

Learn to Read the Bible Effectively Seminar

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

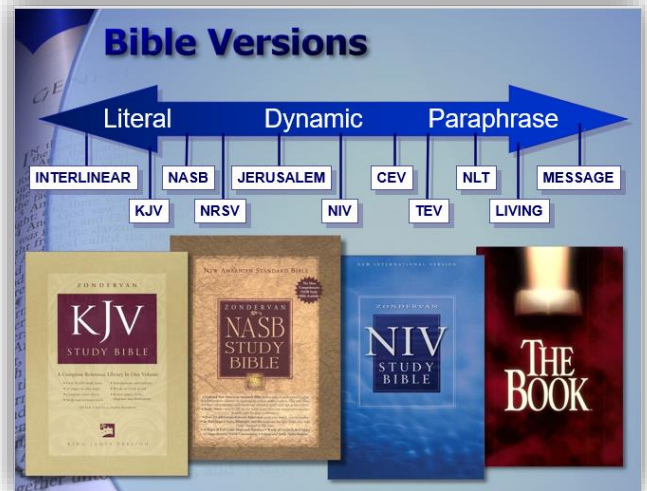
Workshop/Homework Study Sheet #5

What is the difference between all the Bible Translations?

Some translations are very **LITERAL** – ‘word for word’, and are therefore more accurate to the original Hebrew and Greek texts. However, these translations are generally less ‘easy’ to read.

Some are **DYNAMIC** – which means they practise ‘thought for thought’ to try and give the meaning of the original languages. This often makes for a much easier to read translation, but the accuracy may suffer.

Some are **PARAPHRASES** – where the translator has put the text into his own words. This is the least accurate translation. A paraphrase often is easy to read, but doctrinal bias of the translator can lead to major doctrinal errors.



Consider this comparison of 3 Translations of Genesis 6:1-4

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,² That **the sons of God** saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.³ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.⁴ There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when **the sons of God** came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. (KJV)

From reading the KJV, who do you think married the beautiful women? _____

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² **the sons of God** saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with^[a] humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when **the sons of God** went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. (NIV)

From reading the NIV who do you think married the beautiful women? _____

Now a population explosion took place upon the earth. It was at this time that **beings from the spirit world** looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives. ³ Then Jehovah said, “My Spirit must not forever be disgraced in man, wholly evil as he is. I will give him 120 years to mend his ways.” ⁴ In those days, and even afterwards, when **the evil beings from the spirit world** were sexually involved with human women, their children became giants, of whom so many legends are told. (LB)

From reading the LB who do you think married the beautiful women? _____

To determine which translation is right, let’s look at this passage more carefully using Bible study tools:

CONTEXT

Genesis 4 begins with Cain killing Abel, and then establishing his own family line with many descendants who developed their skills in music, farming, weaponry and built cities – but were not godly-minded. In fact a man named Lamach boast that he would kill anyone who crosses him. However, the chapter ends with, “And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.”

Two sides develop soon after creation – those who worshipped God, and those who lived for themselves.

ORIGINAL WORDS

What is the Hebrew word for 'sons' of God? _____ What does it mean? _____

When you do a **SEARCH** for the phrase 'sons of God', how is it used throughout the Bible?

Job 1:6 _____

Job 38:7 _____

Hosea 1:10 _____

John 1:12 _____

Romans 8:14 _____

1 John 3:2 _____

What is the Hebrew word for 'giants'? _____ What does it mean? _____

SEARCH for the Hebrew word #, and see how else it is used:

Numbers 13:33 _____

Note: These 'giants' – 'nephilim' were in the earth after the flood had wiped out everyone except Noah's family. Whatever happened in Genesis 6 either happened again, or was part of the human genetic code of the 8 people on the ark.

Taking all of this into consideration, who do you think the 'sons of God' were in Genesis 6:1-4?

ECHOES: What do we know about angels from the N.T.?

"And Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 "But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 "nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection." (Luke 6:34-36)

Does this passage alter or support your interpretation of Genesis 6:1-6? _____

PROOF #5

THAT THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED BY GOD

EXCELLENT PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVICE FROM THE CREATOR WHO KNOWS HIS CREATION!

Consider the powerful Biblical message of good overcoming evil, the lessons for character-building and the accurate understanding of human nature. The Bible is God's instructional manual to lift us up to His level, so that we can be the BEST that we can be. So many of the helpful sayings and idioms of today are based upon Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, or Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Christian values change lives for the better and lift our minds above basic animal instincts. Many successful 'self-help' books are based on Biblical principles. Consider the following:

FIND JOY in bad circumstances – Philippians 4:4-8

BE GRATEFUL – Colossians 3:15

SEEK PEACE with others – Matthew 5:9

DON'T DWELL on perverse thoughts – Colossians 3:1-10

TRANSFORM your mind – Isaiah 55:1-9; Eph. 4:17-32

LIVE HONESTLY – Leviticus 19:35-37; 1 Peter 4:13-16

SERVANT LEADERSHIP is true leadership – Mk. 10:42

FORGIVE rather than HOLD GRUDGES – Lk. 17:4; 23:34

LOVE instead of TAKING VENGEANCE – Matt. 5:44-45

DON'T TRUST YOUR HEART – Jer. 17:9-10; Mk. 7:18-23

HAVE PEACE knowing a HIGHER BEING is working to bring about our ETERNAL SALVATION

Matthew 6:25-34; 1 John 4:8-19

Do to others as you would have them do to you... love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." Luke 6:31-36 NIV