

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.]

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.

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