

A Translation of the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

Introduction:

1. Without Divine inspiration, the Bible would be the most unreliable book known.
2. **Emperor Diocletian** ordered wholesale destruction of the Bible (A.D.302). But **Constantine** and commanded large numbers of Scriptures be made available to the churches of his day (A.D.330). God has preserved some 5500 small to large "fragments" of the New Testament until today.
3. The Bible is "the living oracles" entrusted to man (**Acts 7:38**).

Discussion:

I. **INSPIRED**

- A. The Word of God is word-for-word inspired.
 1. God Breathed into Adam's lungs and "man became a living being" (**Gen.2:7**), SO God Breathed into some men's minds "that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (**I Cor.2:12**).
 2. Thus "all scripture is given by inspiration of God" (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
- B. Those "inspired" men were:
 1. the "holy men of God [who] spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit" (**2 Pet. 1:21**), and
 2. Given revelation from God so that "these things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (**I Cor.2:13**).
 3. To use words that were "not with persuasive words of human wisdom" (**I Cor.2:4**) and
 4. Not to "worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you" (**Matt.10:19-20**).
- C. **GOD REVEALED HIS WORD BY INSPIRATION AND SELECTED ITS WORDING FROM EACH INSPIRED MAN'S VOCABULARY, AND GUIDED ITS WRITING THE SAME AS IN PREACHING!**
 1. Paul had preached the Gospel of Christ in Corinth (**Acts 18:8; I Cor. 15:1-11**) but stressed his writings were equally inspired (**I Cor.14:37; 2 Cor.10:11; 13:10**).
 2. Those who read his inspired words "may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets" (**Eph.3:3-5**).
 3. He claimed "we are not writing any other things you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end" (**2 Cor.1:13 Cf v.14**).

II. Why is a Majority Text important?

- A. Under the Old Law of Moses, the original writings of Moses were gone, but accurate copies were provided by God.
1. He replaced destroyed texts (**Jer.36:1-4,20-32**);
 2. hid texts until they were found by those who appreciated them (**2 Chron.34:14-19**), and
 3. Had them copied by kings and believers (**Deut.31:9-13, 34-36; 17:14-20**).
 4. Jesus quoted these copies as accurate (**Jno.5:37-47; 3:14-16**) and
 5. The apostles so regarded them also (**Acts 2:16-21, 25-28, 34-36; 3:13-26; 13:27; 26:27-28**).
- B. In the first century, the Holy Spirit:
1. Told Christians which books were inspired (**Col.4:16; 2 Pet.3:15-16; I Thess.5:27; 2 Thess.2:15; Lk.1:1-4; Philemon 19**);
 2. Gave some the gift of "discerning of spirits" so they could tell authentic from false Scripture (**I Cor.12:10; I Jno.4:1-3; 2:20-21; Rev.2:2**); and
 3. Gave access to Scriptures that they might accurately judge one's preaching (**Acts 17:10-11; Lk.24:15, 25-27, 44-45**).
- C. **One must use a text of the Bible that represents the majority reading of known manuscripts (lit. "hand-writing") evidence, OR ELSE be at the mercy of uninspired men to tell us what manuscripts are important and which are not.**
1. Jesus prayed "for those who will believe in Me through their word" (**Jno.17:20**);
 2. The Holy Spirit then gave a 100% accurate text with a 100% accurate choice of books (canon);
 3. Then men must let the majority of God's Text be shown in a translation and minimize their own influence of it. If not, why not?

III. TRANSLATION

- A. In the New Testament (Greek *metatithami*) it means "to transfer two things one of which is put in place of the other".
1. God "changed" the priesthood of Aaron (and the Levites) into the order of Melchizadek (**Ex.28:1; Num.18:1-7; Heb.7:1-12**);
 2. Jacob's remains were "carried back" to Shechem from Egypt for burial (**Acts 7:15-16**);
 3. Enoch was "taken" from life to life beyond (**Heb.11:5; Gen.5:21-24**).
- B. In each of these cases the translation gave the equivalent as accurately as possible.
1. Since the Bible has been inspired by God word-for-word, when uninspired translators "translate" it they will be reflecting each word God has given in the "new" language.
 2. Once in the "new" language, punctuation, word order, capitalization, paragraphing and even adding italicized words may complement it, but not to the detriment of its truth!
 3. The translation, thus, becomes the inspired Word of God in a "new" language.
 4. ***In its writing***, the Holy Spirit miraculously guided men in choosing their words--***in its compilation***, the Holy Spirit miraculously guided men in their selection of books--***in its translation***, the Holy Spirit non-miraculously guides those who would accurately express it in a new language!

IV. TEXT.

- A. One must read the Preface, Foreword, Introduction, or Apparatus of a book claiming to be the Bible to know if it is indeed a translation or a deliberate and devilish "tampering" with the truth.**
1. Most "modern versions" fall into this latter category, for they have been done by those who either did not reflect the majority reading of the thousands of manuscripts available, **OR**
 2. Didn't care whether they subjectively interpreted its truth, **OR**
 3. Deliberately changed its meaning to preserve some false doctrine they wished to hold that the Bible did not teach to their satisfaction.
- B. The King James Version (1611) AND the New King James Version (1979) are the only times the Majority Text has been translated into English and therefore the only versions this speaker recommends as being the Word of God in English.**

Conclusion:

1. One must approach God's Word with the same reverence He demanded of Moses at the burning bush **Exodus 3:5-6**
2. Every book, every statement, every word specifies truth, and only "the truth shall make you free" **John 8:32**
3. Now hear Jesus' invitation to every sinner: "**Mark 16:15-16**"

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