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W I S D O M
for the
F a t h e r l e s s

VOLUME 6

**What Bible Version
Should I Use?**

WISDOM for the FATHERLESS

VOLUME 6

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VOLUME 6: What Bible Version Should I Use?

Adults reading this, please understand that there are some big/more difficult words that need to be used in trying to explain this volume. Since this book is mainly for children and teenagers to read, easier words to understand are chosen &/or an easier to understand explanation/word is inserted via a / or (). It is hoped that young people will also be able to increase their understanding of new words, as well. Thank you for understanding. Please note that in making comments about choosing a translation, this author actively states that there is zero intent to add to or to take away from the original written documentation of anything considered to be any part of the Bible.

Please know that the information in this volume is based on current information that may differ with the opinions of many. The author of this writing claims no expertise in Bible versions, and is only trying to share some basics to help a young person in some initial (beginning) direction and guidance. This Volume may be changed in the future to include more valuable versions to choose from or even to delete ones that seemed to be better options previously (before). There are language experts who might have insight in how this volume can be better portrayed. The author is thankful for any simple insights that can help a young person on their way to truth.

Young person, please know that for over a thousand years, what we call The Bible was not readily (easily) available to most common (especially poor) people. Most of society was based on agriculture (farming), so God used examples of agriculture and non-book type of learning. They learned truth first of all by the allowance (giving) of His Holy Spirit. They also learned from the words passed on from person to person. They also learned from all of creation. If we listen in our spirit to God's Holy Spirit, we can learn from Him by understanding the world around us. The Bible itself reveals that God's creation can teach us about Him (God). There is a purpose for His creation, which means there is a purpose for all of us. A few more prominent (big) examples are as follows:

SYMBOLISMS IN THE BIBLE -

Initial:

Adam (1 st human)	: Man (& woman – in general)
Garden (of Eden)	: Place of communication with God
Tree of Life	: Eating of this fruit brings life
Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil (if forbidden)	: Eating of this fruit brings forth death

Patriarchs:

Abraham (father of Isaac)	: May <u>represent</u> God the Father
Isaac (son of Abraham)	: May <u>represent</u> Y'shua (Jesus) the Son
Jacob (son of Isaac)	: May <u>represent</u> Israel (all tribes & grafted in people)

Sin to Salvation Example:

Egypt (under Pharaoh)	: Land of Sin (bondage)
Lamb (sheep)	: Y'shua (Jesus) as the Passover
Red Sea (crossing)	: Baptism/Separation from Egypt (1Cor 10:2)
Rock (in the wilderness)	: Y'shua (Jesus) as God's Word, our Foundation
Wilderness (in Arabia)	: Our life/Trials
Jordan River (crossing)	: Moving from life to the after-life
Promised Land	: Our hope beyond this life
Joshua & Caleb (Moses' Servants)	: Joshua (Y'shua) & Caleb (Dog – Caleb means dog in Hebrew) Jesus (Y'shua) was a Jew. A dog represents (non-Jews or Gentiles) Non-Jews/Non-Israelites. Joshua & Caleb (Jew & Gentile together) going into the promised land.

Creation:

Mountains/Hills	: Closer to God. Highlights of our life
Valleys	: Times of trial
Trees	: People, kings or nations
Clouds	: Our faith
Rain	: Blessing (in moderation)
Dirt	: Brings forth produce
Sea	: The Abiss
Water	: Needed for life, cleansing when flowing
Fire	: Brings light, judgement, cleansing, ruin +

Creatures:

All animals (in general)	: Gentiles (non-Jews)
Dog	: Vile alone; Faithful if trained
Cat (Lion)	: Y'shua (Jesus)
Wolf	: Devil
Dragon	: Devil
Snake	: Devil or Y'Shua (only as accepting the curse for us on the cross for healing)
Fish	: Nations/People
Birds	: Dove (Peace), God cares for

BALANCE:

NAME	GOOD	BAD
ADAM	2 nd /Last was Y'shua (Jesus)	1 st /First was Adam (sinned)
TREE	Good Fruit - Person	Bad fruit - Person
FATHER	Heavenly	Devil
SON	Obedient	Disobedient
ISRAEL	Light of the Nations	Backsliding
CLOUDS	Bring rain	Lack faith
SEA	In Revelation	Represents the Abyss
WATER	Cleansing when flowing	Corrupt when stagnant
FIRE	Holy Spirit	Hell
DOG	Faithful	Vile
CAT (LION)	Of Judah (Y'shua/Jesus)	Devil

These symbolisms are shared for the purpose of exemplifying (giving examples) of non-written aspects of God's creation. It is innate (within us) to seek God's truth. With a true heart we can/will find Him. He is faithful to reveal truth to us, whether we have written words or not. Throughout the ages, those seeking diligently should have been able to come into the knowledge of the written word eventually. Now that we live in a time when we have so much access to The Bible and those written words to guide us into greater truth, we should do all we reasonably can to seek it out, whether that is through hard copy, digital forms or other methods.

Basics: The most common Bibles that include both the Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT) usually contain 66 books: 39 books in the Old Testament (OT) and 27 books in the New Testament (NT). The Bible was written over a period of about 1,500 years by about 40 different authors believed to have been inspired by God's Holy Spirit. The word "Bible" comes from the word biblios, which comes from papyrus, which is a plant. The plant had/has a material that can be folded out like paper. This is a simplification (made simple), meaning the process is more complex (difficult) than just folding paper out of the plant, but you get the idea and now know where the word Bible comes from. You can ask a preacher or pastor if they know where the word Bible comes from. You might be able to teach them something.

Once we have learned that the Bible is true (See Volume 1) and no book on earth can compare to it, we can then choose one or more Bible versions that we think is/are most accurate in its/their original meaning and intent. Some people do not care that much about truth and just want whatever is easiest. Please be strongly encouraged to seek truth in prayer and in knowledge. God's Holy Spirit is true and is all about truth. His Word instructs us to pray to be led into truth. The Bible tells us that God does not lie. The Bible says that he is the way, the truth and the light, and in him is no darkness.

Bible translations generally fall into two categories, 1. Word-for-word, and 2. Thought for thought. If choosing a thought for thought, you are placing your hope in the intent and understanding of the translator to get the correct meaning of the writer. When doing this, there is a danger of missing deeper meanings within the words themselves. The OT was mostly written in Hebrew and the NT is believed to be written in Greek. Some people believe the NT was written in Aramaic and/or at least some of it originally (at first) written in Hebrew. One OT book, Daniel, was written in Chaldee, a Babylonian language.

There is great concern that spiritual evil, whether someone calls the spiritual evil the devil, Satan or otherwise, is a spiritual intelligence (high thinking ability) that acts on the physical world. Many believe that several Bible versions are corrupted (badly changed) with errors, both intentional and unintentional. Many believers would probably agree that one of the most popular Bibles, The New International Version (NIV) has done the most disservice (harm) to the truth of the Bible. People have also tried to manipulate it to be gender neutral, meaning it presents (shows) males and females as the same gender (meaning not a male or female), without having any position of authority. Many are concerned about many important Bible verses that are foundational/meaningful (important) to salvation having been removed or changed from the NIV Bible. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) has done the same thing with creating a gender-neutral Bible. This is very bad in the understanding of the huge importance gender identification is to God. We read in Ephesians, chapter 5 that man represents Christ (Messiah) and woman represents the church (Bride of Messiah). The book of Revelation reveals a future wedding between the Messiah and His bride. God's bride has accepted the shed blood of Messiah on the cross. It is the current understanding of this author that this perfect blood sacrifice allows a spiritual covering (pure white garments – clothes) in preparation for this wedding.

We read in Revelation 13:8 that Y'Shua (Jesus) was slain (died for us) from the foundation of the world. In other words, God knew in advance what the story of life on earth would be. Y'Shua (Jesus) is the author and finisher of our work...endured the cross; Hebrews 12:2. Considering this, we can understand how important this wedding is to God. The wedding is between Christ and His church (bride). Gender is very important. God made us very different scientifically. Men are given the head-ship/authority in a God-honoring house, but this does not diminish the importance of the wife or women, in general. We are all to love one another and respect the feelings of one another, men and women (husbands and wives) serving one another in humbleness and love. The bottom line is that gender is important to God. The NIV and NRSV has tried to make God's Word gender-neutral. This is not good.

There are some errors with another very popular Bible, the King James Version (KJV), yet many believe it to be the most accurate version. As good as the KJV may be, there are some mis-translations (wrong words used). One important area to be aware of in the KJV is that the Greek word Pascha (Pas-khah; the English phonation/sound for the word Passover) was changed to the word Easter. The KJV is the only Bible version to have made this translation error. Translators also changed the phrase "first * of the Sabbath" to read, "first *day* of the week". Whenever italics are used it means that the *italicized* word was not in the original text. This change supported the attempt to justify moving the true Sabbath day from the 7th day of the week to the 1st day of the week. This is not a change that is biblical. The Sabbath Day was, is, and will be on the 7th day of the week (Friday sundown to Saturday sundown). There are several other words like law, charity, trespass, profit, cousin, remission and peculiar that have different primary (important) meanings today than they did when the 1611 KJV Bible was released. However, when you know what to watch for, the rest of the KJV is reliable and worthy to study from.

- The * represents an "inserted" word that was not in the original writing. The word *day* was used in 2 areas of the KJV when the context was night. The word *night* existed, so it seems that there was an intentional change from the existing context (full meaning).

The New King James (NKJV) Bible is easier to read for people who do not want to read the old English. It offers much of the accuracy of the KJV without the difficulty of the language. Some prefer the old English because it sounds more poetic and many classic Christian songs are written that way.

A summary of the KJV Bible and the NKJB is that they are both good resources, but there have been some mis-translations in several areas. Knowing where the mis-translated areas are is important. The other areas of text translations are good overall.

You can choose a chronological Bible, which has the events occurring in the order that they happened. Using a Bible like this can prevent some confusion about the order of events. Other than buying an actual chronological Bible (a Bible that has the books arranged according to the time-line of history), one can use a chart of the time-line of books and read almost any Bible in that order.

The New Living Translation (NLT) is a paraphrase Bible, meaning it is not as accurate to the letter as a KJV or NKJ Bible, but gives a meaning instead. Some theologians disagree as to the correctness of the NLT chronology, so it is not recommended by some. There is also some concern for the accuracy of the New Living Translation (NLT), so many people do not prefer it.

The Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) Bible would seem to be accurate, but it claims that some key messianic verses are missing due to the book of Isaiah page parts missing. That is not true because the book of Isaiah was the only DSS manuscript found fully in-tact. It is a good reference Bible for cross study.

The English Standard Version (ESV) has a good reputation for accuracy. It is a good word for word translation that has stood the test of time.

The New American Standard Version (NASV) has a good reputation for accuracy. It has many areas of better translation than the KJV. It is good to put the differences side by side to see which is more accurate. The benefit to reading a KJV is the concordance availability, meaning that one can look up original word meanings. A concordance is like an original Bible word dictionary. If you download a KJV Bible, look for the KJV+. The (+) sign usually means that it comes with the concordance.

Some people recommend some “lost” books of the Bible. Many believe these to be fakes/hoaxes and not matching the rest of the Bible in character and doctrine. It might be best to avoid these books until there is more substantiation (proof) to their validity (truthfulness).

There are many other Bible translations, including English versions of Aramaic, Hebrew roots and many more. For the simplicity of getting started in your studies, we like the NKJV and NASV. At the time of this writing, Bible.is and e-sword apps/downloads are good references.

It is hoped that these comments are helpful in not only choosing good quality Bible versions, but also to reveal some areas of mis-translations (changes from language to language that are not correct) and out-right manipulations (changes from language to language that were purposefully incorrect).

Be encouraged in the Word of God, in the Spirit of God and in all truth that comes from the Heavenly Father of all creation.