

Theology 101

The Bible - Part II

Due to my legendary ability to not finish my Sunday School lessons on time we are going to go back and spend some time on the stuff I rushed through last week.

Review:

- A. The Bible is basis for our doctrine and practice.
- B. God has *revealed* Himself to us through His Word
- C. God miraculously *inspired* the very words of the Scriptures

IV. Preservation of the Bible

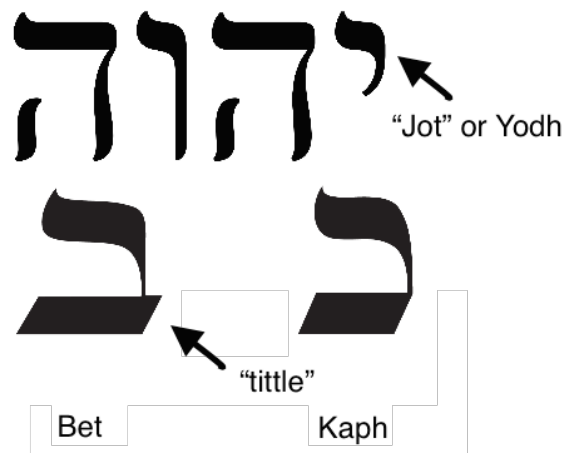
- A. Not only did God reveal Himself through the inspired Word, He also had made sure to preserve it.
 1. God promised that His Word would last forever - Psalm 119:89, 152, 160.
 2. God promised that His Word would be incorruptible - I Peter 1:23-25
 3. God promised that His Word would stand, unchanging, immovable - Isaiah 40:8

- B. Christ is very clear in Matthew 5:18

1. Jot - the smallest Hebrew letter, *yodh*
2. Tittle - small mark that distinguishes letters
 - a) Like Q and O

- C. How the Bible comes to us

1. It originates in the eternal mind of God.
2. It is transferred by the Holy Spirit through men who speak or write the words given to them.
 - a) As a side note, this does not mean that the personality of each writer is overwritten or ignored.
 - b) God uses each man's characteristics, just as a master musician uses each instrument's tone and feel to express the music.
3. The Word of God, given to men by the Holy Spirit, are then recorded in written form.
 - a) In the Old Testament, this was Hebrew.
 - b) In the New Testament, this was Koine Greek.
4. Faithful scribes meticulously copied the original copies throughout centuries of time.
 - a) If errors or editing occurred, there was a vast majority of faithful texts to correct those that were wrong.
 - b) By the way, editing is what you see more often than errors.



5. These copies were done by hand until Johannes Guttenberg's invention of moveable type in the 1450's.
 6. Along the way, the Bible has been translated from the original Greek and Hebrew texts into hundreds of languages.
- D. How the Bible came into English
1. The first complete Bible translation was John Wycliffe's translation into Middle English in the around A.D. 1390.
 2. William Tyndale translated much of the Bible, and was the first English version to be produced on the printing press, around 1530.
 3. The "Coverdale Bible" was produced by Miles Coverdale in 1535. It was the first complete Bible printed in English and incorporated much of Tyndale's work.
 4. The "Great Bible" was also produced by Miles Coverdale in 1539 and was authorized by Henry VIII
 5. The "Geneva Bible" was produced in 1560 by English protestants taking refuge in Geneva from the reign of Bloody Mary. It was the essentially the first study Bible, was the first to have verses, and was widely available to the public.
 6. The "Bishops' Bible" was produced in 1568 by the Church of England in response to the Geneva Bible.
 7. The Authorized Version, or the King James Bible, was printed in 1611.
 8. No other major translation would gain ground until the Revised Version in the late 1800's.
- E. Problems with Most Newer Versions
1. They use the wrong foundational texts
 - a) The KJV uses the Masoretic Text for the Old Testament and the *Textus Receptus* for the New Testament.
 - b) Most new translation rely on the Nestle-Aland Greek text (now in its 28th edition!) and a smorgasbord of sources for the Old Testament.
 2. They rely on the minority to correct the majority
 - a) In the modern school of thought, 90% agreement among existing ancient manuscripts can be trumped by a few "variant" readings
 3. "Older is better" philosophy
 - a) Oldest manuscripts are not always the best. In fact, many of them exist because they were stored away for lack of use!
 4. Translation or Interpolation?
 - a) To many times, "experts" edit the Bible to be closer to their own theological ideas or even to be more politically correct.