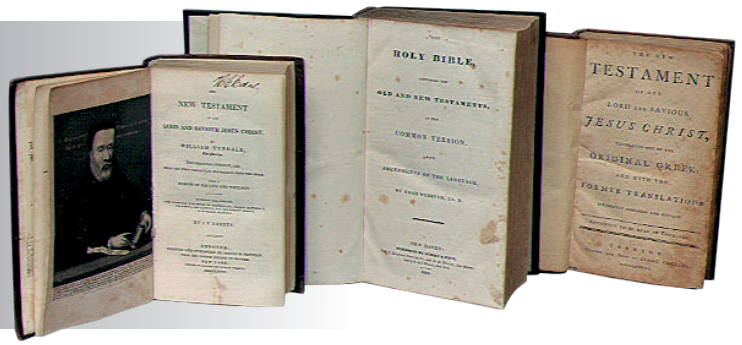


# Dunham Bible Museum NEWS



Houston Christian University

Fall 2025

Volume 23 Issue 1

## Bible Museum Lecture Will Be Out of This World

Astronaut Barry Wilmore will deliver the Dunham Bible Museum Lecture on Thursday, November 20, at 7pm in Belin Chapel. Astronaut Wilmore, along with Astronaut Sunita Williams, was stranded for over eight months on the International Space Station. The astronauts had launched to the Space Station June 5, 2024, expecting to spend eight days on the Station. However, the thrusters on the Starliner transport malfunctioned when it docked on the Space Station, and NASA felt it was too risky to use the Starliner to return the astronauts to earth. Not until March 18, 2025, did Wilmore and Williams return to earth aboard the Space X Dragon.

When a reporter asked Wilmore what life lesson he learned on his extended mission, he replied, "I can tell you honestly, my feeling on all of this goes back to my faith. It's bound in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is working out his plan and

his purposes for his glory throughout all of humanity. And how that plays into our lives is significant and important, and however that plays out, I am content because I understand that." Pointing to Hebrews

11, Wilmore confidently said, "I understand that he's at work in all things, some things are for the good and some things look to us to be not so good. But it's all working out for His good, for all those that will believe."

During his months in space, Wilmore was able to keep in touch with his family and church through the Space Station's communication system. An elder at Providence Baptist Church in Pasadena, Wilmore was able to join the church's services while he was orbiting the earth. Throughout his time in space Wilmore found what he had long believed – God's Word is sufficient. Come join us on November 20 to hear first hand of Astronaut Wilmore's astronomical faith.



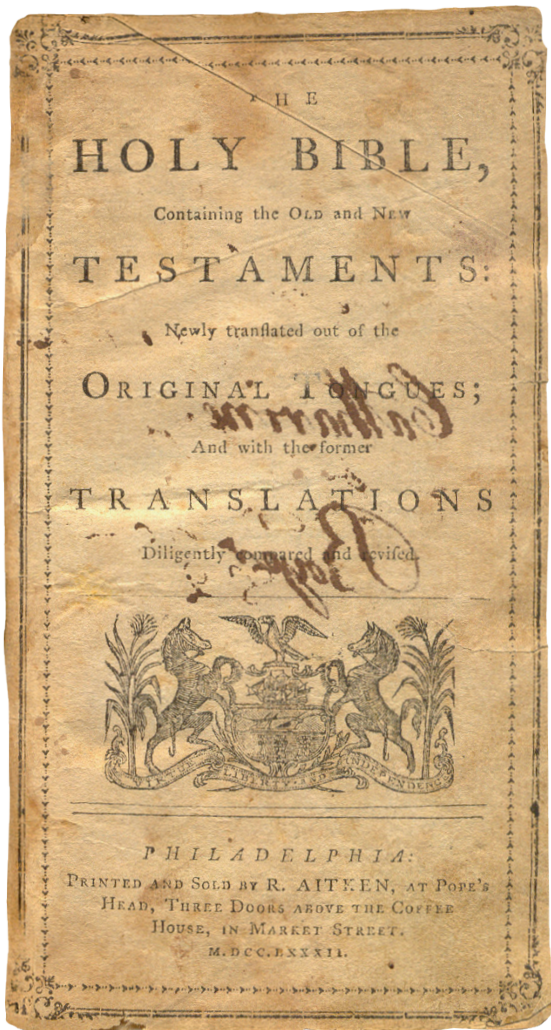
*Astronaut Barry Wilmore will be the  
Dunham Bible Museum Lecturer;  
Thursday, November 20 at 7 pm in Belin Chapel*

***Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea.  
Even there Your hand shall lead me. And Your right hand shall hold me.***

PSALM 139:8-10

# National Day of the Bible

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*Title Page of 1782 Aitken Bible in Dunham Bible Museum*

Congressmen Michael Cloud of Texas and Glenn Thompson of Pennsylvania have introduced a joint resolution in Congress to designate September 12th as the National Day of the Bible. It was on September 12, 1782, that the Continental Congress in Philadelphia approved the first English Bible printed in America.

During the colonial period it was against the law to print an English Bible in America. Printing of the Bible was under the license of the King, and printing an English was not permitted in the colonies. When a shortage of Bibles arose during the Revolution, Philadelphia printer Robert Aitken printed a number of small New Testaments. In January 1782, Aitken asked Congress' approval and support for printing a complete Bible. Chaplains of Congress inspected and approved the work Aitken had done, and Congress passed a resolution approving the printing.

Aitken printed the Congressional Resolution approving the Bible at the front of the Bible:

"Whereupon, Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interest of religion as well an instance of the progress of art in this country, and being satisfied from the above report of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper. Cha. Thomson Sec'y"

Though 10,000 copies of Aitken's "Bible of the Revolution" were published, copies are very rare today, with more copies of Gutenberg's Bible remaining than Aitken's! Its rarity is also marked because it remains the only Bible ever printed specifically approved by Congress. In the opening pages of the Bible, Aitken reprinted the Chaplains' report on the Bible and Congress's approval of it on September 12, 1782.

It is this significant moment in American history that the National Day of the Bible is intended to mark. It will encourage schools, civic institutions and communities to observe the day with programing that highlights the Bible's significance in our nation's history. Congressman Cloud noted, "More than any other source, our Founders cite Scripture as the source for the principles upon which our nation is established. Today we're seeing renewal in our culture and a return to the values that once anchored us...Marking this day reminds us that the Bible is not only the bedrock of our liberty, but the living Word of God that continues to guide us as a people."

The Resolution calling for the National Day of the Bible notes that "the Bible has long been a foundational text in shaping the moral, cultural, and spiritual heritage of the United States." It calls for the President to "issue each year a proclamation designating September 12th as National Bible Day, on which the people of the United States may observe this day and participate in activities that highlight the Bible's significance in our nation's past and present."

The resolution is supported by a number of organizations, including the American Principles Project, HOPE to the Hill, Family Policy Alliance Foundation, Family Research Council, First American Bible Project, Intercessors for America, National Association of Christian Lawmakers, National Religious Broadcasters, and Wallbuilders.



# Bible Translation by Charles Thomson, Secretary to Congress



*Charles Thomson. Secretary of the  
Continental Congress, 1774-1789*

Charles Thomson (1729-1824) made the first English translation of the New Testament published in America and the first translation of the Septuagint into the English language. Thomson was Secretary of Congress during the American Revolution and was the only person who signed the original Declaration of Independence with President John Hancock. He also was responsible for designing the Great Seal of the United States, which continues in use today with minor changes.

After the adoption of the Constitution, Thomson resigned from Congress and spent 20 years working on his Bible translation. He copied and corrected the manuscript four times, then had it published by Jane Aitken, daughter of printer Robert Aitken and the first woman to print any part of the Bible in America. Interestingly, the name "Cha. Thomson" appears as the signer of the Congressional resolution in the front of the 1782 Bible published by Robert Aitken, the first complete English Bible printed in America. Thomson also published *A Synopsis of the Four Evangelists, or a Regular History of the Conception, Birth, Doctrine, Miracles, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ, in the Words of the Evangelists*.



*Title Page to Charles Thomson's translation,  
printed in 1803, in the Dunham Bible Museum*



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**ASTRONAUT BARRY WILMORE**  
**Dunham Bible Museum Lecture**  
**November 20, 7 pm**  
**Belin Chapel**

***Current Special Exhibits***

- ♣ Celebrating the life of Jesus, the Christ: Three Centuries of Bible Art
- ♣ The Treasured Word
- ♣ Out of this World – the Bible on the Moon

The Dunham Bible Museum's regular exhibits include:

- Bible manuscripts
- American Bibles
- Early printed Bibles
- *The St. John's Bible*
- English bibles
- Foreign Bible translations

...all designed to show the Bible's history, influence, and impact.

The Dunham Bible Museum is OPEN 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Monday – Saturdays, except University holidays.

**To make an appointment for group tours, or for further information, contact Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or dseverance@hc.edu**



Visit our website at [www.hc.edu/biblemuseum](http://www.hc.edu/biblemuseum)  
There you will find virtual tours of the Museum's exhibits, past and present, as well as videos of past lectures and much more.



***Become a Friend***

The Dunham Bible Museum Friends support the programs and collections of the Museum through annual contributions and participation in Museum events. Friends have the satisfaction that their tax deductible gift will benefit the Dunham Bible Museum, enabling it to achieve its goal of being a premier museum dedicated to the Bible, its message, history, and influence. All Friends will receive year-long benefits of a printed subscription to the Dunham Bible Museum News, invitations to exhibit openings, and a discount on Museum store purchases. Visit the Museum's website ([hc.edu/biblemuseum](http://hc.edu/biblemuseum)) for the membership form.

On your next Dunham Bible Museum visit, try out our audio tour using your cell phone!