



# **Biblical Foundations**

Course I - Bible Basics

From History to Daily Use

Week 3- Translations

# Objective:

- Understand translation challenges at a basic level
- Understand the various modern Bible translations
- Understand my own Bible

# Translation Theory

- Based on a solid foundation of understanding how languages work
- Recognizes that different languages encode meaning in differing forms
- Guides translators to find appropriate ways of preserving **meaning**, while using the most appropriate forms of each language
- Two basic approaches
  - Word-for-word
  - Thought-for-thought



# Translation Challenges - Bridging the Gaps





# Grammar Gap

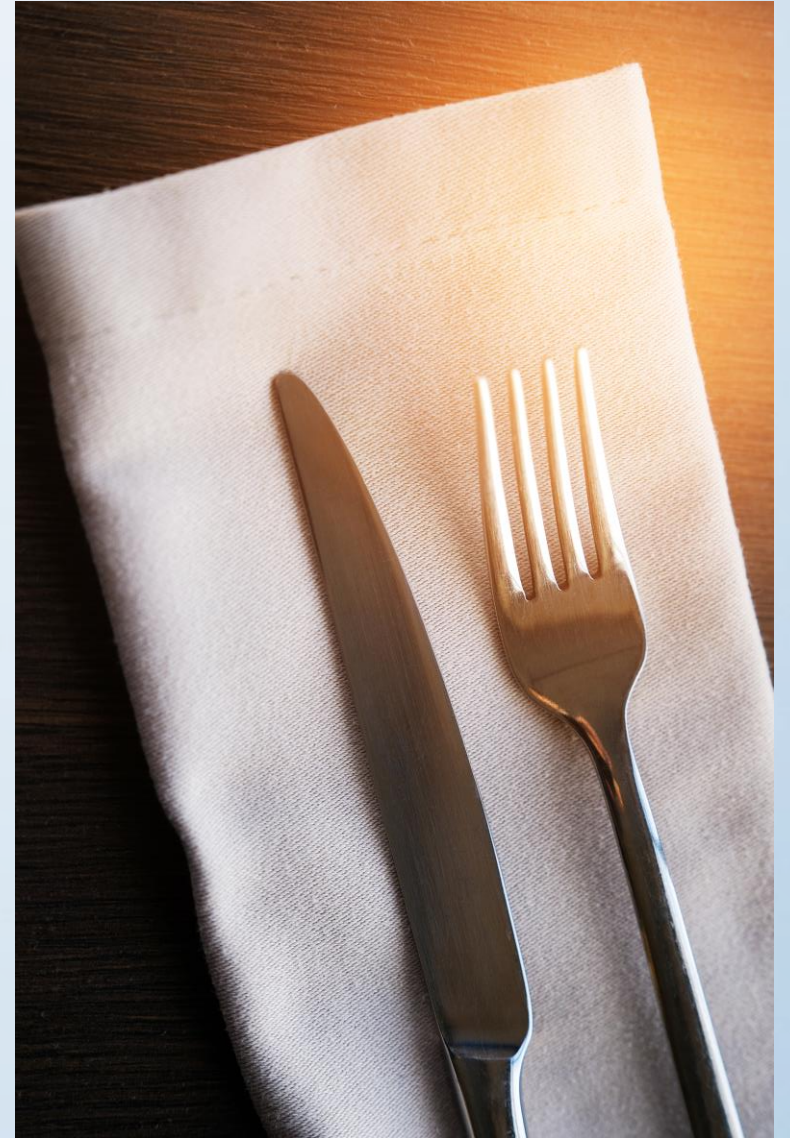


**Articles, word order, sentence structure, paragraphs...**

All present challenges in translating one language to another.

“Let’s eat grandma!”

Punctuation matters!



# What's the difference?

...you can tell **A** mountain to go throw itself into the sea.

OR

...you can tell **THIS** mountain to go through itself into **THAT** sea.

(based on Matthew 21:21 and Mark 11:23)

“Now when Jesus saw **THE** crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.”

Matthew 5:1 NIV emphasis added

“Now when Jesus returned, **A** crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him.”

Luke 8:40 NIV emphasis added



# Time Gap

## Language is always changing

455 new words were added to the Webster's Dictionary in October 2021

horchata  
finna  
hygge  
Air-fryer  
TBH  
truthiness  
flex  
amirite  
deep fake  
COVID





# Cultural Gap

Language is idiomatic...



# THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A “LITERAL TRANSLATION”

Except as it exists as an **Interlinear**

**Romans 3:22 NIV** - This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile...

**Romans 3:22 LITERALLY** - righteous but of God through faith of Jesus of Christ into all the believing not for there is distinction

צדקה זו ניתנת באמצעות אמונה בישוע המשיח לכל המאמינים. אין הבדל בין יהודי לגוי...

Αυτή η δικαιοσύνη δίνεται μέσω της πίστης στον Ιησού Χριστό σε όλους όσους πιστεύουν. Δεν υπάρχει διαφορά μεταξύ Εβραίων και Εθνικών...

# Translation Variants - Overview

## Omission

- As little as one word
- Sometimes a whole verse

## Substitution

- Most common variant
- Typically spelling differences

## Transposition

- Slightly different word order

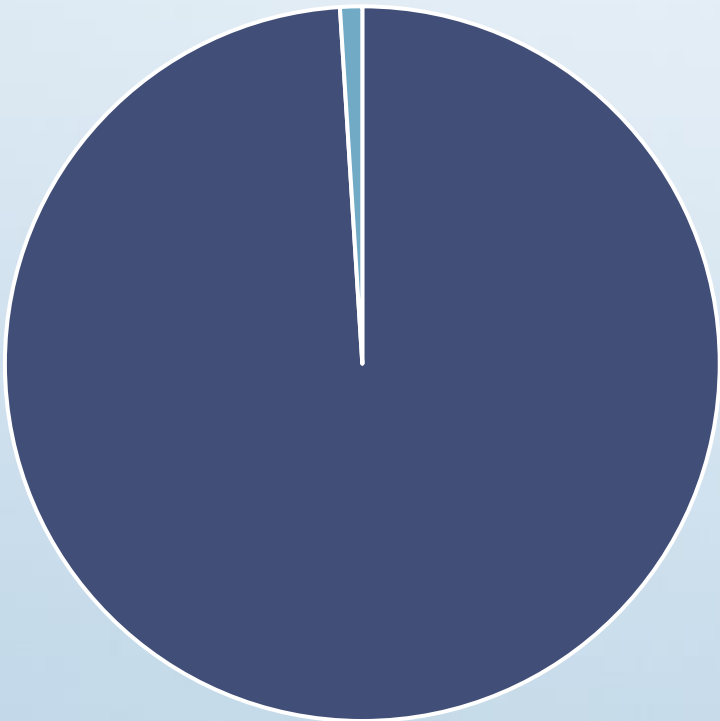
## Addition

- Words, phrases, whole verses
- In two cases, 12 verses are added (John 8, Mark 16)



# Variants

Do they matter?

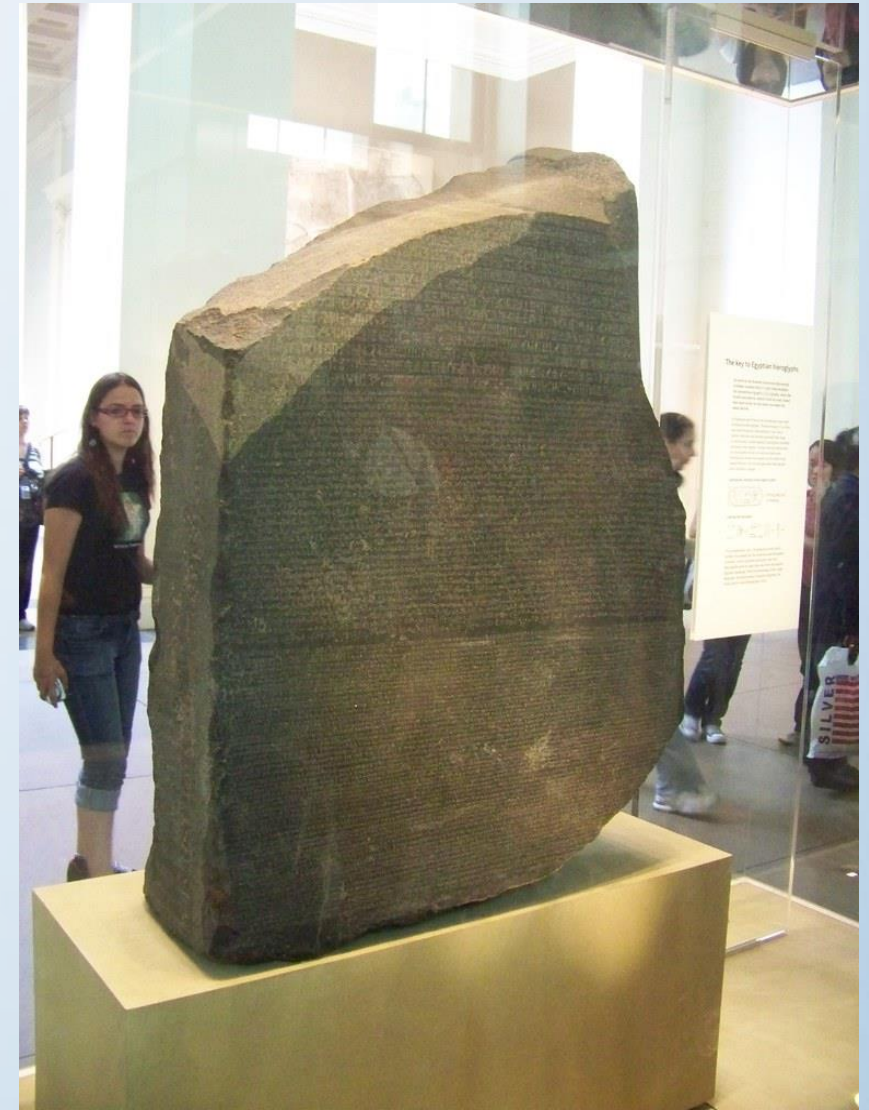


- While there may be as many as 500,000 textual variants in our modern Bibles, ***less than 1%*** can be seen as having any bearing on understanding or meaning.

# Important Translation Tools

Rosette Stone		Dead Sea Scrolls
196 BC	Date from	150 BC
1799	Found	1947
Egyptian: Hieroglyphics and Demotic, and Greek	Languages	Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek

New translations continue to improve in clarity because archaeological discoveries improve our understanding of ancient language and culture.



# Primary Modern Translation Types

## Formal Equivalent

- “Word-for word”, preserving lexical details, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, etc.
- Little interpretation by translation committee
  - Idiomatic language is unexplained
- Reader is active in interpretation
- Formal language and “readability”
- Reading Levels: Grades 11-12
- Best Use: study

## Functional (Dynamic) Equivalent

- Thought-for-thought
- Interpreted by translation committee to present the **meaning** in clear modern language
- Reader is passive to interpretation
- Clear, common language and “readability”
- Reading Levels: Grades 7-8
- Best Use: Daily reading, study



# Translation Comparison

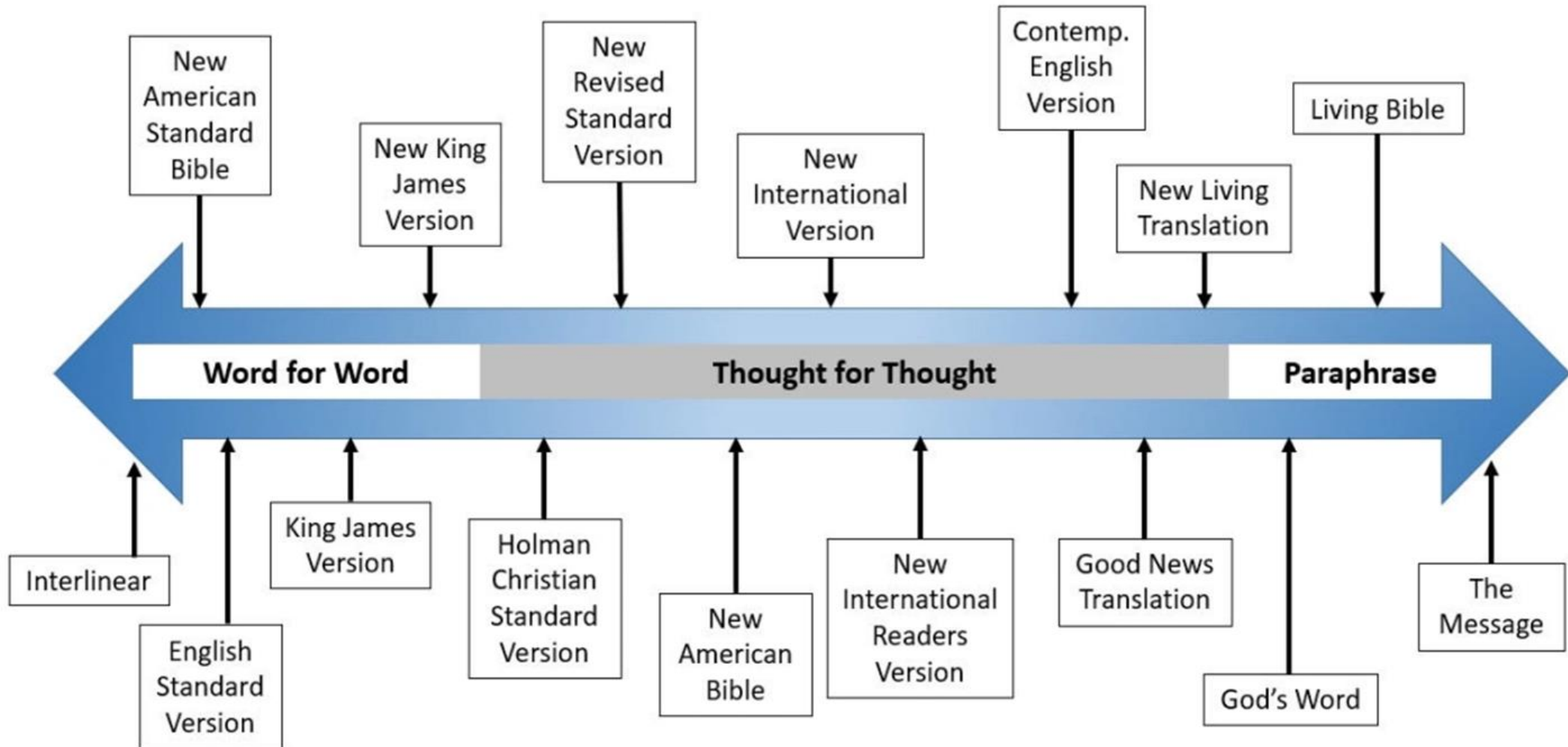
## Formal (NKJV)

- *“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.” (1 Corinthians 7:1)*
  - Idiomatic language left without interpretation

## Functional (NIV)

- *“Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” (1 Corinthians 7:1)*
  - Idiomatic language clarified by interpretation

# BIBLE TRANSLATION CHART



The best  
translation?

**The one you *USE*!**







# Assignment

Get to know your own Bible...