

Bible Mistranslations

It is easy to miss the mark when translating from one language to another. This awareness has us alert that an incorrect (or misleading), translation can cause a reader to take a wrong turn, ending up way off course. As God's Plan moves along, His increasing light causes the Bible to become a book where hidden things get revealed. Truths are emerging to be understood correctly. As we are hungry for truth, His Spirit leads us into more truth. We are now more rapidly identifying translation inaccuracies in order to expose the truth.

[Note that the most current entry is the one below; also entries 1-4 were regrouped for continuity.]

[PREVIEW:] 10. Mistranslation: Galatians 4:21

"Listen to me, you who want to live under the law. Do you know what the law really says?"
Galatians 4:21 New Living Translation

This is a very misleading translation. Context is very important to proper understanding, so be sure to read the whole chapter. Also for background that helps in understanding the true meaning of this verse, first review the mistranslation entries 6, 7 & 8.

[WE HOPE TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY IN THE NEAR FUTURE]¹

[PREVIEW:] 9. Mistranslation: "Jesus"

Any Proper name should not be translated at all, but rather transliterated so that it sounds the same in both languages. We know now that Matthew originally wrote his book in Hebrew. To date at least 28 Hebrew copies have been found. From those copies, we read in **Matthew 1:19-25** that a messenger of Yehovah appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to marry Mary (Miriam), and to name her son "Yeshua". Then it says that he named the firstborn son, "Yeshua". Also in that passage it says that Mary (Miriam), called his name "Emanuel", which means, "Elohim (God), is with us." She said this as a description of who he was, and as a fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14**, but his formal name remained "Yeshua", as directed.

[WE HOPE TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY IN THE NEAR FUTURE]

1. It is helpful for us to write down what comes to us in the Spirit and lock it in place in order to maintain the big picture before we lose it! It is a move to be faithful with what He's shown to us so that He will reveal more. We did enough of these two latest studies to provide a "sneak preview." This preview is a teaser that may motivate some readers to do a bit of research of their own in advance of the completion of the study.

8. Mistranslation: God's name (in 6,828 locations, the most extensive error of all!)

This is a *deliberate* one-word mistranslation. The purposeful error is also repeated consistently (with rare exceptions) ², throughout the entire scriptures. This tradition has been steadfast for both Jews & Christians since about three hundred years after the resurrection. His name has been *translated* into a title or description, thus avoiding what His name really is. ³ This is a diluting (a covering or occulting), of the truth. It is a down-playing of the very name that we are to exalt. As a result of this purposeful mistranslation to conceal His name, most of us don't even know for certain what His name really is!

The closest that religious tradition let's us get, is to tell us His name is "Yahwey". In contrast, Strong's No. 3068 based on the Hebrew-Aramaic word from which it was translated, shows the vowel pointings from the Hebrew-Aramaic, and thus transliterates it as "Y^eho-vah", (yeh-ho-vaw). On the other hand, to my knowledge there is no Hebrew or Aramaic manuscript with vowel pointings to support "Yahwey". "The Jerusalem Bible" (1971 edition), was ahead of it's time in that it opted to use the name of our Father rather than a title or description; however, they incorrectly used "Yahwey"... the wrong name! That's how deeply entrenched the tradition is. Let's do some research and see what's behind all this.

Why not transliterate His name directly? Well, originally, during the days of the Greek Empire, their rulers made an aggressive effort to have all of the cultures in their empire merge into theirs in order to minimize rebellion. But the Jews (& later the Christians too) did not want to adopt the pagan Greek culture. So there was conflict, and as a result they were fined, imprisoned, or more typically, killed, for speaking the name of the Father. ⁴ The Roman Empire followed sternly in this horrific pattern, as did the church system. Eager to consolidate it's power, both the church system and the political realm joined forces.

2. Only in Exodus 6:3, Psalm 83:18, Isaiah 12:2, 26:4, + His "nickname", "Yah" in Psalm 68:4.

3. Proper names, such as people & places are not supposed to be translated; instead they are to be "transliterated". When a word is transliterated, the letters of the new language are used that best represent the sounds of the letters in the original language. The goal is to have it sound the same in both languages. This basic principle is consistently violated in most translations.

4. This also applied to those who became circumcised, kept the Sabbath, observed the Feasts, and refused to eat what the scriptures said was unclean. We have a study on circumcision, and another on dietary laws, under "Eric's Library", then "Religious Myths..." on our website. Also Bible Lesson 04 and Eric's Study No. 11 are on the Feasts. A study on the Sabbath is for another time, but is in the works.

This control by the clergy shifted the head (& focus), of the church from God into the hands of men, (with special titles such as popes, bishops, & pastors). The objective was to merge into harmony with the major political forces. This necessitated the uniting with their pagan cultures. To do this, the Word was forbidden to be owned or read except by the religious authorities. This occulting of the truth helped enable religious authorities to replace the laws of Yehovah with the newly invented religious laws. The church system then created translations that added verses, distorted words, and made it seem as though “we were now free from all that bondage of the laws of God”.

Believers were then permitted to eat unclean food, as the heathen did. They were to shift the day of rest from the Sabbath to Sun-day, when the pagans took a day of rest to celebrate their sun god. Circumcision was no longer required, and holidays would shift from the Biblical ones, to the favorites of the pagans: Easter, Christmas, & Halloween, etc. These holidays were primarily to celebrate their fertility gods along with the sun god (on what was then the winter solstice), plus other demonic entities. As part of the resulting changes, the name of the Father was forbidden to be spoken for many centuries. During these years, manuscripts with the vowel pointings of the Hebrew word for the Father were destroyed by the church system so that the pronunciation would be lost, except to the clergy. The people were told that God’s name was too holy to be pronounced, except on rare occasions by the religious leaders. This of course is contrary to scripture, which we shall see. ⁵

What a startling discovery it was behind this mistranslation when I first saw it! I felt compelled to read & research several books by different authors on the subject. ⁶ I wanted to be sure to see the truth in the big picture. It is important to accurately sort truth from fiction regarding such a glaring mistranslation. Let’s continue on to better understand the big picture.

Once the intensity of the persecution had passed, then the religious leaders (again both Jewish & Christian), did not want to relinquish the control of being the only ones who knew how to pronounce His name. They continued to maintain that God’s name was

5. This is yet another example of religious tradition making the Word of no effect through the doctrine/works/teaching of the Nicolaitans. This teaching is the only thing that Yeshua (Jesus) states as something that he “hates”, and He says so twice, (Revelation 2:6 and then 2:15). His ministry emphasized the difference between the need to obey the law of Yehovah and to not be entangled with obedience to the laws (traditions), of men. For this, the religious leaders had him crucified.

6. Some of which are: “His Hallowed Name Revealed Again” by Keith E. Johnson.

“The Chronological Gospels” by Michael Rood, especially page 29 in the large print edition. His older book, “The Pagan-Christian Connection Exposed” is nearly as accurate, (see his summary on page 76).

“Names” by Todd D. Bennett, and also “His Name is One” by Jeff A. Benner.

Plus “Aramaic English New Testament” by Andrew Gabriel Roth footnotes & appendices.

“too holy” to pronounce, except of course by the highest religious leaders. ⁷ Scribes were told what His name was once every 7-years but forbidden to say it. Scripture translations substituted “Lord”, “God”, “Lord God”, or “Adonai” (which is the Hebrew word for “Lord”), in place of the Father’s name. This religious tradition continues until today, with nearly every English Bible translation repeating the error. ⁸

Any place in an English translation Bible where we see “the LORD” or “GOD” or “ADONAI” in all capitols, it is a substitute for His name. Even “The Complete Jewish Study Bible” (otherwise one of my very favorite translations), has fallen into that trap, using “ADONAI”. Yet we are to proclaim His name, (**Psalm 22:22**). His name is to be known throughout the earth, (**2Chronicles 6:32,33**). The Lord’s Prayer in **Matthew 6:9** teaches us that His name is so special that it is set-apart from all other names. And we are even to worship Him using His name, (**Psalm 99:3**). We are so thankful that there is a promise that in time His name would be revealed once again, no longer forgotten, no longer to be taken in vain, and no longer to be profaned, (from **Ezekiel 39:7 & Zephaniah 3:9**). And now is that time!

So in summary, just what is His name?! In Hebrew it is the 4-cononant word transliterated as “YHVH” but in most ancient Hebrew manuscripts “YHVY” is missing the three vowel sounds between the four letters. Two of the three vowel points however, are consistently found in both of the oldest Hebrew manuscripts. ⁹ It seems that the scribes were told to not write the middle vowel pointing so that no one besides the religious leaders would know how to pronounce His name. But thankfully, there are 50 places where the scribe either slipped or intentionally put in all three vowel points! There are also several places in the Aleppo Codex with all three vowel points, and they are all identical to the ones in the Leningrad Codex. It is likely that Strong’s Hebrew-Aramaic Dictionary is tied to these sources, since it is right on.

7. Note the Nicolaitan spirit once again! It is a constant effort to keep the people focused on their church leaders & under their covering rather than encouraging a personal hearing-obeying walk with Yehovah.

8. Here are three that don’t mistranslate: “The Chronological Gospels by Michael Rood is right on but is limited to the books of the Gospels, Acts & Revelation. “The Aramaic English New Testament” uses YHWY for God’s name, which is an acceptable transliteration of the Hebrew (as would be YHVY, since the Hebrew consonant for “V” is also used as “W” for some Hebrew cultures). “The Aramaic English New Testament” however does not have any vowel pointings to indicate it’s pronunciation, and does not include the Old Covenant. “The Scriptures” translation has God’s name in Hebrew letters wherever it exists, leaving it up to the reader to transliterate. Again there are no vowel pointings, but it does include both the Old & New (Renewed) Covenants. Hooray!

9. The Aleppo Codex, about 1,000 years old is the oldest Hebrew manuscript, the “gold standard”, but incomplete. The Leningrad Codex was written about 100 years later, and is the oldest complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Covenant, and in mint condition! Both were written by Masorites. These divinely survived the destruction by the political & religious leaders. Facsimiles are readily available today.

So His name is “Y’hovah”, with the first vowel sound like the “a” in “amuse”, transliterated as a superscript “e”. It is a hurried, rushed sound (also similar to the “e” in “metallic”). For this reason, it can be transliterated as “Yehovah”, “Yahovah”, or “Y’hovah” since they are all nearly the same in sound. The last of the three syllables is to be emphasized.¹⁰

It is interesting to know that there are 23 places in the scriptures where an abbreviated form of YHVY is given as “YH”, or “Yah”. And there are 26 times where it is with “Hallelu”, as “Hallehu Yah”, which means “Praise Yah!” So now we don’t feel quite so bad...we’ve praised His name every time we sang “Hallelujah!”

Increased knowledge & understanding require increased change, (which is usually not easy at first). In new writings I will tend to use “Yahovah”, “Yehovah”, & “Y’hovah” rather than “Lord” or “God”¹¹

7. Mistranslation: Romans 10:4

“4. For Christ is the END of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

Romans 10:4 King James Version

This is a very misleading translation. The word “end” is a viable option to use for translating the Greek word, but it is not the best word to use because “end” in our culture typically refers to “elimination”, which misses the mark. It is not the “end” in terms of “termination”, but the “end” in terms of “end purpose”, such as “completion in fullness”, or “goal”, as stated in the footnote of “The Scriptures”. Let’s look at another more accurate translation for confirmation.

“4. For the GOAL at which Torah aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts. 5. For Moshe [Moses] writes about the righteousness grounded in the Torah that the person who does these things will attain life through them.”

Romans 10:4 The Complete Jewish Bible

Besides here and in “The Scriptures” translation, the word “GOAL is also used in “The English Aramaic New Testament”. Even King James Version, in the very next verse, gives context to prove that “end” does not mean “termination”, but the FULLNESS

10. A CD comes with Keith Johnson’s book (see footnote No. 6), where one can hear His name.

11. Of course in the English language “Lord” is a generic title of honor used for many people but also used to address false gods. It also has a close association with the false god, Baal. “God” is generic as well, since it is also used by pagans to address their false gods. Yehovah is His name. And doesn’t it seem silly to sing, “We lift up Your name...” and not worship Him using His name? Likewise, do we really praise His holy name when we say that we do, yet not mention it?

in its perfect beauty. The Concordant Literal New Testament has “*Christ is the CONSUMMATION of law for righteousness to everyone who is believing.*” Walking in the law is not how we “get saved”, but is a by-product of our walking in Him. To obey the word as written in the Old Covenant is still a vital part of our spiritual walk.

“2. The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”
1John 2:6 New King James Version

“17. Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets [together they are the whole Old Covenant]. No, I came to fulfill them.”
Matthew 5:17 New Living Translation

To explain **Romans 10:4** another way, then we look at the big picture. The law was given to Israel at Mt. Sinai as part of the marriage covenant with Yehovah (God). The law demonstrated the things that pleased and displeased Yehovah (God). The law placed in practical terms what the character & nature of Yehovah (God) was (& is), like. To become one with Him, we must also change to become like Him. We must let go of our ways, while letting His Spirit rule within to change who we are...to guide us into all truth. In Yeshua (Jesus), we see what the law looks like when fully lived out in a person, for He is the Word displayed in a flesh & blood person. We see the first New (Renewed) Covenant law-abiding man; one who has the law written in His mind & upon His heart. But the lawless will never be allowed to enter to be a part of the Bride, (New Jerusalem).

“14. Blessed are those WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 22:14 The New King James Version

The purpose of the law is to define sin. The law shows us that Yehovah’s (God’s) standard is too high for anyone from Adam to be able to achieve. The law teaches us that only Yeshua (Jesus) could fulfill the law. We can only fulfill the law by being found in Him. It is not of works, or we would boast. It is by grace through faith, (**Ephesians 2:8,9**). Yeshua is the only way to salvation. There is no other way.

When we have faith in Yeshua (Jesus), our redeemer, then His Spirit changes our hearts and minds so that our walk (our works), reflect His Life within.

Obviously there is much more to this subject. The “law” for today can be confusing if we don’t realize that the word “law” is used to mean different things. A major distinction is that there is the “law of Yehovah (God)”, and also the “law of man”. The religious law of man is called “religious tradition” apart from the Word. Yeshua (Jesus) consistently disobeyed the religious law of man, and exhorted others to disobey it too; and instead

to follow the law of God. It for this reason that the religious leaders had Yeshua (Jesus) killed! (For more on this, see “Mistranslation No. 06” below to understand the polar contrast of the two types of laws.) Many places in the Renewed (New) Covenant where the word “law” is used is referring to religious traditions...not the ways/teachings of God.

Another important point to clarify is the word “legalism”. “Legalism” is not the same as “lawful”. “Legalism” can refer to two things. One is the obedience to man’s religious laws/traditions that cannot be found in the Old Covenant. Another is a description of those who try to obtain favor with God by keeping the law of the Old Covenant. We obtain favor by being found in the nature of our Messiah. There is no other way to obtain favor. Yet, if we are found to have his nature rule in us, then we’ll easily keep the law, because that is who we have become.

This is made clear in many places, such as when Yeshua (Jesus) says to yoke with Him, since His yoke is easy, and burdens are light in Him, (**Matthew 11:29,30**). Also, John says that if we love Him, then we will obey Him, and that it really is not a difficult thing to do since in love all things are overcome, (**1John 5:3 & Song of Songs 8:6**). In fact, the whole basis of the law, the Torah, the Word, the Old Covenant is LOVE! The greatest laws sum up all of the others as to LOVE Yehovah (God), (**Deuteronomy 6:4,5**), and also to LOVE our neighbor as ourself, (**Leviticus 19:18**). He gave us His laws because he LOVES us. They are for our benefit. The blessings & curses are based upon flowing in these laws or not. This applies to individuals, families, communities, states, & nations.

Yes, Yeshua (Jesus) came to establish His Kingdom in a people to be a light of His life to all of creation. He is the fullness, the completion, the goal, the full maturity of what the nature (ways/laws) of Yehovah (God) looks like in reality, and the Door to enter into His image and likeness by grace through faith in His Spirit.

Learning the Word, and keeping what it says helps us to understand who Yeshua (Jesus) is and what He is like. Keeping the law is not the end. Stopping with keeping the law would be “legalism”, and misses the point. The Word/law/commandments are to lead us into the life of Yeshua (Jesus). The law is good...very, very good (**Psalm 19:7-13 & echoed in 2Timothy 3:16** below), a starting point, but not the goal. When Timothy is referring to “All Scripture is good for...”, he is referring to the Old Covenant, since that is all that was compiled when he wrote his books.

“16. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. 17. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.”

2Timothy 3:16,17 New Living Translation

The law leads us to our master, Yeshua (Jesus). It is the way to grow. It is a first step in our personal relationship with Yeshua (Jesus).

6. Mistranslation: Matthew 23:1-5 in the King James Version (KJV) & all other English Translations that were translated from Greek or Aramaic manuscripts. Here is how the mistranslation reads in its context:

- “1. Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples,*
- 2. saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat [authority].*
- 3. Therefore whatever THEY tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.*
- 4. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5. But all their works they do to be seen by men...” Matthew 23:1-5 New King James Version*

But here is how it reads from the Hebrew in which Matthew was originally written:

- “2. saying: “The Pharisees and sages sit upon the seat of Moses.*
- 3. Therefore all that HE [Moses] says to you diligently do, but according to their [Pharisees & sages] reforms and their [Pharisees & sages] precedents do not do, because they [Pharisees & sages] talk but they [Pharisees & sages] do not do.”*

They talk as though they have the authority of Moses, but they do not do what Moses told them to do. The religious leaders exalted themselves as though they had the same authority that Moses had. Yeshua (Jesus) exposed this for the lie that it was. This undermining of the authority of the religious leaders infuriated them. By imposing their man-made religious regulations they were adding to and taking away from the Word. This is in direct violation of **Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, 13:1, Proverbs 30:6**, and even repeated in the last chapter of the Word in **Revelation 22:18,19**.

The mistranslation is very misleading, for it says to do whatever the religious leaders tell you to do. **Mark 7:13** is one verse that makes it clear that religious rules & traditions make the word of God ineffective. These religious directives shift one’s focus from hearing God to hearing men. It is an “instead-of-Christ/Messiah” spirit. The religious reforms & precedents lead people into the bondage of works of the flesh (Adam nature), not of the Spirit; while keeping the people blind to the truth, (**Matthew 23:13**).

Now let's learn a bit about this Hebrew manuscript source. Early church fathers recorded that when Matthew wrote his Gospel, he wrote it in Hebrew.¹² (A few of these copies still exist today.) *Later* his book was translated into Aramaic & Greek, and from them to other languages. Only the text from the Hebrew harmonizes with other scriptures. Also it is evident that the sentence structure & terms in the Greek translations often followed that of Hebrew and not of Greek. This gives away that the Greek were translations made of Hebrew. Many Bible scholars who know Hebrew see it.

What Y'Shua (Jesus), is saying, is to obey the writings of Moses, (the first five books of the Bible, the "Torah")...but to not obey the traditions of the religious leaders. To question the religious leaders brought out their insecurity. Questioning the religious leaders greatly threatened their control over the people. Yeshua (Jesus) repeatedly hammered this point home. Here are 3-examples that Yeshua (Jesus) made:

He healed on the Sabbath.

His disciples ate grain from stalks in the field on the Sabbath.

His disciples did not always wash their hands before eating.

There are no Torah instructions to forbid these things, but these things were all against the religious traditions of the day. Yeshua (Jesus) was trying to shift the focus of the people back to what the Word said...to point out what Yehovah (God) said, as opposed to what man said. The difference is the difference between freedom vs. bondage.

How did the mistranslation occur? In Hebrew, the difference between "he" and "they" is the difference of one letter being present or absent at the end of a word. The Hebrew letter is a small, nearly vertical line that would be easy for a scribe to miss. It is also possible that this was a purposeful mistranslation, since the organized church system was in charge of making many of the translations from the Hebrew. I say this because such a pattern also exists with many other mistranslations that just happened to give more authority to the religious leaders. Centuries later, even King James gave a mandate to have his translation point to church leaders as the authority to not question. The context is from a King James who decreed himself to be the authority of the church. His goal was to consolidate both religious and political power together to himself.

For more fascinating background on this Hebrew manuscript, read Appendix 4 in Nehemia Gordon's book, "The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus"; or pages 208 & 209 of Michael Rood's larger print edition of "The Chronological Gospels". Both men are widely-recognized as Bible Scholars who often work together in Israel uncovering many mistranslations & myths.

As a parting teaser, Nehemiah Gordon discovered an ancient Torah manuscript where

12. Papias, a disciple of John, Ireneaus, Origen, & Eusebius, from endnote 50, page 194 in Todd D Bennett's book, "The Law & Grace".

the Hebrew vowel markings were present to indicate that the name of God (YHWY) is not pronounced “Yahwey”, but “Yehovah”.

Another religious tradition is being rocked by Michael Rood. He ironed out several mistranslations to demonstrate that from Jesus’ baptism until the apostles received the Holy Spirit was exactly 70 weeks, and not 3 1/2 years as Eusebius (a church leader), first said! See his “Chronological Gospels” for more on that. Perhaps another time we’ll expound on those translation topics.

5. Mistranslation: Exodus 12:40 New International Version (NIV)

“Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 YEARS.”

This quote is from the New International Version, and most versions are very similar. The NIV shines out from the others though in that it directs people to a very informative footnote that reads, “Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch and Septuagint *Egypt and Canaan*.” This fits much better with other scriptures which show that starting with Abraham they were sojourning in Canaan 215 years and then Egypt for 215 years. My Bible Timeline Workbook lays these verses out to show those time frames. But why do we start with Abraham? The Concordant Version reads as, “Now the dwelling of the sons of Israel *and their fathers who dwelt in the land of Canaan and in the land of Egypt* was four hundred thirty years.” This version includes Canaan and includes the fathers of the sons of Israel. The father of Israel who dwelt in Canaan was Isaac, but also his father Abraham, who was the first father to dwell there.

4. Mistranslation: Acts 12:4 KJV & others

*“...intending after **EASTER** to bring him forth to the people.”*

The word “Easter” is an incorrect substitute for the Hebrew word that means “Passover”. It is translated correctly as “Passover” in 28 other places where it is found in the New Testament. It is from the Strong’s Greek word 3957. “Easter” is an intentional mistranslation in order to line up with church traditions. Deliberate mistranslations are like the tail wagging the dog, or the cart pulling the horse. Church tradition should never be put in front of the truth of the Word.

3. Mistranslation: 2Corinthians 5:21 KJV

“21. For he hath MADE HIM TO BE SIN for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

This one is muddy at best. I was always taught this as basic religious thought. But it can be misleading. According to a footnote in the Williams New Testament, the Greek word for “sin” should be translated as “sin offering”. The reason is that “sin offering” is how the Greek word is used in the Old Testament. This footnote is likely referring to The Septuagint Translation, which was a translation made more than 200 years before the birth of Jesus. The Septuagint was a translation from the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek. (It was then translated into English in 1851.)

The value of the Septuagint shines in how it provides evidence of how ancient Greek words were used at the time to translate Hebrew words. The meanings of words in languages often change over time. The Septuagint translation gives insight into what both the Hebrew and the Greek words meant at that time. Here in our example, the Greek word for “sin” had typically been translated as “sin offering” when used in the Septuagint. The New International Version also has a footnote for **2Corinthians 5:21** saying that it could also be translated as “sin offering”. That is how it is translated in the Concordant Literal Translation of the New Testament. It is also clarified as “sin offering” in Jonathan Mitchell’s Translation of the New Testament. Adam Clarke’s Commentary confirms that it was indeed the Septuagint that translates this Greek word as being used 94 times as “sin offering”.

The meaning here is obvious. We now can distinguish that Jesus was without sin, but in the role of a sin offering. This is in harmony with the rest of the scriptures. The sin offering is perfect and takes on the *PUNISHMENT* for sin, but the sin is not imputed to the sinless sacrifice. *Christ takes our punishment for sin, but does not become sin for us.*

This is seen also in the sacrifice of the two goats on the Day of Atonement in the Feast of Tabernacles, (**Leviticus 16**). The first goat could not be an offering for sin unless it was a perfect lamb/kid without blemish. The sins of the people were placed upon the head of the second goat, not the first one. So the blood of the first goat protects the second goat from the punishment for sin. But the second goat must then remove the sins and leave them in the wilderness. How? By its strength? No, but by the “fit man”, a type of the Holy Spirit. So the second goat, (us), the guilty one, goes “free” to walk by the fit man, (His Spirit), through the wilderness. Why? To be tested until victorious... until the sin nature no longer has a hold on us...until we are mature in Christ. ¹³

13. For fuller understanding, read our Lesson No. 09 on “Two Goats & Two Doves”. There is also further explanation in “Religious Myths vs Bible Truths”.

That “sin offering” should be the correct translation is seen plainly in this next verse, which is translated correctly in the same translations that miss it in **2 Corinthians 5:21**:

*“And walk in love, as Christ has also loved us and given Himself for us,
an OFFERING AND A SACRIFICE to God, for a sweet-smelling aroma.”
Ephesians 5:2 New King James Version (NKJV)*

2. Mistranslations: Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34 KJV, NKJV, & most others

*“46. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”
Matthew 27:46 New King James Version*

*“34. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”
Mark 15:34 New King James Version*

At first appearance this would seem to be confirmation of a correct translation rather than a mistranslation. Furthermore, one would be hard pressed to find an English translation that reads otherwise. It should however seem strange to us, since it is not in harmony with so many other scriptures, other than the mistranslation of **2Corinthians 5:21**, (explained in Mistranslation No. 3). We so readily accept the discrepancy also because the thought appeals to our carnal, natural understanding. But read on.

There is however one translation that reads differently. Could the one that stands alone be correct in this instance and all the others be wrong? It is worth exploring to find out. We take a look at George Lamsa’s translation. What is the difference in scholarship between essentially all of the English Translations and this one? It is that the majority of English Translations have their origins in translating either from the Greek or from other translations that have their roots in translating from the Greek. George Lamsa’s however translates from the Aramaic. (For more info see our review on his translation under our “Review of Bible Translations”.)

Basically, his stand is that the original scriptures were first written in Aramaic, and *THEN* later translated into the Greek. And he makes a great case for that. The Aramaic copies made their way into the Eastern church and are still the basis for their translations into modern languages today. Only the Greek copies made their way into the Western church. This led the Western church to believe that the scriptures

were first written in Greek. Such a misunderstanding is like building a scaffolding for renovating a building, then discovering that it is attached to the wrong building. We'll leave that issue for you to explore further as His Spirit leads you, but first we'll help point out the way. Here is the same verse from the Lamsa translation:

“46. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, Eli, Eli, lemana shabakthani! My God, my God, FOR THIS I WAS SPARED!”
Matthew 27:46 George Lamsa Translation

This verse also has a footnote. It reads, “This was my destiny.” In other words, Jesus was making the point that the Father’s plan was for Jesus to go to the cross as the Passover Lamb so that the sins of mankind would be atoned for. It was the whole purpose of His life and ministry and teaching. It was to make a way for the sons of Adam to endure through the wilderness of this world and move on into the Promised Land of Christ.

1. Mistranslation: Psalm 22:1 King James Version (KJV) & most others

“1. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”

Read this Psalm of David and you’ll have to agree that it’s theme is a Song of great trials with suffering, but that in the end there is great deliverance with total victory. The concluding triumph as seen in the last half of Psalm 22 is the grand finale. The Psalm emphasizes the point that even though at times all seems lost during the trials, we are to trust in what God is doing and to not be discouraged. In the big picture there is victory at the end. It is a Psalm that declares that the Father is in control and is working all things to the best. We eventually witness this at the end of the matter. The message of this song is the big picture that fits in harmony with the rest of scripture. (We’ll mention more of that in our last paragraph).

Meanwhile this first verse, is both mistranslated and taken out of context as well. Therefore we are left with the impression that the Father deserted Jesus when he was on the cross. So where do we find a more correct translation? We find the correct translation of **Psalm 22:1 in George Lamsa’s Translation:**

“My God, my God, why hast thou let me to live? and yet thou hast delayed my salvation from me because of the words of my folly.”

Why would the George Lamsa's Translation be the more correct translation? For that insight, see the explanation given under Mistranslation No. 2 regarding **Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34**. These two verses are where we find the fulfillment of this prophetic Psalm. On that we can all agree. This Psalm is a very detailed prophetic account of the death of Jesus on the cross...except on this one point. The Father did not desert the Son...and the Son knew that very well.

We find in the Lamsa translation that all three verses (**Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34**), are in harmony with each other *AND* with the rest of the Word. They clearly express that the Father did not forsake the Son when He was on the cross. What the Lamsa verse above says that the Father kept the Son alive for that moment to be the sin offering for all mankind. He was the perfect Lamb of God for a sin offering. His perfect sacrifice would atone for our sins so that we could receive His Spirit and walk in overcoming victory through our trials as He did. This great trial of the cross with the suffering Jesus endured as the sin offering ended well. It ended in new life... resurrection life. Its results can be seen in tremendous victory both for Jesus *AND* for those descended from Adam in the end.

In summary, Jesus did not go to the cross lamenting that the Father had left Him, but rather He endured that suffering for the joy that He could see at the other end of the cross experience, (as told in **Hebrews 12:2**). In fact he even disregarded the shame, meaning He paid no attention to it. He could see the "big picture"...and now we can too.

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