Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Pastor Pete

January 6, 2019

**“A History of Ancient Writing”**

**I. The Roots and History of Writing and Alphabets**

God communicated his special revelation (what we call the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) to his creation via writing! When did communicating move from pictures and hieroglyphics to a formed alphabet forming words and sentences? The alphabet was invented after early writing systems had been based on pictographic symbols known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or as cuneiforms, produced by pressing a stylus into soft clay. Because these methods required a plethora of symbols to identify each and every word, writing was complex and limited to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of highly-trained scribes. Sometime between 1850 and 1700 B.C., a group of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-speaking people adapted a subset of Egyptian hieroglyphics to represent the sounds of their language. This Proto-Sinaitic script is often considered the first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ writing system, where unique symbols stood for single consonants (vowels were omitted). Written from right to left and spread by Phoenician maritime merchants who occupied part of modern Lebanon, Syria and Israel, this consonantal alphabet consisted of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ symbols simple enough for ordinary traders to learn and draw, making its use much more accessible and widespread. By the 8th century B.C., the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ alphabet had spread to Greece, where it was refined and enhanced to record the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ language. Some Phoenician characters were kept, and others were removed, but the paramount innovation was the use of letters to represent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Many scholars believe it was this addition—which allowed text to be read and pronounced without ambiguity—that marked the creation of the first “true” alphabet. By the 5th century B.C., the direction for Greek had settled into the pattern we use today, from left to right. Over time, the Greek alphabet gave rise to several other alphabets, including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which became the precursor of most modern alphabets.

**II. A History of the English Language**

Unlike languages that developed within the boundaries of one country (or one distinct geographical region), English, since its beginnings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or so years ago, evolved by crossing boundaries and through invasions, picking up bits and pieces of other languages along the way. The history of the English language started with the arrival of three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and northern \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders, mainly into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Scotland and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Old English got mixed up with Old Norse, the language of the Viking tribes. Old Norse ended up giving English more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ new words, including “give” and “take”, “egg”, “husband”, “run”. English was spoken widely on the British Isles and by 1,000 AD, the Norman invasion established \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the language of the royals. Old English was left to the peasants, and despite its less glamorous status, it continued to develop and grow by adopting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and French words, including words such as “city”, “fruit” and “people”, as well as half of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the year. In the 14th-15th century, following the Hundred Years War with France that ended French rule of the British Isles, English became the language of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It got a further boost through the development of English literature and English culture, spearheaded by William \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. His influence on the development of the English language and its unique and rich culture is hard to grasp; he is said to have invented at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ words, including “alligator”, “puppy dog”, and “fashionable”, in addition to penning classics like Romeo & Juliet and Hamlet. Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Printing also brought standardization to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the English-speaking world was at the center of a lot of scientific progress, scientific advances. From around 1600, the English colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American variety of English. Spanish also had an influence on American English, with words like ranch, stampede and vigilante being examples of Spanish words brought through the settlement of the American West. French words (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and West African words (slave trade) influenced American English. Today, American English is particularly influential, due to the USA’s dominance of cinema, television, music and technology (including the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). There are many other varieties of English, for example Australia, Canada, South Africa, India and the Caribbean have their own English dialects.

**III. Important Doctrines of the Old Testament**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Universe and of Man
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Humanity
3. World-wide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Creation of Nations and Languages
5. Establishment and Reiteration of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Covenant
6. Messianic Prophecy and the Maintenance of the Line of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Exodus from Egypt
8. Conquest and Settlement of Canaan
9. Establishment of the Davidic Covenant
10. Construction of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem
11. Prophecy of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Covenant
12. Daniel’s End Times Prophecy
13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Establishes the Old Testament Scriptures

**IV. Understanding the Hebrew Language**

After the Tower of Babel, the descendants of Japheth traveled north with their language, the descendants of Ham traveled southwest with their language and the Semites traveled west with their language. What was the one language spoken prior to the Tower of Babel? When God created Adam, he spoke to him (Genesis 2:16) indicating that God gave Adam a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When we look at all the names of Adam's descendent we find that all the names from Adam to Noah and his children are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ names. For instance, Methuselah (Genesis 5:21) is Hebrew for "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" (The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occurred the year that he died). It is not until we come to Noah's grandchildren that we find names that are of a language other than Hebrew. For instance, the name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 11:18), who was from Babylon/Sumer/Shinar is a non-Hebrew name. According to the biblical record of names, Adam and his descendants spoke Hebrew. The first mention of a Hebrew is in Genesis 14:13 where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is identified as a "Hebrew”. In Exodus 2:6 Moses is identified as one of the "Hebrews" and throughout the Hebrew Bible the children of Israel are often identified as "Hebrews." The language called "Hebrew" is never called "Hebrew" in the Hebrew Bible, but is instead referred to as the "Language of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 19:18) and the "Language of Judah". After the time of King David, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. The northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians around 740 BC and the southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity about 570 BC.  During their captivity in Babylon, the Hebrews continued to speak the Hebrew language, but instead of writing the language with the Hebrew script they adopted the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ square script to write the Hebrew language and the Hebrew script was used on a very limited basis such as biblical scrolls and coins. When the Hebrews returned to the land of Israel it was believed that the Hebrews had abandoned the Hebrew language and instead spoke the Aramaic language, the language of their captors in Babylon. One of the most compelling evidences for the continued use of Hebrew into the 2nd Century A.D. is a letter from the Jewish General Simon Bar Kockba, which is dated at 135 A.D., which he wrote during the second Jewish revolt against Rome. This letter, along with many others, was written in Hebrew, establishing the fact that Hebrew was still the language of the Jewish people, even into the second century AD. When the Jews, led by Simon Bar Kockba, were defeated in the revolt of 135 AD the Jews were expulsed from the land and dispersed around the world initiating the Diaspora. At this point most Jews adopted the language of the country they resided in, but Hebrew continued to be spoken in the synagogues and Yeshivas (religious schools) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the teaching and studying of the Torah and the Talmud.

**1/13 “The Old Testament Manuscripts”**