

FAITH BUILDERS

Lesson 2b

Bible Translations, Study, History

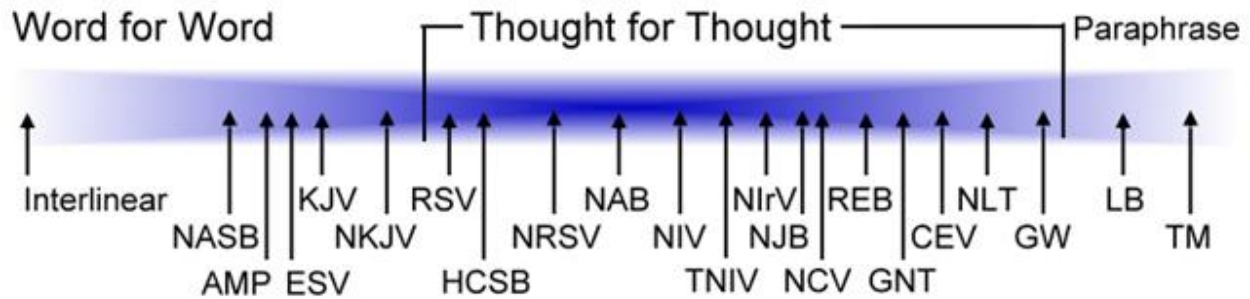
In this supplemental lesson, we will look a little deeper into #2 & #8 from Lesson 2 as well as provide you with a brief overview of Bible History. Knowing the general outline of who lived when can be very helpful in understanding how various events interrelate with each other.

#2: USE ONE, APPROPRIATE TRANSLATION

The goal of Bible translations: to faithfully render the Hebrew and Greek into fluent English.

No language is exactly equivalent to another language in word meanings, in sentence structure, in idioms, or in grammar. Translating involves first understanding the meaning of one language and then expressing that meaning as accurately as possible in another language. At the same time, a good Bible translator will recognize, especially in passages that are rich with doctrinal content, the importance of remaining as faithful as possible to the original wording. But language also has mood and connotation and unspoken and unwritten nuances that are very difficult to carry into another language.

English Bible Translation Comparison



NASB - New American Standard (11.5)
 AMP - Amplified Bible (11)
 ESV - English Standard Version (8)
 KJV - King James Version (13)
 NKJV - New King James Version (9.5)
 RSV - Revised Standard Version (11)
 HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)
 NRSV - New Revised Standard (10.5)
 NAB - New American Bible (7)
 NIV - New International Version (8)
 TNIV - Today's NIV (7.5)

NiRV - New International reader's (3)
 NJB - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)
 NCV - New Century Version (3.5)
 REB - Revised English Bible (7)
 GNT - Good News Translation (6)
 CEV - Contemporary English (5.5)
 NLT - New Living Translation (6.5)
 GW - God's Word (4.5)
 LB - Living Bible (8.5)
 TM - The Message (4.5)

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The following is a list of principles that guided the WELS Translation Evaluation Committee in 2010.

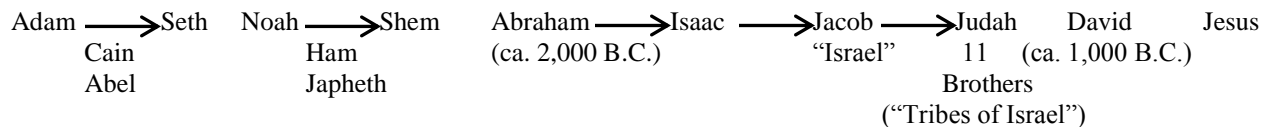
1. We expect a translation to conform to the presuppositions of faith. These include a firm conviction that we are dealing with God's verbally-inspired, inerrant Word. Though speaking through many different human authors, one single divine Author addresses us in every word. The Scriptures find their center and beating heart in Jesus Christ, our Savior. The whole Bible testifies of him and in his name proclaims repentance and remission of sins.
2. We expect, with Luther, that a translation will communicate in the language of the people, using idioms and expressions that are understandable and in common, current use.
3. We expect that a translation will understand itself as a "direct quotation" of an ancient document, rather than merely supplying the "gist" of the original's meaning in a contemporizing paraphrase.
4. We expect, with Luther, that when theologically necessary a translation will adhere closely to the exact wording of the original.
5. We expect that the translation will be aimed at native English speakers who can handle Standard American English at a late-primary school or early high school level, people who are neither professional theologians nor biblical illiterates. They can appreciate the difference between texts that don't aim at literary beauty and those that do, and they have some appreciation for the latter.
6. We expect that the primary way in which most WELS people experience most of the Bible most of the time is by hearing it read—in the context of the public worship service. Consideration must therefore be given to a translation's suitability for being read aloud.

PLAN OUT A METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

In general, study the Bible by books. If you're going to start with one of the four Gospels, which cover the ministry of Jesus, it is my opinion that you begin with the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a doctor. He was an educated man. So it makes sense that he focuses more on the teachings of Jesus than any other Gospel writer. Another book of the Bible that would serve as a good starting point would be Genesis, the very first book, which outlines why we need a Savior in the first place. And if you are looking for a Bible book that is rich in doctrinal content, go with the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. It is his largest treatment of the doctrine of justification, which is the teaching that God has declared us not guilty of our sins because Jesus was declared guilty in our place.

OVERVIEW OF BIBLE HISTORY

Ancestral Line of the Savior



1. CREATION TO THE TOWER OF BABEL

Bible Book: Genesis 1-11

Summary of the earliest world history: (Creation; Man's fall into sin; First promises of the Savior; God's judgment on unbelief in the Flood; The origin of nations and languages)

2. ABRAHAM TO SINAI TO BORDER OF THE PROMISED LAND (2,000 B.C. – 1,400 B.C.)

Bible Books: Genesis 12-50
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Earliest history of God's chosen people (Call of Abraham & promise of the Savior's coming from his descendants; Migration to Egypt; Slavery in Egypt; The Exodus under Moses, about 1,450 B.C.; Giving of the Law at Mount Sinai; 40 years of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai).

3. CONQUEST OF CANAAN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM (1,400 B.C. – 1,000 B.C.)

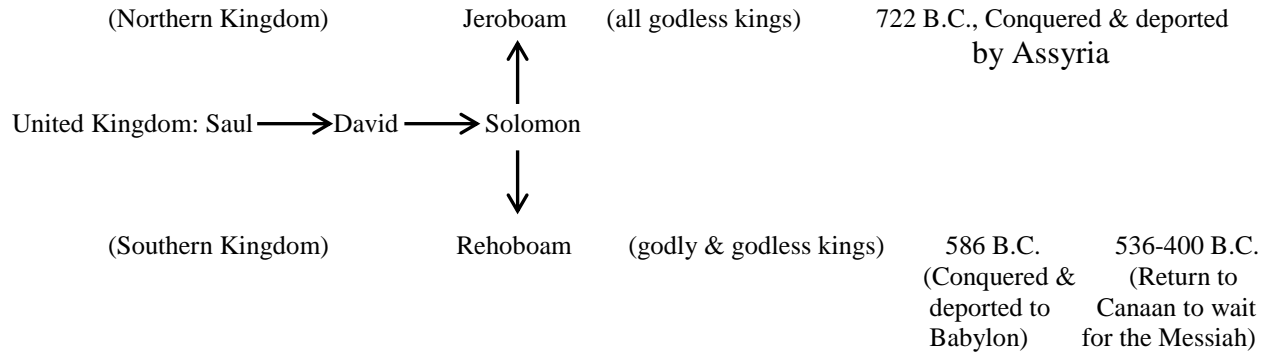
Bible Books: Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel 1-7

(Invasion and conquest of the Promised Land, Canaan, under Joshua; Period of the Judges)

4. THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE RESTORATION AFTER CAPTIVITY (1,000 B.C. – 400 B.C.)

Bible Books: 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, All the Prophets & Poetry, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Kings:



5. THE EARTHLY MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST (ca. 4 B.C. – 33 A.D.)

Bible Books: Matthew	(The birth, life, death, resurrection, and
Mark	ascension of Jesus our Savior)
Luke	
John	

6. THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT THE TIME OF THE APOSTLES (33 A.D. – 95 A.D.)

Bible Books: Acts through Revelation	(The history of the church from the day of Pentecost; Instruction and guidance for all churches; especially through the Apostle Paul)
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