

The Book of God #9

Text : **II Pet. 1: 16–21 ; II Tim. 3: 12–4: 4**

A. When one becomes a Christian, what is his most pressing question ?

S#1.
S#2.

1. Yes, what must I do to be saved, but what comes after that ?
2. Is the bible really from God ? How do I know I can trust it ?

B. When challenged, many faithful Christians cannot defend their book.

1. Your family has told you lies before. *“Don’t go out w/o your hat or catch cold.”*
2. Other people were raised to believe in other holy books.
Did your parents raise you better than their parents raised them ?
3. One cannot prove the bible by the scientific method.
 - a. The bible is an historical document. Science is not used to prove history.
 - b. History must be proven by the rules of evidence.

C. The bible is a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the time of other eyewitnesses that records supernatural events that took place in fulfilment of specific prophecies that claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin.

S#3.

1. The bible is a collection of historical documents.
 - a. 66 individual writings
 - b. Written over a period of 1500 years.
 - c. Penned by 40 men scattered on 3 continents in 3 different languages.
 - d. Yet, it has one unified message woven through it from beginning to end.

2. It was written by credible eye witnesses.

- a. **II Pet. 1: 16** – For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

S#4.

- b. **Luke 1: 1-4** – Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, **2** just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, **3** it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; **4** so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

S#5.

D. Never has a book had to withstand such strong attempts to eradicate it.

S#6.

1. The Jews sought to silence its message.
2. The Romans tried to kill all who believed or even possessed it.
3. The apostate church outlawed it, burned it and burned men to translated it.

E. Yet it remains the most popular book in the history of the world.

1. Estimated that over 5 billion bibles have been sold since 1816. (*50 per minute*)
2. Bible translated into 426 languages, N.T. into 1,115 languages (*7000 languages*)

I. A thirst for the words of God caused many attempts to translate the bible. S#7.**A. Sharing the gospel has always been part of the Christian's character. S8#.**

1. As the Apostles wrote books copies were made and shared with others.
 - a. **Col. 4: 16** ... The Apostle Paul gave instructions to share his writings.
 - b. **I Pet. 1: 1** ... Peter wrote his book to be circulated in 5 different regions.
2. Christian teachers wrote lessons and doctrinal treatises which included scriptures.
 - a. Clement of Rome (95 AD)
 - b. Polycarp wrote to churches (115 AD) citing scripture to validate his points.
 - c. Writings of Ignatius, Justin Martyr and others were widely circulated.
 - d. The entire N.T. can be recreated from such writings.
3. Christians would include sections of scripture in their personal letters.

B. Before the N.T. cannon was agreed upon Christians shared the scriptures.

1. The cost of copying scripture and risk of capture prevented large sections.
2. As the gospel spread, sections of the scriptures were translated to local dialect.
3. Soon the scriptures were so wide spread that Rome could not remove it.
4. **ILL.** – It's like the gun debate in the U.S.
 - a. Above 30% of American household have a gun. (29% of them own 5 or more)
 - b. Even rabid anti second amendment people realizes all could not be confiscated.
5. There were many languages spoken so many languages of bible texts were used.

C. The apostate church decided that they needed everyone to use the same. S#9.

1. They thought once the cannon was agreed upon, commonness was within reach.
2. They contracted with Jerome to translate the bible into Latin.
 - a. Jerome was an ascetic Christian who lived in the desert and studied.
 - b. He was the premier Christian scholar of his time.
3. He began his work on the Vulgate in 382 AD and finished about 400AD
 - a. In defiance of the Pope, he translated from the original Greek and Hebrew.
 - b. Jerome did not use the formal Latin like scholars, but the vulgar or Vulgate.

S#10.**D. The apostate church tried to enforce the Latin Vulgate as the ONLY official bible**

1. At first Christians were forbidden to use any other bible.
2. Then everyone except those recognized as “*clergy*” were forbidden to read the bible.
3. Finally, the apostate church began burning bibles and burning readers of the bible.

II. After many years of suppression and oppression the clergy began to rebel. S#11.

A. In the early centuries urbanization fostered literacy and the desire for the bible.

1. In 709, Aldenhelm translated the Psalms into Old English
2. In 1173, Peter Waldo started the Waldensians wanting to follow the bible.
3. In the 12th century the Paterines in northern Italy and Cathars in southern France

S#12.

B. John Wycliffe lit the fire which ignited the revolution against the apostate church.

1. Wycliffe was educated with a view toward becoming a teacher in the church.
2. He became a noted scholar and an outspoken critic of the papacy and its abuses.
3. Wycliffe finished translating the Latin into English in 1382.

Soon after Wycliffe’s translation was corrected and revised by John Purvey

* **The printing press is invented in 1450** Changed the course of world history. **S#13.**

C. Reading Wycliffe’s translation motivated Erasmus of Rotterdam to create the first Greek text of that era. S#14.

1. Erasmus hurried his translation to beat Cardinal Cisneros’ Complutensian Polygrot
2. Had only 5 Greek manuscripts, didn’t cover all the N.T. (*some from Latin to Greek*)
3. He did revisions and improvements in 1520, 21, 22, 27, 35 (*added more manuscripts*)
4. Known as the Textus Receptus this became the foundation for future translations including that of Tyndale and King James.

D. In 1517, Martin Luther translated the bible into German. S#15.

1. Luther translated from the Hebrew and the Greek
2. Luther’s translation contributed to the development of today’s high German
3. Erasmus interacted with Luther about translation, but had differences on doctrine.

E. It was the ambition of Tyndale to translate the bible from Hebrew & Greek S#16.

1. Tyndale set about learning multiple languages in order to accomplish this.
2. It is thought that he studied Greek under Erasmus at Cambridge University.
3. In 1526, Tyndale had published his N.T. in English, **and** proceeded to the O.T.
4. Tyndale was betrayed and burned before he finished the O.T.

F. In 1539, John Rogers combined the translation of Tyndale and Cloverdale. S#17.

1. John Rogers published it under the pseudonym “Thomas Matthew.”

2. It was printed in the large 11X16 ½ format so it was known as the “Great Bible.”
3. King Henry VIII had a copy put in every church in England.
4. It was chained to the pulpit to prevent theft.

G. In 1560, the most significant bible translation in history was finished. S#18.

1. It was known as the as the Geneva Bible because it was translated in Geneva.
2. It was also known as the Breeches Bible because of **Gen. 3: 7** ... God made breeches
3. It is very significant for several reasons.
 - a. It is the foundation for all future English translations.
 - b. It is the first committee translation. *It was translated by true scholars.*
 - c. It was first to printed each verse as a paragraph.
 - d. It was the first to print supplied words (not in original) in italics.
 - e. For 50 years it was the undisputed family bible.
 - f. It was the first generously annotated bible printed.

S#19.

H. The King James Version was created more for political reasons than religious.

1. The clergy and king of England did not like the annotations in the Geneva Bible.
 - * *Some interpreted some of the notes to infer the right to actively resist oppression.*
2. King James tried to make it appear more scholarly than the Geneva Bible.
 - a. He assigned more translators to the committee than the Geneva Bible.
 - b. HOWEVER, all of his translators were from the Episcopal Church / C of England
 - c. They claimed to go back to the Greek, but used the work of the Geneva translators.
3. The translation was more or less a revision of the Geneva Bible minus annotations.

III. Now we will look at the actual mechanics of translation.

S#20.

S#21.

A. The first decision is what one will translate. There are multiple Greek texts.

1. The first Greek text that was assembled by Erasmus had significant problems.
 - a. It did not cover the entire text of the bible.
 - b. Part of the Greek text of Erasmus was translated from Latin back into Greek.
 - c. The Greek manuscripts were not very old; they were from the 12th century.
 - d. An unfounded myth developed that this text was received from God by inspiration. Thus, it text became known as the “Textus Receptus”, i.e., the received text.
2. In later years, some other manuscripts were added to those as they became available.
3. Revisions to the Textus Receptus relied heavily on the original work of Erasmus.

- a. The text translated from Latin back to Greek is still used today.
- b. Stephanus (Robert Etienne) had an excellent Greek manuscript available to him, but he made little use of it, preferring to follow Erasmus. (*easy way*)
- c. Stephanus' fourth edition, published in 1557 became a standard in England and was used as a basis for the King James Version of 1611.
- 4. Theodore de Beze, produced nine editions of the Greek N. T. during his lifetime.
- 5. In 1881-82, Westcott and Hort published *The New Testament in the Original Greek*
 - a. Many more manuscripts had been found and all were considered.
 - b. It was assembled during the era of textual criticism, so called the "Critical text."
 - c. Both the American Standard and the English Revised are based on this text.
- 6. In 1982, Zane Hodges and Arther Farstad published *The Greek New Testament, According to the Majority Text*.
 - a. Became known simply as "*The Majority Text*."
 - b. The goal for it to be the consensus of the majority of existing Greek manuscripts

B. The second major decision is what will be the philosophy of translation. S#22.

- 1. Will the translation be word for word or thought by thought?
- 2. It is impossible to make a truly word for word translation of anything.
- 3. A word for word translation cannot translate idioms. (*It may take a sentence*)
 - a. How would a word for word communicate : "*That happens once in a blue moon.*"
 - b. We all understand that to mean something that rarely happens, but in ??
- 4. The 1901 ASV is the most accurate translation of the N.T., but difficult to read.
- 5. Dynamic equivalency translation (Thought by thought) become commentaries
 - a. They dynamic equivalent method loses form and technical accuracy.
 - b. Jesus made an argument based on specific wording of scripture.

Mark 12: 26-27 – But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? 27 " He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken

- c. The Apostle Paul made an argument based upon the singularity of one word.

Gal. 3:16 – Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, " And to your seed," that is, Christ.

- d. The NIV was translated with the dynamic equivalent philosophy.
(Sentence by sentence, what does this sentence communicate.)

C. Who should do the translation?**S#25.**

1. Translators are human and normally educated so all have personal convictions/biases.
2. Being human means all will make mistakes and some are dishonest.
3. A translation should be done by a committee of people, the more the better.
4. The committee should be from a variety of different backgrounds. (*work groups*)
 - a. Individuals and single denominations tend to incorporate their dogma.
 - b. All of the translators of the KJV were from the Church of England / Episcopal.
 - c. The Holman Christian Standard Version had 100 from 17 denominations.

D. No translation is perfect so it is good to compare.**S#26.**

1. Jesus quoted from the Septuagint and it was a very flawed translation.
2. Only the original autographs were inspired, but there are NONE of them remaining.
 - a. They were made of perishable materials.
 - b. The opposition destroyed very many of them.
3. God did not preserve the originals so people would not worship them.
 - a. People have always had a tendency to worship artifacts.
 - b. **2 Kings 18:4b – He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it;**
 - c. Thousands of artifacts are “venerated” by many even in this era.

S#28.**E. Without originals, we can trust the translations that we have as being God’s word**

1. Inconsistencies are eliminated by comparing a multitude of sources.
 - a. There are 5300 ancient Greek manuscripts.
 - b. There are 10,000 ancient Latin manuscripts
 - c. There are 9,300 manuscripts in other languages (Coptic, Aramaic, Syriac) – –
2. The next closest document from antiquity is Homer’s Iliad.
 - a. There are only 600 copies in existence.
 - b. The oldest of them dates back to the 1400s.
3. Oldest Hebrew text is 1000 BC, Dead Sea were written scrolls 100 AD are the same.

CONCLUSION :**A. There are a couple more lessons that could be added, but these are sufficient.****S#29.****B. We have God’s word reliably passed down to us. WHAT GOOD IS IT TO US ?****S#30.****S#31.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Peter 1: 16–21**

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — **18** and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. **20** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

II Timothy 3:12 – 4:4

12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. **5** But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.