

## Translations – Notes from PowerPoint Slides

### SLIDE 3 Ancient Times

Translated from copies of ancient manuscripts, not other translations

Latin translation Vulgate, AD 390-405 by Jerome

Became standard for the Western church in the early middle ages

Reigned more than 1000+ years, long after Latin used as a living language

OT Hebrew

Not as precise as English, Russian or German

Context matters with both object and how it is acted upon

Translated into Greek (Septuagint 250 BC used by early Christians), Aramaic (Samaritan Pentateuch 400 BC) and other languages of the Jews

NT Greek

More precise than Hebrew, but often permits more than one way to translate a word or phrase

OT Hebrew and NT Greek

Translated into Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopic, Armenian, Georgian, Arabic and other languages current in the ancient world

### SLIDE 4 Hebrew Example

Each Hebrew verb identifies the person, gender, and number of the subject, the tense of the verb, and sometimes the gender and number of the object of the verb.

Charash is the word here, and this is from the Blue Letter Bible:

The screenshot shows a window titled "Outline of Biblical Usage [?]" with the following content:

- I. to cut in, plough, engrave, devise
  - A. (Qal)
    - i. to cut in, engrave
    - ii. to plough
    - iii. to devise
  - B. (Niphal) to be ploughed
  - C. (Hiphil) to plot evil
- II. to be silent, be dumb, be speechless, be deaf
  - A. (Qal)
    - i. to be silent
    - ii. to be deaf
  - B. (Hiphil)
    - i. to be silent, keep quiet
    - ii. to make silent
    - iii. to be deaf, show deafness
  - C. (Hithpael) to remain silent

Below this is a section titled "Strong's Definitions [?]" with the text: "(Strong's Definitions Legend) חָרַשׁ *chârash*, khaw-rash'; a primitive root; to scratch, i.e. (by implication) to engrave, plough; hence (from the use of tools) to fabricate (of any material); figuratively, to devise (in a bad sense); hence (from the idea of secrecy) to be silent, to let alone; hence (by implication) to be deaf (as an accompaniment of

There are two very different definitions of the word. But both do not apply in this context. It would not be correct to say that you are ENGRAVED in his love, even though technically, to engrave is a definition of this Hebrew word. But there is often depth missing if we don't choose the correct FORM of the verb. Hiphil in Hebrew is a causative verb. If the verb was "to remember", the hiphil

form would mean “he caused to remember” or “he reminded”. In this verse, the word for “to be silent” is in the hiphil form. יִחַרְשׁ

This has the prefix indicating “he” as the subject. So this could be translated “he was causing to be silent in his love”. Scholars translate this one of two ways: that God was causing himself to be silent, and so forgave the transgressions of the people. Or that God was causing THEM to be silent in his love: leaving them speechless.

This is why the NIV translates this as “in his love he will no longer rebuke you” but the HCSB translates it as “He will bring you quietness with His love”

In the Syriac version and the Greek version of the Septuagint, the middle letter is not an R, but a D, changing the word from “Charash” to “Chadash”, changing the meaning to “renew” his love for you. R and D in Hebrew are very similar: ר vs ד

This is known by looking at this verb in the Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Lexicon.

#### SLIDE 6 Translation Types

Word for word – most accurate, but more difficult to read in English

Phrase for phrase – same meaning of a phrase with different word order, but not as accurate for detailed word study

Thought for thought – least accurate, but easiest to read

Paraphrase – use modern language and idioms to try to capture the thought and essence behind the original text

#### SLIDE 8 Translation Types

2014 Survey - What % read KJV? (55%) What % read NIV? (19%)

NIV #1 Bestseller for decades

#### SLIDE 11 Translation Types

1971 – viewed as “the most literally accurate English translation” from the original languages.

1995 – updated to increase clarity and readability

Archaic vocabulary such as Old English "thees," "thys," and "thous" updated

Verses with difficult word order were restructured

Verbs updated for their use in the context

Pronouns → Proper names or titles

Punctuation and paragraphing changed to fit today’s standards

#### SLIDE 16 Chapters and Verses

Langton was a professor at the University of Paris and later he became the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Hebrew Old Testament was first divided into verses by a Jewish rabbi by the name of Mordecai Nathan

Robert Estienne divided the verses for his Greek New Testament

Latin “Stephanus”      English “Stephens”

The first English New Testament to have both chapter and verse divisions was the Geneva Bible (AD 1560)

Stephanus approach has been accepted into nearly all Bible versions.

Fortunately Jewish scholars have followed by dividing the Hebrew Scriptures into chapters and verses.

### SLIDE 17 English Translations

Luther’s stance against Catholic church

Greek text available to Europeans

Clergy only read and interpreted Latin text to the church

Tyndale translated many OT books, but it wasn’t complete

Tyndale "was strangled to death while tied at the stake, then his dead body was burned" His final words, spoken at the stake with a fervent zeal, and a loud voice, were "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes."

Three years later, King Henry VIII authorized the Great Bible to be read aloud at church services

King James Version (AD 1611) – Not *Olde English*, it’s modern

Translation requested by King of England (King James I)

Translated by 47 scholars who were all members of Church of England

Relied heavily on William Tyndale’s translation about 80 yrs before (83% NT 76% OT)

1<sup>st</sup> Edition KJV had 200+ mistakes and had to be reprinted 2 years later

Included the OT Apocrypha

Recommendations (there are 100+ complete English Bible translations)

Use several English translations

Read Preface – who were the translators? their background? What was review process?

### SLIDE 18 Translation Languages

Ethnologue is the authoritative resource of world’s languages

## SLIDE 19 Interpretation

Different translation types - but understand the strengths and weaknesses

View passage in its original context historically and culturally

Sometimes other Scriptures will help clarify a particular passage

Additional tools

Concordance: Strong's, Complete NIV

Commentaries: It is man's opinion

Greek-English Lexicon: standard English dictionary of the ancient Greek language

Vine's Expository Dictionary for New Testament

Greek or Hebrew Interlinear: word-by-word with references