

Theology 101

The Bible - Part III

Tired of studying about the Bible? I hope not because here we go again.

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
- D. God has *preserved* the Bible for all generations.

V. Superiority of the King James Bible

A. Note - I'm leaning pretty heavy on "Four Reasons for Defending the King James Bible" by D.A. Waite, which can be found online if you want more info.

B. Texts

1. Every translation comes from somewhere, and will rise no higher than its source.
 - a) Old Testament
 - (1) Choice A - Ben Chayyim Masoretic Hebrew text
 - (a) A.K.A. - Daniel Bomberg edition or the Second Great Rabbinic Bible (1524-25)
 - (b) unquestioned choice for over 400 years
 - (2) Choice B - *Biblia Hebraica*, Stuttgart edition
 - (a) contains or suggests around 20,000 changes
 - b) New Testament
 - (1) Choice A - *Textus Receptus*
 - (a) The "received text" that was passed down and the vast majority of manuscripts agree to.
 - (2) Choice B - *Nestle-Aland*, now in 28th edition
 - (a) An attempt by modern scholars to "recreate" the original manuscripts.
 - (b) Contains literally *thousands* of changes
2. Most modern scholars think "older is better" when it comes to these manuscripts with little concern for the obvious work of heretics in their production.
3. NOTE - No proper translation is based on another translation. You NEED to go back to the source, Hebrew and Greek. Non-English speakers don't need the King James Bible, they need *their* Bible in *their* language.

C. Translators

1. Who is doing the work? Do they actually believe in the Bible? Do they have an agenda? Are they qualified?
2. The 54 or so men who translated the King James Bible were geniuses.
 - a) Dr. Lancelot Andrews - mastered 15 languages
 - b) Miles Smith - expert in Chaldee, Syriac, Hebrew, and Arabic.
 - c) Sir Henry Saville - tutored Queen Elizabeth in Greek and mathematics

- d) John Bois - expert in Hebrew and Greek. Read the entire Hebrew Bible at age five.
 3. Six committees were formed to do the translation work (3 Old Testament, 2 New Testament, 1 Apocrypha). A General Committee of Review finalized the work.
- D. Techniques
1. Formal Equivalent (word-for-word)
 - a) Seeks to faithfully reproduce the exact words
 - b) Read it in the King James Bible.
 2. Dynamic Equivalent (thought-for-thought)
 - a) Leans more toward interpretation than translation
 - b) John 3:16 in *Contemporary English Version*: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."
 3. Free Translation (Paraphrase)
 - a) The general idea is there... somewhere...
 - b) John 3:16 in *The Message*: "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."
 4. Only one of these honors the very words of God and lets those words speak directly to us without being filtered or interpreted along the way.
 5. Italics
 - a) Ever wonder why there are words in italics in the King James? This is because of the honesty of the translators. Italicized words are not from the original Greek or Hebrew, but are supplied to aid the reader.
 - b) Another example: Peter quotes the italicized words of Psalm 16:8 in Acts 2:25.
- E. Theology
1. Bible translation is about preserving God's Word and NOT personal agendas.
 2. Are we preserving God's word or our take on it?
 3. By the way, there is not a "Baptist Bible"... the Bible makes us Baptists!
 4. A few examples of theological changes:
 - a) Mark 9:44 and 46 may be omitted
 - b) John 6:47 may omit "on me"
 - c) Acts 8:37 may be omitted
 - d) I John 5:7 may omit the last half of verse
 5. Question: If these modern takes on the Bible were better, where are the better Christians they produce?