

对语言的不解与误解,往往源自对其背景文化的无知

英 汉 对 照



基督教

与

圣经

Christianity & the Bible

■ 郝澎 / 编著

你不可不知道的

英语学习背景知识

ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS



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基督教与圣经

Christianity & the Bible



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前言

PREFACE

基督教是世界上信徒最多、分布最广的宗教。基督教发源于巴勒斯坦，最初传入欧洲时，与希腊罗马文化格格不入。但经过数百年的碰撞和摩擦，基督教与希腊罗马文化逐渐融合，最终进入西方文化的主流。今天，基督教仍是西方文化的重要组成部分，渗透到西方各国的政治、经济、价值体系、风俗习惯等各个领域。诚如塞缪尔·亨廷顿所说，“西方的基督教……从历史上说是西方文明惟一最重要的特征。”从某种意义上可以说，不了解基督教，就不能真正理解西方文化。

《圣经》是基督教的经典，基督教文化的支柱。它不仅仅是一部宗教经典，它也是一部内容丰富、包罗万象的百科全书。它对西方各民族的思想、心理和文化色彩有着全方位的影响。西方传统的思维特色、主题特色、乃至语言特色，在很大程度上源于《圣经》。《圣经》是历史，它记录了中东地区，特别是古代犹太人的历史；《圣经》是哲学，它包含着许多古代民族对人生的意义和宇宙起源、发展以及归宿的哲学思索；《圣经》是文学，它是神话、故事、格言、诗歌的宝藏，为欧美文学、17世纪和18世纪的欧洲音乐、文艺复兴及巴洛克时期的绘画与雕塑提供了无穷无尽的题材。《圣经》还是典故的宝库，它是西方成语的最大来源。不了解《圣经》，不但不能理解基督教和西方文化，而且不利于对西方语言（包括英语）的学习和运用。

本书第一大部分介绍基督教起源、发展、各主要教派以及基督教圣徒等。第二大部分介绍《圣经》。本书旨在拓宽英语学习者眼界，扩大知识面，因而只选取《圣经》中最为人熟知、最有趣的故事，并只叙述梗概。故事性不强的部分，一概从略。若想准确了解《圣经》全貌，建议读原文。

本书英文的编写原则是语言简明平实、通俗易懂，使广大英语爱好者不必借助字典就读懂大部分内容，也为英语教师的教学提供便利。为便于学习，我们还提供了译文。由于大部分读者与基督教和《圣经》较隔膜，我们插入了一些“题外话”，提供相关知识，开阅读者视野，启发读者思考，并随时点出英语成语的出处。

编者为研究西方文化曾在国外考察过某些基督教教派，有些切身感受，也研读过《圣经》，但毕竟不是此领域的专家。本书中若有疏漏，望专家和广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者

2005 年 1 月

目录 Contents

PART I

CHRISTIANITY

基督教

- | | | |
|---|------------|----|
| 1. An Overview of Christianity | 基督教概观 | 1 |
| 2. Christian Beliefs | 基督教基本信仰 | 2 |
| 3. The Origin of Christianity | 基督教的起源 | 4 |
| 4. Monasticism | 隐修 | 7 |
| 5. The Growth of the Church Power | 教会势力的增强 | 8 |
| 6. The Split Between the Eastern and Western Churches | 东西方教会的大分裂 | 10 |
| 7. The Conflict Between the Church and the State | 教会与世俗权力的冲突 | 10 |
| 8. The Inquisition | 异端裁判所 | 11 |
| 9. Scholasticism | 经院哲学 | 13 |
| 10. The Crusades | 十字军远征 | 14 |
| 11. The Decline of Papal Authority | 教皇势力的衰落 | 16 |
| 12. The Reformation | 宗教改革运动 | 17 |
| 13. The Counter Reformation | 反宗教改革运动 | 24 |
| 14. Christianity in Modern Times | 基督教在现代 | 26 |

PART II

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

天主教

- | | | |
|---|-------|----|
| 1. An Overview of the Roman Catholic Church | 天主教概观 | 28 |
|---|-------|----|

2. Catholic Beliefs	天主教的信仰	30
3. The Seven Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church	天主教的七大圣事	31
4. Organization of the Roman Catholic Church	天主教的组织机构	36
5. Catholic Religious Orders	天主教修会	40
6. Other Characteristics of the Roman Catholic Church	天主教的其他特点	43
7. The Modernization of the Roman Catholic Church	天主教的现代化	46

PART III

THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

东正教

1. An Overview of the Eastern Orthodox Churches	东正教概观	48
2. Organization of the Eastern Orthodox Churches	东正教的教会组织	50
3. Beliefs of the Eastern Orthodox Churches	东正教的信仰	51
4. Sacraments of the Eastern Orthodox Churches	东正教的圣事	52
5. Other Characteristics of the Eastern Orthodox Churches	东正教的其他特点	54

PART IV

THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES

基督教新教

1. An Overview of the Protestant Churches	基督教新教概观	57
2. Protestant Beliefs	新教的信仰	58
3. Protestant Worship Services	新教的礼仪	59
4. Lutheran Churches	信义宗	60
5. The Presbyterian and Reformed Churches	长老宗和归正宗	61
6. Anglican Churches	安立甘宗	64
7. The Church of England	英国国教	65
8. The Book of Common Prayer	《公祷书》	67
9. The Congregational Churches	公理宗	67

10. Baptist Churches	浸礼宗	69
11. Methodist Churches	循道宗	70
12. Mennonites	门诺派	72
13. The Society of Friends	公谊会	75
14. The Salvation Army	救世军	79

PART V

DEBATABLE RELIGIOUS BODIES

有争议的教派

1. The Unitarian Universalist Church	神体一位普世派	81
2. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	后期圣徒教(摩门教)	84
3. Jehovah's Witnesses	耶和华见证人派	88
4. Christian Science	基督教科学派	91
5. The Seventh-Day Adventist	第七日复临派	93
6. Pentecostal Churches	五旬节派教会	95

PART VI

CHRISTIAN SAINTS

基督教圣徒

1. Christian Saints	基督教圣徒	98
2. Saint Andrew	圣安得烈	101
3. Saint Anthony	圣安东尼	103
4. Saint Thomas Becket	圣托马斯·贝克特	105
5. Saint Cecilia	圣塞西利亚	107
6. Saint Christopher	圣克里斯托弗	108
7. Saint Francis of Assisi	阿西西的圣方济各	109
8. Saint George	圣乔治	111
9. Saint John the Baptist	施洗者圣约翰	114

10. Saint Nicholas	圣尼古拉	116
11. Saint Patrick	圣帕特里克	118
12. Saint Paul	圣保罗	120
13. Saint Peter	圣彼得	122
14. Saint Sebastian	圣塞巴斯蒂安	125
15. Saint Thomas	圣多马	126

PART VII

ANGELS, SATAN, HEAVEN, HELL AND PURGATORY

天使、撒旦、天堂、地狱与炼狱

1. Angels	天使	128
2. Satan	撒旦	130
3. Heaven, Hell and Purgatory	天堂、地狱与炼狱	132

PART VIII

THE BIBLE

《圣经》

1. An Overview of the Bible	《圣经》概观	135
2. Translations of the Bible	《圣经》的翻译	136

PART IX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

《旧约》

1. An Overview of the Old Testament	《旧约》概观	140
2. The Story of the Creation	创世故事	142
3. The Story of Adam and Eve	亚当与夏娃的故事	143



4. The Story of Cain and Abel	该隐和亚伯的故事	147
5. Noah and the Ark	挪亚与方舟	148
6. The Tower of Babel	巴别塔	150
7. The Story of Abraham	亚伯拉罕的故事	151
8. The Story of Esau and Jacob	以扫与雅各的故事	155
9. The Story of Joseph and His Brothers	约瑟和他的兄弟们的故事	158
10. The Story of Moses	摩西的故事	164
11. The Story of Joshua	约书亚的故事	173
12. The Story of Samson	参孙的故事	175
13. The Story of Ruth	路得的故事	178
14. The Story of David	大卫的故事	179
15. The Story of Solomon	所罗门的故事	186
16. The Story of Elijah and Elisha	以利亚和以利沙的故事	189
17. Babylonian Captivity	巴比伦之囚	191
18. The Story of Daniel	但以理的故事	194
19. The Story of Esther	以斯帖的故事	198
20. The Story of Job	约伯的故事	200
21. The Book of Proverbs	《箴言》	203
22. Ecclesiastes	《传道书》	205
23. The Song of Solomon	《雅歌》	208
24. The Story of Jonah	约拿的故事	210

PART X

THE NEW TESTAMENT

《新约》

1. An Overview of the New Testament	《新约》概观	213
2. Jesus Christ	耶稣基督	215
3. The Birth of Jesus	耶稣降生	217
4. Jesus' Baptism and Temptation	耶稣的洗礼与受到的试探	221

5. Jesus' Ministry	耶稣传道	222
6. Jesus' Miracles	耶稣行的神迹	223
7. Jesus' Parables	耶稣的比喻	226
8. The Sermon on the Mount	山上宝训	229
9. The Beatitudes	论福	231
10. A High Standard Jesus Set for His Followers	耶稣对门徒们提出的高要求	232
11. The Lord's Prayer	主祷文	236
12. The Death of John the Baptist	施洗者约翰之死	238
13. The Story About the Rich Young Man	青年财主的故事	240
14. The Story of the Good Samaritan	好心的撒马利亚人的故事	241
15. The Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem	光荣进入耶路撒冷	243
16. The Story of the Woman Caught in Adultery	行淫妇人的故事	247
17. Jesus' Answer to the Questions About Paying Taxes	耶稣回答纳税问题	249
18. The Last Supper	最后的晚餐	250
19. The Arrest of Jesus	耶稣被捕	251
20. The Trial of Jesus	耶稣受审	253
21. The Crucifixion	耶稣被钉上十字架	254
22. The Resurrection	耶稣复活	256
23. The Early Christians	早期基督徒	258
24. Paul's Teaching on Christian Love	保罗论基督徒之爱	258

PART XI

THE APOCRYPHA

《圣经后典》

1. The Apocrypha	《圣经后典》	260
2. The Story of Judith	犹迪的故事	261
3. The Story of Susanna	苏珊娜的故事	263



APPENDIX

附录

RELIGIONS IN THE UK AND THE USA

英国和美国的宗教

1. Religions in the United Kingdom of Great Britain 英国的宗教 266■
2. Religions in the United States of America 美国的宗教 269■



PART I

Christianity

基督教

1. An Overview of Christianity

基督教概观

Christianity is the religion of all Christians. Most Christians belong to one of three major branches of Christianity — the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Churches or Protestant churches. These branches have different beliefs about Jesus and his teachings, but all consider Jesus central to their religion. Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God and was sent by God into the world as the Savior of mankind.

According to the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus Christ was a Jew who lived in what is now Palestine in the first century. Jesus preached and performed miracles, and many people believed in him and followed him. Since some of the things he taught were in conflict with traditional Jewish laws and beliefs, at the request of the Jewish religious leaders, the Romans killed him by nailing him to a cross. Jesus' followers were convinced that he returned to life after his death, and they soon spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Today, Christians make up over one third of the world's population. Christianity is the major

基督教是全体基督的宗教。大多数基督徒属于基督教的三大教派——天主教、东正教和新教。这些教派对于耶稣本人及其教诲的观点不尽相同，但都将耶稣视为立教之本。基督徒认为耶稣是上帝之子，上帝派遣他到人世拯救人类。

据《圣经·新约》，耶稣是个犹太人，公元1世纪生活在巴勒斯坦。他向众人传道、行神迹，很多人信仰他，成为他的门徒。由于他宣讲的某些教义与正统的犹太教的律法和教义相抵触，在犹太教祭司们的强烈要求下，当时统治巴勒斯坦的罗马人将他钉死在十字架上。耶稣的门徒们相信耶稣死后复活，不久便将基督教传遍罗马帝国。现在，基督徒约占世界人口的三分之一强，主



religion in Europe, the Americas and Australia. It also has followers in Africa and Asia.

The teachings of Christianity have had a lasting effect on the conduct and social relations of the Western people. Christianity has had an enormous influence on Western civilization, especially on philosophy, literature, art and music.

题外话

据最新统计,世界几个较大宗教的信徒人数如下:基督徒约19亿人,穆斯林约12亿人,印度教徒约7亿5000万人,佛教徒3亿人。

某些英美人在写作中用代词指上帝或耶稣时,喜欢用大写的 He, Him, His, Who 等,但也有很

要分布在欧洲、南北美洲和大洋洲。亚洲和非洲也有不少基督徒。

基督教的教义在西方人的行为准则与人际关系上留下了难以磨灭的印记。基督教对西方文明,特别是哲学、文学、美术与音乐产生过重大影响。

多人用小写。指上帝、耶稣和圣母的其他名词,则须大写,如 God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the Creator, the Saviour, the Madonna and Child, Our Lady 等。

2



2. Christian Beliefs

Most Christians share some of the basic beliefs, no matter how their doctrines may seem to be different:

They believe that there is one God, who created the universe and is almighty in ruling over all that are in heaven and on earth, and morally fair in judgment over good and evil, and who, above all, loves mankind and is merciful to them.

They believe in the Trinity, the doctrine that in one God there are three Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost). They believe that God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world as the Savior of mankind, and that after Jesus' earthly life, God remained present on earth

基督教基本信仰

各基督教派的信条虽有差异,但大多数基督徒有着共同的基本信仰。

他们相信上帝是惟一的神;上帝创造了宇宙;上帝是全能的,他统辖宇宙间的一切;上帝是正义的,明辨是非善恶;最重要的是,他爱人类,对人类慈悲为怀。

他们相信三位一体的教义,即上帝具有圣父、圣子和圣灵三个位格。他们相信上帝派遣圣子耶稣拯救世人,耶稣复活升天后,上帝仍以圣灵的



in the form of the Holy Spirit.

They regard Jesus as God who took on the human appearance and characteristics of a man. They believe that Jesus is the Saviour who died to save humanity from sin, making their salvation and eternal life possible.

They believe that God intended them to worship together in groups, that is, in churches, so that they can encourage one another to lead upright lives according to God's moral law.

They think that it is important that when people become members of a church, a ceremony called baptism should be held for them, in which they are sprinkled or covered with water as a symbol that sin is washed away.

They also accept the Eucharist, also called

形式继续存在于世间。

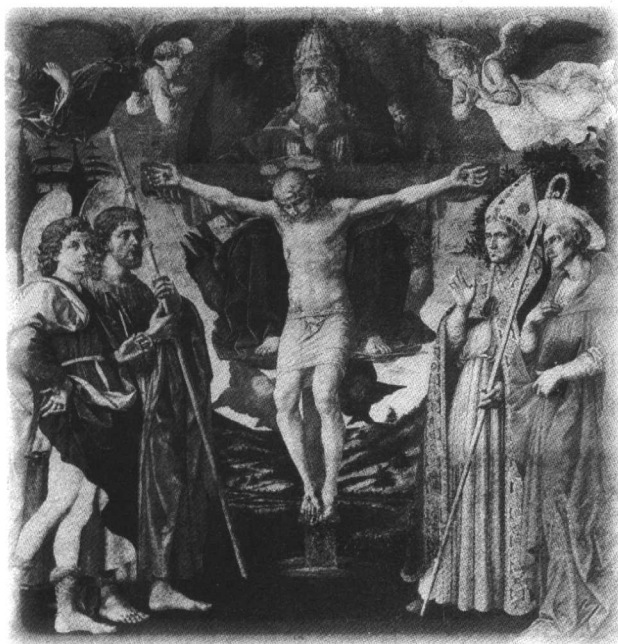
他们认为上帝取肉身而成耶稣，即具有了凡人的相貌与特性，但仍是神。耶稣是救世主，他的受难使人类从罪孽中解脱，得到拯救并获得永生。

他们相信上帝要他们组成教会团体，以便相互督促，遵照上帝之规过正直有德的生活。

他们认为入教时应接受洗礼，在额上洒水或全身浸入水中，象征“原罪”的免除。

他们重视圣餐（或称“神交圣礼”），相信通过分食代表耶稣的体与血的饼和酒，与基督“融合为一”。

他们视《圣经》为圣书，



三位一体与四圣徒



基督受洗

Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper, as an important ceremony, in which Christians share bread and wine as a sign of their unity with each other and with Jesus.

They hold the Bible as sacred writings and inspired by God. They base many of their beliefs and customs on the teachings found in the Bible, especially in the New Testament, a collection of Christian writings added to the Jewish holy books known as the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible.

3. The Origin of Christianity

The founder of Christianity was Jesus. When he began to preach at the age of thirty, Jesus announced that the kingdom of God, or the rule of God, was at hand, and people should feel sorry for their sinful ways to get ready for the kingdom. As a preacher, Jesus followed the Jewish doctrine of the Old Testament but carried the message of love and humanity much further, making them apply to all men and not only to the Jews.

According to the Bible, while preaching, Jesus performed many miracles, healing the sick and even bringing the dead back to life. Many people believed in him and followed him. Jesus' popularity alarmed Jewish officials. They accused Jesus of disrespect for God, and demanded that he should be put to death. The Roman officials crucified Jesus as a criminal.

为上帝之言。他们的许多信仰与习俗以《圣经》上的教诲为依据。《圣经·旧约》是基督教从犹太教继承下来的经典，而《新约》则是基督教新增的经典，故更受基督徒的重视。

基督教的起源

基督教的创始人是耶稣。他在大约 30 岁时开始传教，宣称天国即将降临，人们应当悔改，为进天国做准备。在传教时，耶稣仍以《旧约》的犹太教义为本，但同时将其中的仁爱思想发扬光大，使之不但适用于犹太人，而且适用于所有其他人。

根据《圣经》，耶稣在传教的同时也行了很多神迹，使病人康复，甚至使死人复活。许多人相信他的话，成了它的追随者。耶稣的号召力使犹太官员们感到不安。他们指控耶稣渎神，要求处死他。后来罗马官员将他作为罪犯钉死在十字架



The followers of Jesus believed that Jesus came back to life after his death and later rose to heaven. Jesus' Resurrection (coming back to life) convinced his followers that he was not only the one who announced the coming of the kingdom of God, but also the Messiah, the Saviour of the Jewish people promised in the Old Testament, who would come to earth to save the people. They believed that through his death and Resurrection, Jesus began to free the human race from all suffering and evil. His followers also believed that he would come again to complete the work he had begun.

Jesus had chosen 12 men, known as the apostles, to preach after his death the good news of the approaching kingdom of God. According to the New Testament, about 50 days after the Crucifixion (Jesus death on the Cross), the Holy Spirit had entered the apostles and given them the ability to speak foreign languages. This ability enabled them to spread Jesus' teachings to all lands.

Peter, the leader of the apostles, became an authority among the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

The apostle Paul was the most important figures in early Christianity. He was the greatest missionary of Christianity and its first theologian. He made several journeys to many cities throughout the eastern Mediterranean within 30 years after the death of Jesus, and everywhere he persuaded the people to become Christians and helped them set up churches. He did a lot in spreading Christianity to non-Jewish people.

耶稣的追随者们相信耶稣死而复生，后来升入天国。耶稣的复活使他们确信他不仅仅是预言天国临近的先知，而且确是弥赛亚，即《旧约》里应许的犹太人的救世主，他为拯救世人而将降临于世上。他们相信，耶稣通过他的死和复活，使人类开始摆脱苦难与罪恶。他们还认为耶稣将再度降临，完成他的未竟之业。

耶稣挑选了 12 个门徒在他死后继续宣讲天国临近的福音。据《新约》所说，耶稣被钉上十字架后大约 50 天，圣灵降临于诸门徒，使他们有了说异邦语言的能力。借助这一能力，他们将耶稣的教诲传播到各地。

众门徒之首彼得成为耶路撒冷犹太基督徒的宗教首领。

使徒保罗是基督教创立之初的最重要人物。他是一个伟大的基督教传教士和首位神学家。在耶稣死后的 30 年里，他数度远游，前往地中海东部很多城市传教。所到之处，他劝说人们改信基督，帮助他们建立教会。他对基督教在非犹太人当中的传播做出了重要贡献。

在基督教创立之初，罗马统治者认为这一新生宗教对政权构成威胁，因而残酷迫害基

