bible and follow it up with keeping a keen eye and ear out while you go through your days. You may well be surprised how many ‘sayings’ you will connect between your Bible and daily life.