

HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND APPLY THE BIBLE

OPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING:

Jn 14:26, 1Jn 2:20-27

Ref: Lk 24:45, 1Cor 2:6-16, Gal 1:12

SPIRITUAL TOOLS WE NEED:

Salvation

1Cor 2:14-16

Holy Spirit

Jn 14:26

REASONS FOR STUDYING GOD'S WORD:

Commanded to

Mat 6:33

It's a delight

Ps 1:2

Learning, reproof, correction, training

2Tim 3:16

Jesus is the word

Rev 19:13

REASONS FOR KNOWING GOD'S WORD:

Will of God

2Tim 2:7, Ja 1:5

Find eternal life

Lk 1:77

Renew our minds

Rom 12:2, Eph 4:23

Doers of the word

Ja 1:22-25

Speak the word

Act 4:31

Worship Him

Jn 4:24

Strength

Lk 6:47-48

Freedom

Jn 8:31-32

Establishes our doctrines

Eph 4:14-15

Love of God, love God with heart, soul, mind Mt 22:37

WHO IS OUR TEACHER:

God

2Tim 3:16-17

Holy Spirit

1Jn 2:27, Jn 16:13, Lk 12:12

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Teachers, Elders

1Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11-12

Types of teachers:

- Purest: doesn't care what the word means, just wants to know the truth. Takes time. Ps 1:2, Gal 1:15-18
- Knowledge seeker: wants an answer quickly, or one that makes sense in his mind. 2Tim 3:7, 4:3
- Pollyparrot: knows only what someone tells him.

WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US:

- Revelation Gal 1:12, 16-17, 1Jn 2:27
- Through the Bible:
 - Reading Gives book or page, chapter, verse
 - Opening the bible Brings scripture to mind
- Other books, Tapes, Television, radio

TYPES OF STUDIES:

- Topical
- Expository
- Word study
- Happy wanderer - cross reference

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE:

- Read from cover to cover
- Daily scriptures prepared from a book
- Studying different books of the bible
- Happy wanderer

HELPS YOU MAY FIND IN YOUR BIBLE OR WANT TO ADD TO IT:

- Index
- Dictionary
- Maps
- Commentary
- Cross reference
- Concordance
- Tabs for the books of the bible
- Highlighting or underlining
- Notes; I strongly urge you to do this

GETTING A HANDLE ON BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

We will address these and other questions in this part.

1. Why are there so many kinds of Bibles?
2. How do I know which translation to believe?
3. Why does one read differently than another?
4. Which one is best?

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE:

- the word "Bible" simply means "book"
- it is the most published book in history
- it was written by approximately 40 men over about 1600 years, dating from about 1500 B.C. to 100 A.D.
- it consists of 66 individual books, 39 in the O.T. and 27 in the N.T.
- the O.T. was originally written almost entirely in Hebrew, with less than 10 chapters being written in Aramaic
- the N.T. was originally written entirely in Greek, though a few scholars believe the gospel of Mt. may have been written originally in Hebrew.
- by 1964 the Bible had been translated into over 1200 different languages, and since then translation into additional languages has gone on at a feverish pace, with only a few remote languages yet to receive a tss.
- the first English translation was completed by John Wycliffe and John Purvey in 1388. Since then large numbers of English translations have been produced and it is on these English translations that we are going to be concentrating our attention.

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS:

- major translations
- when were they translated
- who translated them
- primary translative philosophies and peculiarities of each
- which is best
- good ways to derive accurate translations of scripture texts in question

THE MAJOR TRANSLATIONS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY USED IN AMERICA:

THE KING JAMES VERSION

First translated in 1611, this time-honored version has undergone many revisions. It is known for its beautiful, magisterial language, which is, in essence the English dialect from the time it was written. Unfortunately, few people today have a mastery of this type of English, and it can consequently be very difficult to understand. This antiquated language can prove to be a stumbling block to many Christians or others who seek to glean insight from God's word. Furthermore, when it was translated, the scholars of that day did not have access to the best, and most ancient Greek and Hebrew texts, which we do today (see esp. 1Jn 5:7-8). Nevertheless, the 54 greatest scholars of Great Britain who produced this work did a fine job, and primarily utilized a literal, word-for-word process.

THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION

This is, as the name implies, a new and updated version of the KJV. It revamps some of the more forgotten and difficult words and phrases, while still attempting to retain the beautiful and poetic essence of the old English. One of the professors at Simpson College assisted in translating part of the O.T. (Dr. Glen Schaefer).

THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD - NEW AMERICAN STANDARD UPDATED [1990'S]

Translated by an editorial board of 54 Greek and Hebrew Scholars, and requiring nearly 11 years to complete, this translation is considered by many, to be the preeminent English Bible. Being of a late date (1971) translators were able to utilize the most recent discoveries of Hebrew and Greek textual sources. Decisions about English renderings were made by the consensus of a team of both educators and pastors.

A literal word-for-word translative style is used, even retaining the original word order whenever possible, as the ancient writers often used word order to express emphasis and to accent the important. This can sometimes make it read rather peculiarly or awkward. Some complain that the NASB lacks the smoothness of the NIV and the majesty of the KJV, but I would readily trade either for the accuracy of the NASB.

THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE

This is truly a fine and valuable Bible. Translated in 1954, it is a literal translation which uses multiple English expressions to amplify or more thoroughly convey the meaning of any one Greek or Hebrew word. Both original Greek and Hebrew texts were consulted as well as 27 translations.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

The translators of this very popular Bible saw putting God's word into modern, fluid, and readable English as their priority. Created by over 100 international and transdenominational scholars, who though reaching their objective, sometimes did so at the expense of accuracy, in that they attempt to convey the thought of the author, rather than his words. A practice which can perhaps color a text in an inaccurate shade; a shade which should be left for the Holy Spirit to color. They also made an effort to develop a "style" in the English rendering, which is fine, as long as accuracy is not compromised. This version lies somewhere in between a word-for-word and a paraphrase. (1978)

THE LIVING BIBLE

This work is a full-blown paraphrase. The translator (that's right, singular, as in Kenneth L. Taylor, 1971) essentially read the American Standard Version (which was an earlier form of the NASB) and rendered his interpretation of what that translation said into a modern English format. He did at points consult with Greek and Hebrew scholars, however. I find this Bible to be surely the least desirable of those which we are examining; an opinion I would voice regarding virtually all paraphrases, as he is to a large degree attempting to play the role of the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY BIBLE FROM ANCIENT EASTERN MANUSCRIPTS (Lamsa)

Translated by George M. Lamsa in 1957, this text seeks to convey ancient biblical customs preserved only in the Aramaic texts and to reveal deeper Biblical meanings often hidden in terminology and parables. Because it is translated from Aramaic texts, it is essentially a translation of a translation. It does a good job in fulfilling its purpose.

Now you hopefully know why and how various English texts of the Bible exist, why they differ, how they differ. All in all, no major or significant doctrines of Christianity are effected or changed by the varying English translations, which exist, as most are 95% accurate. To fully grasp, understand, and propose God's full counsel, however, it is crucial to know what you believe and why you believe it. With that in mind, it seems good to ask, "How can I best derive God's full and accurate counsel on matters of life as derived from Scripture?" In other words, how do I know which Bible to believe, or which is most accurate on a certain text? Here are several methods:

USING YOUR BIBLE:

- Pick a bible you like or have someone you trust help you.
- Look at different translations:
King James, New King James, New American Standard, Amplified, New English, New International Version, Parallel, Thompson, Living [paraphrased],

MODES OF BIBLICAL EXPOSITION:

1. Revelation
2. Examine the circles of context
Surrounding words
Surrounding verses
Chapter
Book
N.T. / O.T.
Entire bible
3. Experience
4. Observe grammar, especially in the original languages [requires specialized knowledge]
Examine comparative translations, including an interlinear
5. Note historical context [requires appropriate research]
The Bible itself
Extra-Biblical histories
Secular histories
Commentaries

REFERENCE BOOKS:

- Exhaustive concordance
- Lexicon
- Analytical bible
- Greek and Hebrew interlinears
- Bible dictionary
- Dictionary
- Commentary

HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE:

Spiritual meaning:	What is God saying to us Spiritually
Literal meaning:	Means what is written
Look for both of the above:	
Read the verse backwards:	Lk 24:45
First thing mentioned generally has a priority:	1Cor 12:28, 1Cor 13:13
If found only once, use caution; but it may be important:	

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED:

Meditate on the word day and night	Ps 1:2
Test it out by doing what it says	
Talk to God about what it says	
Talk to spiritual friend	
Share what you learn	
God operates on principals, attitudes, and intents	

TYPES OF STUDIES: PRACTICAL

Topical - *Who is the Israel of God?*

Cross reference: Rom 2:28, 9:6-7, 27, 11:25-26, Gal 3:7, 6:16, Eph 2:11-12

Helps:

Concordance
Analytical bible

Word study - *Teach, teacher, to teach*

Helps:

Greek interlinear
Concordance

no.	meaning	text
831	dominate - usurp authority over	Mk 1:22 1Tim 2:12
1832	lawful	
1849	authority - right	
1850	being under the power of - exercise authority upon	
1320	teach	Mk 1:22, 1Cor 12:28
1321	teach	1Tim 2:12