

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

EPISODE 16: MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

LESSONS ON LANGUAGE

CONTEXT

We continue to dive into the “how” of studying scripture and provide you with tools to help you in your personal study. The Bible was written to specific groups of people in specific languages. Our Bibles today are translations of original languages. In determining how to study scripture, you need to have an understanding of how the Bible was written in the first place.

The Bible’s Languages

- a) The Old Testament is largely written in Hebrew. The New Testament largely written in Greek. Both include a third language important to know: Aramaic.
- b) Hebrew-belongs to what is called the Semetic language group (which is in essence Middle Eastern language group)
 - 1) Reads right to left
 - 2) A guttural language (throaty pronunciations).
 - 3) Examples
 - (1) *Shalom*-peace (Judges 6:24)
 - (2) *Hesed*-faithfulness (Exodus 34:6)
 - (3) *Yeshua*-Joshua God is my Salvation (Jesus as Yeshua and “Woke Christians”?)
Arguing about the wrong name (Translation vs. Transliteration)-*Mashiach*-the anointed one) (same root found in Exodus 15:2)
- c) Aramaic-Not as prominent as other two, but Jews in exile picked up on the language from Persian empire. Most 1st Century Jews spoke it as default language.
 - 1) Targum-translation of Hebrew Bible into Aramaic read in synagogues.
 - 2) Aramaic words appear in both Old and New Testament
 - 3) Examples:
 - (1) Jesus words to a young girl who died (Mark 5:38-43);
 - (2) Jesus words from the Cross (Mark 15:33-35);
 - (3) Paul’s words as he closes 1 Corinthians (1 Cor 16:-21-22)
- d) Koine Greek
 - 1) Common Greek (as opposed to classical)-God used the common language of the day, spread by Roman authorities to communicate the truth of the Gospel.
 - 2) God speaks to his people in the language they understand. (Romans 8:28)
 - 3) Many of our English words derive from Greek.
 - 4) Examples:
 - 5) Acrobat-from Greek *arki-baino* (meaning “to walk on the edge”)
 - 6) *phobia*-from Greek *phobos* (meaning “fear”) (Mark 4:35-41)
- e) Note: The Septuagint (from the word meaning 70, sometimes abbreviated LXX; 70 Hebrew scholars translated it)-The Greek translation of the Old Testament.

- f) Important to understand big picture on languages, because word meanings matter in study. And knowing their meaning in context is important.

Translations-What's In Your Hands?

- a) According to Wycliffe Bible Translators the Bible has now been translated from the original languages into 717 different languages. include a third language important to know: Aramaic.
- b) There are several different English translations. Is there a right version of the Bible?
- c) They range in translation from Word-For-Word to what's called Dynamic.
 - 1) Word-For-Word-tries to get as close to the original meaning of the text as possible.
 - (1) KJV (1611)-tried and true. Still most popular in Black church. Some KJV saints out there. Could prove difficult to read with 17th Century language.
 - (2) ESV (2001)-accuracy and readability and highly popular today.
 - (3) NASB (1995)-accurate and readable.
 - 2) Dynamic-uses words that are dynamic or functional equivalents of the words in the original text for easier reading.
 - (1) NIV (1978)-balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought
 - (2) NLT (1996)-mixture of word-for-word and thought-for-thought
 - (3) The Message (2002) - thought-for-thought paraphrase and uses more modern-day tones and rhythms
 - 3) **Example: 1 Thessalonians 2: 12**
 - (1) *"That ye would **walk worthy of God**, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, KJV 1900)
 - (2) *"we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to **walk in a manner worthy of God**, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, ESV)
 - (3) *"so that you would **walk in a manner worthy of the God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, NASB95)
 - (4) *"encouraging, comforting and urging you to **live lives worthy of God**, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, NIV)
 - (5) *"We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to **live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy**. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, NLT)
 - (6) *"holding your hand, whispering encouragement, **showing you step-by-step how to live well before God**, who called us into his own kingdom, into this delightful life."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, The Message)