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MODERN BIBLE TRANSLATIONS – LESSON 12
DIFFERENT VERSION TYPES

I am going to talk about the two basic types of bible versions. [1] translations [2] paraphrases.

A translation takes the original word or phrase (from Greek or Hebrew or other language) and translates it into the English word or phrase that communicates the exact same thing. Sometimes there is not an exact word that is equivalent so they choose a word or phrase which the translator feels are the closest they can get to the original meaning or idea. Hence, translations might not be exact, but they are as close as the translator can get. To be exact, you would need to be literate in Greek or Hebrew as the original writer was.

That is not possible because the Koine Greek is a dead language. It has not been a spoken language in many centuries. However, we are familiar enough in our understanding of it that we can get a pretty accurate translation.

A paraphrase is different. The writer uses existing translations and rewrites it in their own words. The goal is to make it more easily to understand. Often it expands meanings to it not originally found in the translations. In other words, it is someone's interpretation of they think is a better understanding. It is not actual scripture translated from the original language.

Now let us go back to translated versions. There are two main classes of translated versions. One is the "traditional translation" which include all the words and verses of the bible. A second type is a modern version which eliminates key verses and passages from their version of the bible. I call them perversions as they open the door to possible heresy due to altering the word and making it incomplete.

Tomorrow, I will give you guidance or listings of the different versions and what category they fit in. I will show you whether they are complete (traditional versions and certain modern ones that are complete), incomplete, (as are many modern versions), or paraphrased, (where man interprets what he thinks it says).