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6-15-2022

MODERN BIBLE TRANSLATIONS – LESSON 11

HOW THEY CAME ABOUT

In this series we have compared many modern bible versions to traditional versions. What we have not yet talked about is how we got our English versions from the original languages in which the scripture was written.

We believe in “verbal plenary inspiration” which means God (Holy Spirit) gave the human writers the words to write. This is contrary to the liberal views that say while God may have given them the inspiration, they wrote it in their own words according to their own understanding or wisdom. This latter view makes it easy to eliminate some verses. This view believes that the original writers of scripture of the old manuscripts felt that it explained things better by adding words and verses to make things clearer. Therefore, the modern versions’ authors would eliminate these verses for doctrinal purposes “because it probably wasn’t there originally, therefore, let us take it out.”

Such a loose and liberal mindset is what has altered the modern perversions from the full word of God.

The New Testament has been the main target of these “critical thinking” scholars. The New Testament was written in “Koine” Greek which was the common spoken language throughout the Roman world of Jesus’ time. It is different from “classical” Greek of the Greek playwrights.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew except for scarce isolated passages in Aramaic such as the first chapters of Daniel.

When the original Greek or Hebrew manuscripts are broken down into English for our reading, there are three types of versions that are created. They are [1] transliterations, [2] versions, and [3] paraphrases.

It is important to understand the differences in the three kinds of “bibles” that are produced this way. Tomorrow I will define these three very different processes and the kinds of bibles that are produced from them. It is also noteworthy that some versions use other manuscripts or versions that are neither Greek or Hebrew but are a version of another version and not of original language manuscripts. The Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate are commonly relied upon, neither of which are original manuscripts.