

Lesson 5...Picking up some exegetical ideas in translation

It is just impossible to keep up with all the translations of the Bible that have come forth in recent years. Most of these have served a good purpose and have added to the effect of increased Bible reading. You must remember that all translators do their work with certain inclinations and frames of mind to govern the procedure. Many of the newer translations carry a lot of paraphrase (not necessarily bad) in which the editor seeks to give the thought of the original writer in the editor's words. This increases the difficulty of checking the translation but emphasizes the need for careful understanding of the text.

In this lesson I offer some Hebrew texts and some translations given them. I am asking you to look at the Hebrew, look at the translation, and then note the observation I make. We are not assuming we know a lot more than others...we are assuming that a careful study of the text is necessary by all of us. But everyone in awhile you will become aware of a reading that is really not what you would want it to be and you have the freedom to correct it in the interest of better exegesis. So take your time and plod over the next couple of pages and if the printed Hebrew should not be sufficiently clear I have given the biblical reference and I think you will find no textual difference with the Stuttgart Bible in these passages.

1. The King James Translators offered the following rendition of Micah 7:8

Text:

אֵל-תִּשְׂמַחַי אִיבְתִּי לִי כִּי נִפְלֵיתִי קָמֹתִי
 כִּי-אֲשֻׁב בְּחֹשֶׁךְ יִהְיֶה אֹר לִי: 8

Translation: Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall I shall arise; when I sit in darkness the Lord will be a light unto me.

Observation: Note how the verbs "fall and arise" have been rendered. How is the meaning of the passage altered if the verbs are kept in a perfect setting? We are not saying right or wrong in this section but it is interesting. Note that if the perfect is followed a lesson is learned from history and the enemy should be careful of boasting. If it is taken as above the warning if one based on future expectation.

Note how the verse ties into, illustrates, amplifies, (or something), Psalm 27:1.

2, Here is a translation taken from the New International Version and it is in someways similar to a rendering in the Revised Standard Version . The passage is Micah 5:1 (Hebrew text) or 5:2 (English Text).

Text: 5 וְאַתָּה בֵּית-לַחֶם יִאֲפְרָתָה צְעִירֵי לְהַיּוֹת בְּאֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה
 מִמָּקֶד לִי יֵצֵא לְהַיּוֹת מוֹשֵׁל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
 וּמוֹצְאֵתוֹ מִמְּקָרָם מִיְמֵי עוֹלָם: