

“Reading the Bible in translation is like kissing your new bride through a veil!”

Haim Nachman Bialik



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“Not as a man of sorrows, but as a glorious and triumphant king He will stand upon Olivet, while Hebrew hallelujahs mingle with Gentile hosannas” (DA 830)!

“Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments” (2 Tim 4:13)

 **MARTIN LUTHER** “To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools” (1524)

“Languages are the scabbard [sheath] that contains the sword of the Spirit ... If we neglect the literature we shall eventually lose the gospel ... No sooner did men cease to cultivate the languages than Christendom declined, even until it fell under the undisputed dominion of the pope. But no sooner was this torch relighted, than this papal owl fled with a shriek into congenial gloom ... In former times the fathers were frequently mistaken, because they were ignorant of the languages ...” “It is certain that unless the languages remain, the Gospel must finally perish.”

“In the measure that we love the Gospel, so let us place a strong emphasis on the languages. For it was not without reason that God wrote the Scriptures in two languages, the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. That language which God did not despise but rather chose above all others for His Word is the language which we also should honor above all others. It is a sin and shame that we do not learn this language of our Book, especially since God has now provided us people and books, and gives us all kinds of things which both help us with this task and at the same time stimulates us to do this.”

“For the devil smelled a rat, and perceived that **if the languages were revived a hole would be knocked in his kingdom** which he could not easily stop up again. Since he found he could not prevent their revival, he now aims to keep them on such slender rations that they will of themselves decline and pass away. They are not a welcome guest in his house, so he plans to offer them such meager entertainment that they will not prolong their stay. Very few of us, my dear sirs see through this evil design of the devil.”

“As dear as the gospel is to us all, let us as hard contend with its language.”

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Ad ☞ Fontes

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

Jerome: “To subdue [the promptings of sin] I put myself in the hands of one of the brethren who had been a Hebrew before his conversion, and asked him to teach me his language. Thus ... I now began to learn the alphabet again and practice hard and guttural words. ... I thank the Lord that from a bitter seed of learning I am now plucking sweet fruits” (Jerome, translator of the Vulgate, c. 342-420).

J.A. Froude: “Never was [a] volume [Erasmus’ Greek New Testament] more passionately devoured. A hundred thousand copies were soon sold in France alone. The fire spread, as it spread behind Samson’s foxes in the Philistine’s corn. The clergy’s skins were tender from a long impurity. They shrieked from the pulpit and platform, and made Europe ring with their clamour.”

Bitzer: “The more a theologian detaches himself from the basic Hebrew and Greek text of Holy Scripture, the more he detaches himself from the source of real theology! And real theology is the foundation of a fruitful and blessed ministry” (*Light on the Path*, 10).

Bruce Waltke: “I must confess that I find it difficult to engage theological presentations that have not been purged through the fire of careful exegesis” (BK Waltke, Prof. of Old Testament Emeritus, Reformed Theological Seminary).

George Mueller: “I now studied much, about 12 hours a day, chiefly Hebrew . . . [and] committed portions of the Hebrew Old testament to memory; and this I did with prayer, often falling on my knees . . . I looked up to the Lord even whilst turning over the leaves of my Hebrew dictionary” (G. Mueller, *Autobiography of George Mueller*, 31).

George Whitefield: “Though weak, I often spent two hours in my evening retirements and prayed over my Greek New Testament, and Bishop Hall’s most excellent Contemplations, every hour that my health would permit” (in Dallimore, *George Whitefield*, vol. 1:77).

Walt Whitman: “Language ... is not an abstract construction of the learned, or of dictionary-makers, but is something arising out of the work, needs, ties, joys, affections, tastes, of long generations of humanity, and has its bases broad and low, close to the ground.”

(John Piper, in Pratico/Van Pelt, *BBH*, xx)

“Oh, for the day when prayer and grammar will meet each other with great spiritual combustion!”

“Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; **and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin**” ~ John 19:19-20



WILLIAM TYNDALE'S LETTER FROM PRISON

I believe, most excellent Sir, that you are not unacquainted with the decision reached concerning me. On which account, I beseech your lordship, even by the Lord Jesus, that if I am to pass the winter here, to urge upon the lord commissary, if he will deign, to send me from my goods in his keeping a warmer cap, for I suffer greatly from cold in the head, being troubled with a continual catarrh, which is aggravated in this prison vault. A warmer coat also, for that which I have is very thin. Also cloth for repairing my leggings. My overcoat is worn out; the shirts also are worn out. He has a woollen shirt of mine, if he will please send it. I have also with him leggings of heavier cloth for overwear. He likewise has warmer nightcaps: I also ask for leave to use a lamp in the evening, for it is tiresome to sit alone in the dark. **But above all, I beg and entreat your clemency earnestly to intercede with the lord commissary, that he would design to allow me the use of my Hebrew Bible, Hebrew Grammar, and Hebrew Lexicon, and that I might employ my time with that study.** Thus likewise may you obtain what you most desire, saving that it further the salvation of your soul. But if, before the end of winter, a different decision be reached concerning me, I shall be patient, and submit to the will of God to the glory of the grace of Jesus Christ my Lord, whose spirit may ever direct your heart. Amen.

<https://www.bible-researcher.com/tyndale3.html>

~ W. Tyndale



ELLEN WHITE

"There are callings in which a knowledge of Greek . . . is needed" (MH 444).

"The times demand an intelligent, educated ministry, not novices. False doctrines are being multiplied. The world is becoming educated to a high standard of literary attainment; and sin, unbelief, and infidelity are becoming more bold and defiant, as intellectual knowledge and acuteness are acquired. **This state of things calls for the use of every power of the intellect;** for it is keen minds, under the control of Satan, that the minister will have to meet. He should be well balanced by religious principles, growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Too much haphazard work has been done, and **minds have not been exercised to their fullest capacity.** Our ministers will have to defend the truth against base apostates, as well as to measure Scripture evidence with those who advocate specious errors. Truth must be placed in contrast with bold assertions. Our ministers must be men who are wholly consecrated to God, **men of no mean culture;** but their minds must be all aglow with religious fervor, gathering divine rays of light from heaven and flashing them amid the darkness that covers the earth and the gross darkness that surrounds the people" (5T 528).

"If placed under the control of His Spirit, the more thoroughly the intellect is cultivated, the more effectively it can be used in the service of God. The uneducated man who is consecrated to God and who longs to bless others can be, and is, used by the Lord in His service. **But those who, with the same spirit of consecration, have had the benefit of a thorough education, can do a much more extensive work for Christ. They stand on vantage ground" (COL 333).**

B. B. WARFIELD, "Our Seminary Curriculum," *Presbyterian* (September, 1909): 7-8.

"No second-hand knowledge of the revelation of God for the salvation of a ruined world can suffice the needs of a ministry whose function it is to convey this revelation to men, commend it to their acceptance and apply it in detail to their needs—to all their needs, from the moment that they are called into participation in the grace of God, until the moment when they stand perfect in God's sight, built up by his Spirit into new men. For such a ministry as this the most complete knowledge of the wisdom of the world supplies no equipment; the most fervid enthusiasm of service leaves without furnishing. Nothing will suffice for it but to know; to know the Book; to know it at first hand; and to know it through and through. And what is required first of all for training men for such a ministry is that the Book should be given them in its very words as it has come from God's hand and in the fullness of its meaning, as that meaning has been ascertained by the labors of generations of men of God who have brought to bear upon it all the resources of sanctified scholarship and consecrated thought."

JOHN WESLEY, "An Address to the Clergy," *The Works of John Wesley*, ed. Henry D. Rack (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011), 10:491.

"Do I understand Greek and Hebrew? Otherwise, how can I undertake (as every minister does), not only to explain books which are written therein, but to defend them against all opponents? Am I not at the mercy of every one who does understand, or even pretends to understand, the original? For which way can I confute his pretence? Do I understand the language of the Old Testament? critically? at all? Can I read into English one of David's Psalms; or even the first chapter of Genesis? Do I understand the language of the New Testament? Am I a critical master of it? Have I enough of it even to read into English the first chapter of St. Luke? If not, how many years did I spend in school? How many at the university? And what was I doing all those years? Ought not shame to cover my face?"

"The main point is, with all and above all, study the Greek and Hebrew Bible, and the love of Christ" ~ John Wesley

The Letters of John Wesley (London: Epworth, 1931), 3:163.