

The Word of Men or of God

*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received **the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe** 1Th. 2:13*

Paul preached the gospel to them and they accepted it as the word of God.

Paul thanked God they could see and believe truth.

What they accepted: Inspiration 1Cor 2:9-12

God's Mind
Things

- *Unto us God revealed them*
- *Through the Spirit*
- *The Spirit searches all things*
- *The deep things of God.*
- *We received the Spirit from God*
- *We know the things freely given to us by God.*

Apostles and prophets
Eph 3:5

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Old Testament

1 Pet 1:10-11

2 Pet 1:20-21

New Testament

Jn 14:26; 16:12-13

Mt 10:19-20

Gal 1:11-12

Inspired
Man's Mind
Things

- Once they received and validated each letter they knew it was inspired and perfectly transmitted.
- We have a few more steps to pass.
- First: Did the Scriptures make it through 19 centuries intact?
- Do we still have the same Bible they did?
- We have God's promise that we always will have the same Bible.

God Will Preserve Forever!

- *The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. 7 You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever. Ps 12:6-7*

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. 91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants. Ps 119:89-91

Gospel is incorruptible – Forever

*having been born again, not of corruptible seed but **incorruptible**, through **the word of God which lives and abides forever**, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But **the word of the Lord endures forever.**" Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23-25*

- We have God's assurance Scripture is inspired
- We have God's promise He would providentially keep it.
- Believing God in His promises is very precious to Him.
- When Abraham believed an "impossible" promise God reckon Abraham a righteous man!

● *19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." Rom 4:17-22*

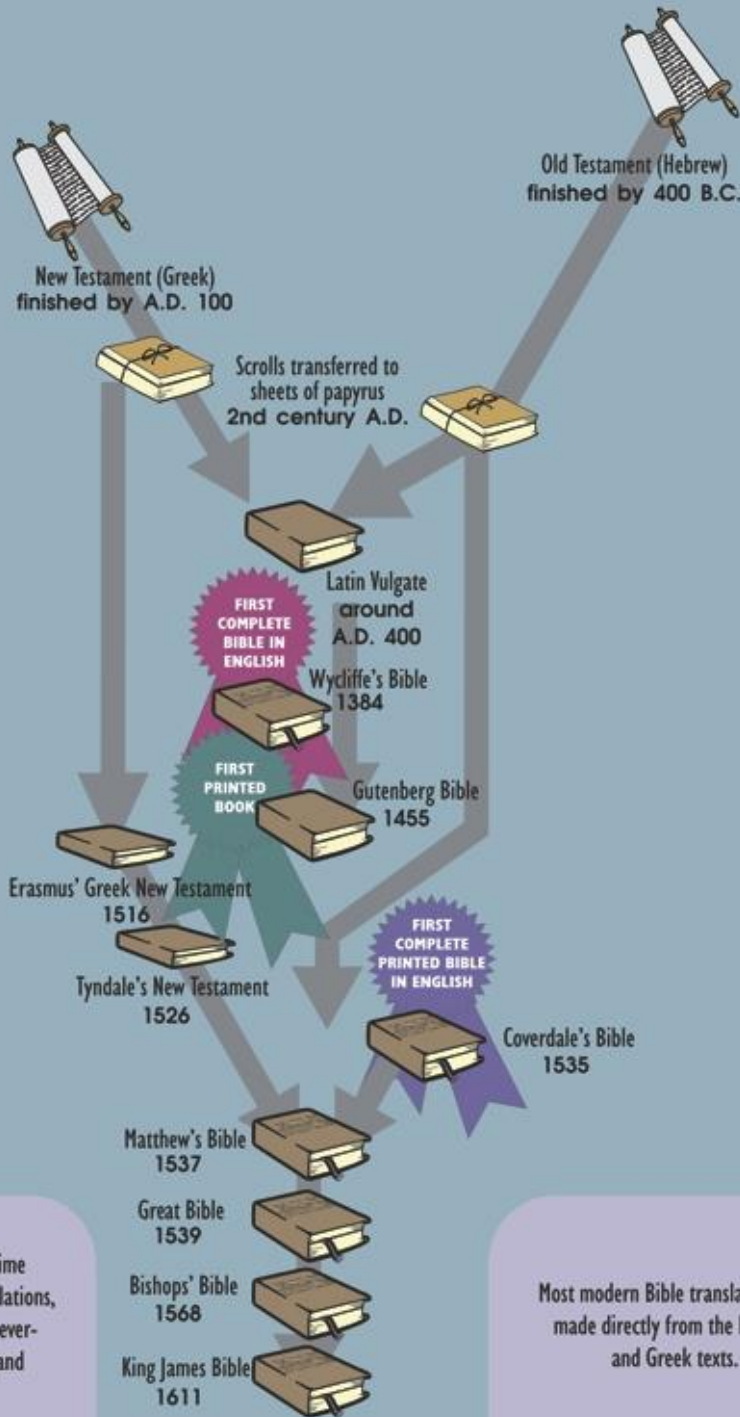
● *Accepting God's promise that Scripture is intact is the first step to believing what it reveals.*

● *Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, Rom 4:23-25*

The Final Step

- After we accept the Bible is inspired and that God will keep it pure for all eternity.
- There are other considerations.
- We must choose the translation.
- There are some important considerations.
- First understanding the text used.
- Although not a serious issue we need to understand it.
- Second the convictions of the translators.

HOW WE GOT OUR ENGLISH BIBLE

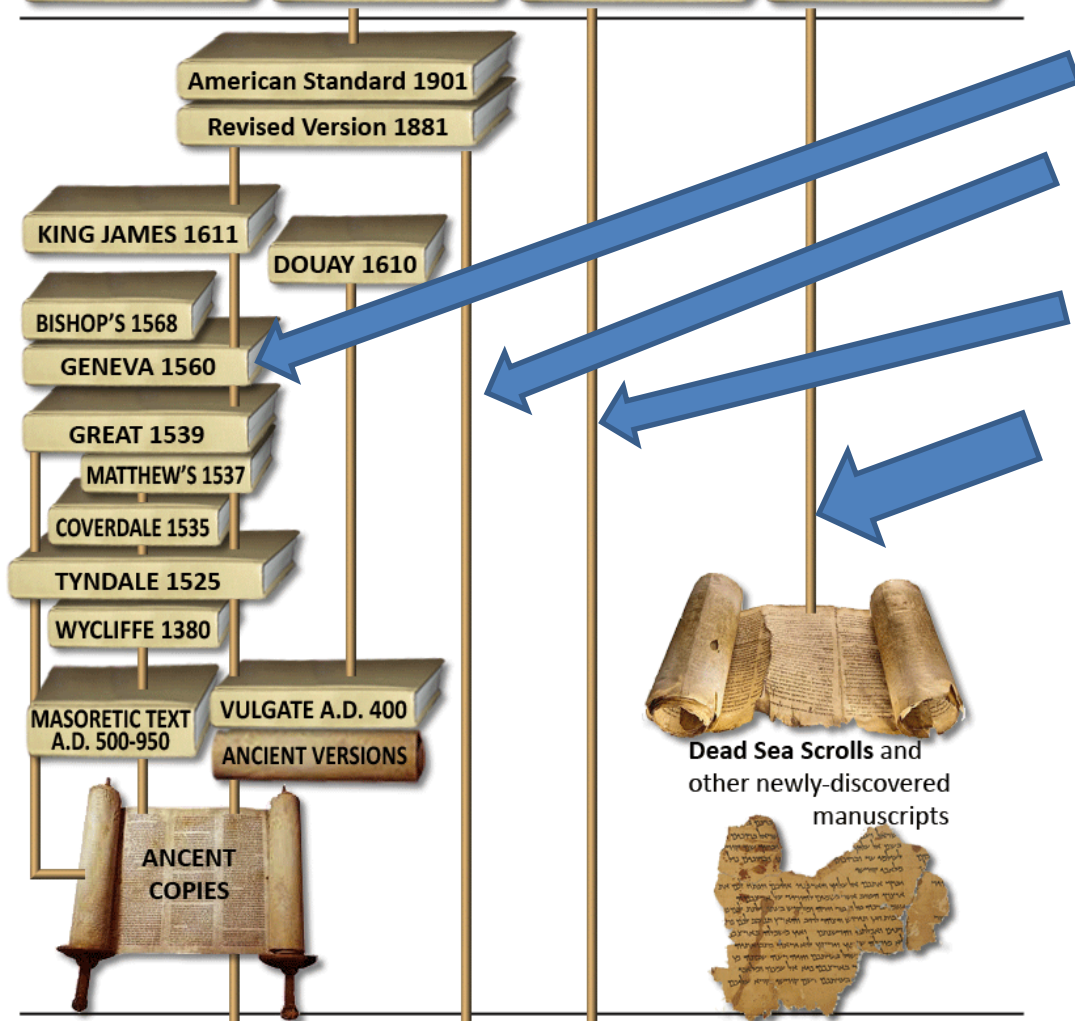


- In 1611 there was one text all translations used.
- But there was a 600 year gap for OT
- Some questions about the Greek Received text.
- The KJV translated exclusively from these texts

Most English Bibles of this time were revisions of previous translations, but were checked against an ever-improving supply of Greek and Hebrew texts.

Most modern Bible translations are made directly from the Hebrew and Greek texts.

MODERN ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS



Received Text

Wescott & Hort

Nestle & Aland

10,000's fragments

But if we compare

Textus Receptus,

Wescott & Hort,

Nestle & Aland,

and Dead Sea Scrolls

Virtually no

Difference in Text!



Dead Sea Scrolls and other newly-discovered manuscripts



EARLY COPIES (Codex Vaticanus A.D. 340 Codex Sinaiticus A.D. 400 Codex Alexandrinus A.D. 450)

ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS 1500 B.C. - A.D. 100

Since Virtually no Difference in Text

- Text is not an issue.
- There is so little difference between the KJV/NKJV
- I can read out of NKJV and you can read with men in ASV, NASB, even ESV with very little bumps.
- After checking and cross checking all possible facts, they came up with one final truth!
- Those who used Jerome's Vulgate down through the centuries used a text virtually identical with the originals.
- Those using the translations based on the newer and "more validated" texts are doing the same.

Translations are Different

Foundation principles of translators:

Bible is word by word; tense by tense; noun by noun; verb by verb; not just the words, but the grammar is inspired.

*These **THINGS** we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual **THINGS** with spiritual. 1Cor 2:13*

Paul did not select the words.

Nor did he choose tense and grammar

Grammar Matters!

Jesus based the resurrection on the **tense** of a verb.

*Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. 31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 ‘I **am** the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” 33 And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. Mt. 22:29-*

Grammar Matters!

Paul proves doctrine from a **noun** being **singular** not **plural**

*Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his **Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, "And to **seeds**," as of many, but as of one, "And to your **Seed**," who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. Gal 3:15-18*

An Enlightening Preface to the ESV

“The ESV is an “**essentially literal**” translation that seeks as far as possible to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. As such, its **emphasis is on "word-for-word"** correspondence, **at the same time taking into account differences of grammar, syntax, and idiom between current literary English and the original languages***Thus it seeks to be transparent to the original text, letting the reader see as directly as possible the structure and meaning of the original.”

There is a dangerous problem in the words in blue ...

“In contrast to the ESV, some Bible versions have followed a **“thought-for-thought”** rather than **“word-for-word”** translation philosophy, emphasizing **“dynamic equivalence”** rather than the **“essentially literal”** meaning of the original. **A “thought-for-thought” translation is of necessity more inclined to REFLECT THE INTERPRETIVE OPINIONS OF THE TRANSLATOR AND THE INFLUENCES OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE.”**

This is a direct quote from the translators speaking of the two options available for translating

Grammar is Inspired too!

A Foundation Principle of all Bible Study

Since even grammar is inspired we look at it to try not to miss what the Sadducees did.

We use word definitions, tenses, prepositions, etc.

We trust that Scripture is this precise because Jesus and Paul said they did!

We expect our translators to give us a translation that will help us to do these things.

It is the difference between a ruler with $\frac{1}{2}$ segments or one with $\frac{1}{64^{\text{th}}}$ segments.

Grammar is Inspired too!

These THINGS we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual THINGS with spiritual. 1Cor 2:13

Jesus said you don't know the Scriptures because you missed the tense of a verb!
Even more precise than that:

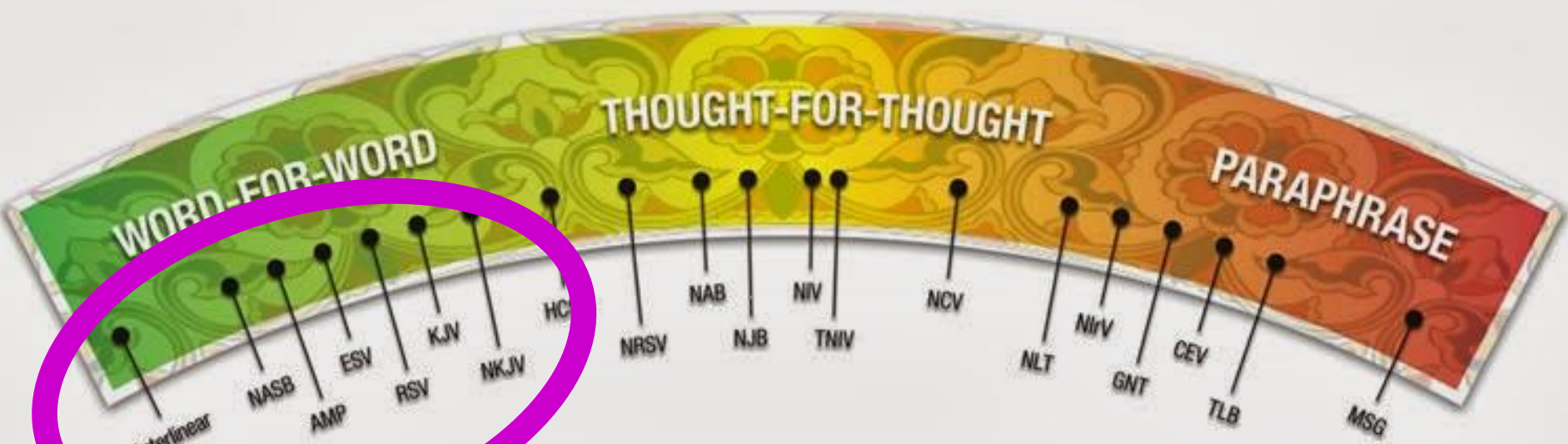
*assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle** will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Matt 5:18-19*

Grammar is Inspired Too!

*These **THINGS** we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual **THINGS** with spiritual. 1Cor. 2:13*

*If anyone speaks, let him **speak as the oracles of God**. ... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Pet. 4:11*

Types of Bible Translations



- NASB - New American Standard Bible
- AMP - Amplified Bible
- ESV - English Standard Version
- RSV - Revised Standard Version
- KJV - King James Version
- NKJV - New King James Version

- HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
- NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
- NAB - New American Bible
- NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
- NIV - New International Version
- TNIV - Today's New International Version
- NCV - New Century Version
- NLT - New Living Translation

- NiRV - New International Reader's Version
- GNT - Good News Translation
(also Good News Bible)
- CEV - Contemporary English Version
- TLB - The Living Bible
- MSG - The Message

Word for Word changes in grammar minimized

King James Version translated in (1611)

American Standard Version (1901)

New American Standard Version(1960)

New King James Version(1982)

**ESV is a blend. Closer to those listed
above, but still taking some liberties.**

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There is a dangerous problem in the words in blue ...

Thought for Thought

Dynamic Equivalence

What Paul did not and could not do, they do

But in so doing they add to or take from!

How could they not?

Revised Standard Version 1952

New International Version 1978

Most other Modern Translations TNIV, NLT,
NRSV, NCV, GNB, TEV, NEB, and TLB.

Word For Word

Thought For Thought

Paraphrase

NASB

KJV
NKJV
ESV

NRSV
NAB

NIV

NLT
NJB

CEV

TLB

MSG

CEV Contemporary English Version
ESV English Standard Version
KJV King James Version
MSG The Message (Eugene Peterson)
NAB New American Bible (Catholic)
NASB New American Standard Bible

NIV New International Version
NJB New Jerusalem Bible (Catholic)
NKJV New King James Version
NLT New Living Translation
NRSV New Revised Standard Version
TLB The Living Bible (Kenneth Taylor)

COMPARISON OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

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FORMAL EQUIVALENCE WORD FOR WORD

- **theory:** 'literal' or *word-for-word*
- **aim:** to retain the *form*, i.e. the words and structure, of the original text as much as possible
- **result:** an English translation that is primarily accurate, yet also comprehensible

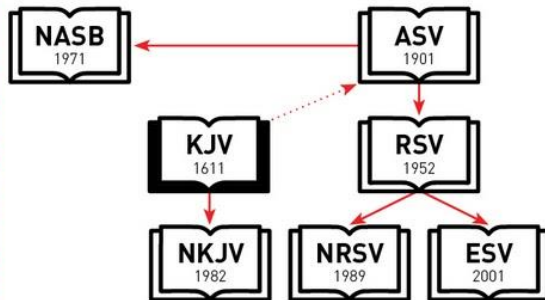
INTERMEDIATE

- **theory:** mediating between 'literal' and 'idiomatic'
- **aim:** to retain the *form* of the original text where possible, without compromising its *function*, i.e. to convey meaning
- **result:** an English translation that is both accurate and clear.

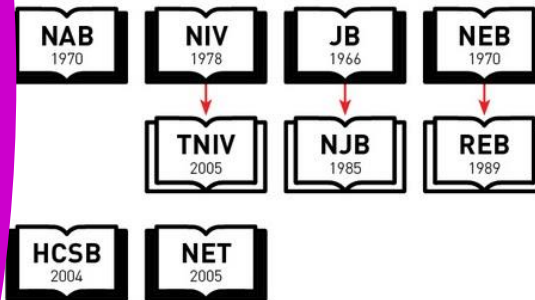
FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE MEANING FOR MEANING

- **theory:** 'idiomatic' or *meaning-for-meaning*
- **aim:** to retain the *function* of the original text, i.e. to convey meaning, as much as possible
- **result:** to produce an English translation that is primarily natural and easy to understand

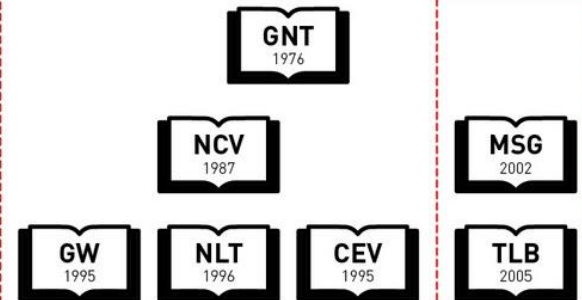
Paraphrase = re-wording a text in the *same* language, rather than translating it from one language to *another*.



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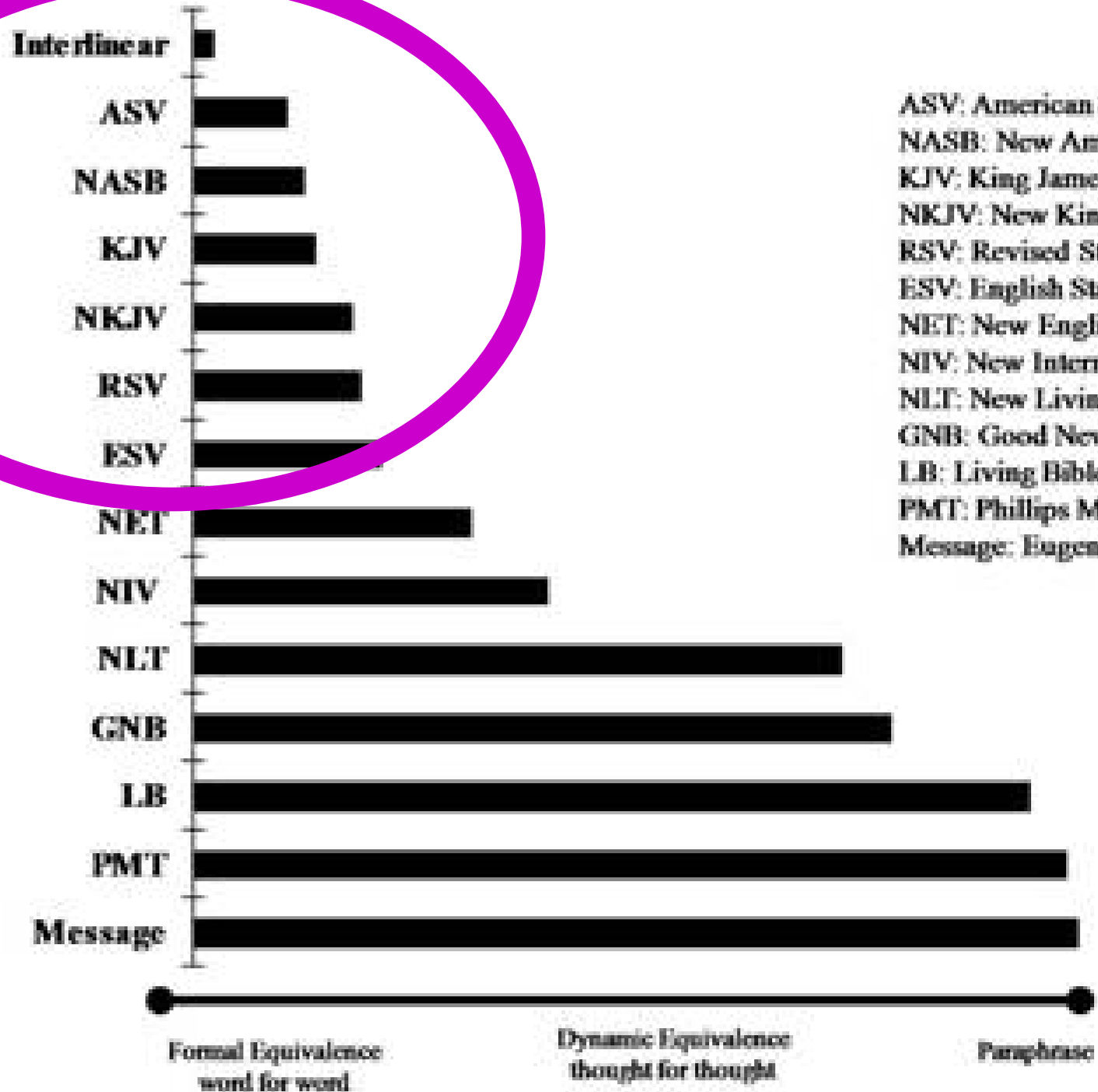
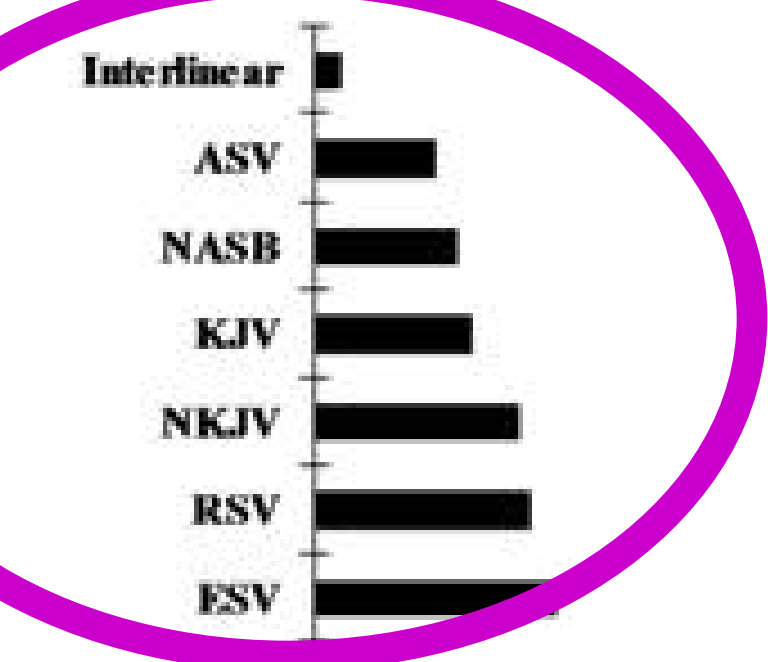


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- LB: Living Bible
- PMT: Phillips Modern Translation
- Message: Eugene Peterson Bible

What the NIV Translators said

“The New International Version is a completely new translation of the Holy Bible ... The first concern of the translators has been the accuracy of the translation and its fidelity to the thought of the Biblical writers... they have striven for more than a word-for-word translation. Because thought patterns and syntax differ from language to language, faithful communication of the meaning of the writers of the Bible demands frequent modifications in sentence structure...”

What does this mean?

The NIV Translators will change a noun to a verb or verb into noun as they see fit.

Jesus argument made on a tense. Mt 22:32

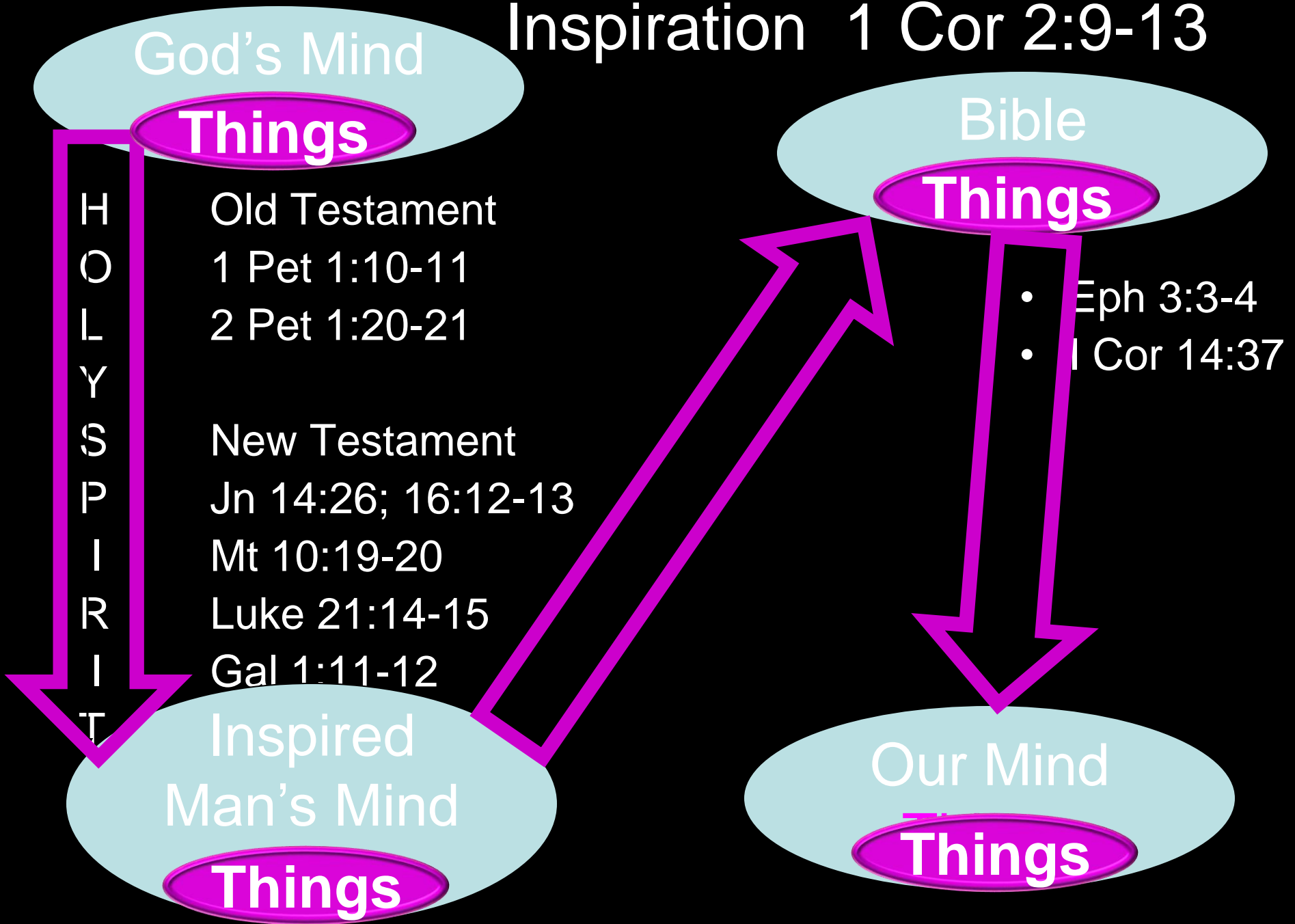
Paul's argument made on singular. Gal 3:16

The NIV is adding to and taking from!

The ESV is between the NASB and NKJV and the NIV although closer to the first two.

So we need to be cautious with it.

Inspiration 1 Cor 2:9-13



Inspiration 1 Cor 2:9-13

God's Mind
Things

H
O
L
Y
S
P
I
R
I
T

Old Testament
1 Pet 1:10-11
2 Pet 1:20-21

New Testament
Jn 14:26; 16:12-13
Mt 10:19-20
Luke 21:14-15
Gal 1:11-12

Inspired
Man's Mind
Things

Bible
Things

NIV, etc. Add to
and take from; Can
read as novel or
commentary; but
not as the inspired
word of God

Our Mind
Things

X
X
X