

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.]

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. ¹ (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.

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

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 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.

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