

Teaching Sound Doctrine

Bible Translations

Intro: I am neither a textual critic (some people spend their entire life in this one area of study), nor an expert in the original languages of the Bible. I have studied some in both of these fields and recognize their importance. Can we rely on the Bibles we possess? Do we know we have the Word of God from which our Bibles were translated? The answer is YES! I only intend to give a quick overview of this study in this lesson.

I. MAN USCRIPTS

A. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible.

1. 2 Pet. 1:21 “21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.”

2. The Spirit did not do the actual writing but used the apostles and holy prophets.

a. What they spoke and wrote was not them, but the Spirit speaking through them.

b. Mark 13:11 “11 But when they shall lead *you*, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.”

c. 1 The. 2:13 “13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

d. Eph. 3:3-5 “3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”

e. Rom. 16:25-26 “25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”

3. Sometimes the human author would use an amanuensis (or secretary).

4. The finished product was Scripture and inspired by God; 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

5. Inspiration is affirmed both of the total product but also of the very words of the writings themselves.

a. 1 Cor. 2:9-13 “9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

b. John 10:35 “35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;”

c. Gal. 3:16 “16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

B. Manuscripts.

1. Normally the original documents are called manuscripts.

2. In biblical criticism the terminology is changed.

a. God providentially destroyed all the originals (also termed autographs).

b. God knew that because of man's worshiping nature he would worship the actual paper on which His Word was recorded.

3. Manuscripts, in biblical terminology, refers to the copies.

C. Copies and collections.

1. As letters were sent, they would immediately be copied and collected into books.

2. Examples:

a. Col. 4:6 "6 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea."

b. 1 The. 5:27 "27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren."

c. 2 Pet. 3:1-2, 15-16 "1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:... 15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

d. Paul would write a letter to a congregation, they would make copies, send it to other congregations and ask for any letters sent to them.

e. By this method they would collect all the holy writings.

3. The same principle is observed in the Old Testament.

a. Deu. 31:9, 24-26 "9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.... 24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, 25 That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, 26 Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee."

b. Isa. 34:16 “16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.”

c. Generally agreed that after the captivity, Ezra collected all the books into one book except Nehemiah and Malachi which were written after his time.

d. By New Testament time the Old was viewed as a unit; 2 Cor. 3:14 “14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ.”