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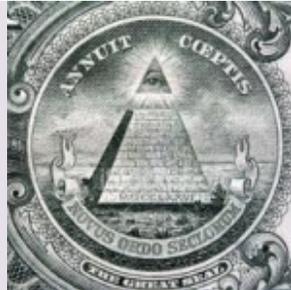
Tsiyon News

Tsiyon Messianic Radio Newsletter Vol 6.13 - 13/27/6010 TAM - 04/01/2011

Mystery Priesthood Origin

Cain ..built a city ..
Genesis 4:17

*Have no fellowship with the
unfruitful works of darkness,
but rather even reprove them.*
Ephesians 5:11



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Tsiyon News

Listener Q + A

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Listener Q + A

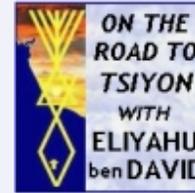
Listener Comment - Greek Septuagint vs. Hebrew Masoretic Text

This segment is in answer to a postal mail letter which included comment about confusion due to conflicting messages, and also included an enclosure about the use of the Greek Septuagint version by the NT Bible writers. This is vitally important information!

Tsiyon Answer - Greek Septuagint vs. Hebrew Masoretic Text

I totally understand the confusion you have felt in seeking to get a grasp on the Truth. These are very confusing days with many conflicting messages, often from sources we should expect to be in agreement. This is certainly true when it comes to the Hebrew Roots / Messianic movement. One reason for this is that many of the Messianics are misled by the Rabbis, even as many Christians are misled by Greco-Roman fallacies. Here at Tsiyon we are working hard to avoid both pitfalls while striving to adhere closely to Scripture, informed by a living relationship with YHWH, and His self-sacrificing Son, Y'shua our Messiah. As we stick closely to Him and follow His leading we continue to receive more and more light to discern between truth and falsehood. I know you love Him as we do. As you abide in Him He will lead you through the confusion and you WILL end up in the right place! As Scripture assures us; "The Lord knows those who are His." (2 Timothy 2:19)

I read the enclosure by Scott L. Adams entitled "Comments Regarding the Question of the Primacy of Hebrew or Greek for the Old Testament Scriptures." I think it is a useful work containing useful information. It starts from the assumption that the Septuagint (Greek OT designated LXX) was the version of Scripture used by Messiah and the Apostles. It is true that many quotes in the NT agree with the Septuagint. However, other versions were used as well. In Tsiyon News, Vol 4.34, 2009, I answered the question, "What version of the OT did Jesus



In this issue

- [Mystery Priesthood Origin](#)
- Latest News
- Visit Tsiyon Radio

Recent Programs

- [Mystery Priesthood Origin #274](#)
- [Earthquakes a Sign #273](#)
- [A Great Sword #272](#)
- [Tsiyon Fellowship #271](#)
- [Hell Followed With Him 270](#)
- [Behold a Pale Horse! #269](#)
- [Spiritual Portals #268](#)
- [The Post-Diluvian Rebellion #267](#)
- [The Rebel #266](#)
- [From One Blood #265](#)
- [Curse of Canaan #264](#)
- [The Whole Creation Groans #263](#)
- [After the Deluge #262](#)
- [Tsiyon Paradigm Shift #261](#)
- [Atlantis and the Deluge #260](#)
- [Giants On The Earth! #259](#)
- [Evidence of the Antediluvian World #258](#)
- [The Nephilim Threat #257](#)
- [The Antediluvian World #256](#)
- [Two Mysteries #255](#)
- [Iniquity in Paradise #254](#)
- [Lucifer the Trader #253](#)
- [Deceitful Injustice #252](#)
- [The Restraint #251](#)
- [The Big Lie #250](#)

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preach?" I have enclosed a printout of that issue of our newsletter for you to share with your son. [http://tsiyon.org/newsletter/archive/2009/08_21_09_vol_4_34_tsiyon_news.htm]

The comments from Adams, though useful, backed off from the fundamental issue regarding "Primacy of Hebrew or Greek for the Old Testament Scriptures." That fundamental issue is this: The Greek Septuagint contains phrases quoted in the NT from the OT that are lacking in translations of the OT based on the Hebrew Masoretic Text. For example, consider this NT quote (Heb. 10:5) from Psalm 39/40:6:

Heb 10:5 KJV - "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:"

Psalm 39:6 LXX (LXX numbering differs, but this is the same verse as below) - "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for me..."

Psalm 40:6 KJV (Based on Masoretic Text) - "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required."

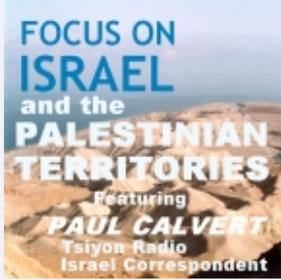
Notice that our JKV Bible, based on the Hebrew Masoretic Text, does not agree with the quote from Hebrews, while the LXX does contain the quoted phrase. This is only one of a number of examples where the LXX contains a NT quote, while the JKV, based on the Hebrew Masoretic Text, leaves it out. How weird is that? Actually, the OT in most Bible translations is based on the Hebrew Masoretic Text. In this case, the NT is quoting the Psalm in support of the pre-existence of Messiah and his entry into the world in a real human body prepared beforehand by YHWH. This is a teaching held by the early believers regarding Y'shua but denied by the Jewish establishment of Messiah's day as regards Y'shua. Other verses where the Hebrew Masoretic Text leaves out NT quotes from the OT which are included in the LXX are similarly proof texts that were problematic for the unbelieving Jews.

Does the fact that the Greek LXX agrees with the NT writer's quotes while the Hebrew Masoretic Text does not mean that the NT writers were quoting the Greek LXX? Not necessarily. It could just as easily mean that the Hebrew OT Bible then in use by the Apostles DID contain the now-problematic verses. In fact, the 1st century Hebrew Bible has been proven to contain said verses - thanks to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Notice this quote regarding the Dead Sea Scroll scholarship on this.

With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the mid twentieth century many examples have been recovered of the Old Testament in Hebrew from the time of Christ and the Holy Apostles and earlier. Scholarship during the past half century based upon these Dead Sea discoveries has revealed a close agreement between the LXX and pre-Masoretic Hebrew texts. In a review of some of this scholarship, Hershah Shanks notes that "...many Hebrew texts [are available] that were the base text for Septuagintal translations...". Further he notes that what "...texts like 4QSama show is that the Septuagintal translations are really quite reliable" and "...gives new authority to the Greek translations against the Masoretic text". Quoting Frank Moore Cross (a co-author of the book under review), Hershah continues "We could scarcely hope to find closer agreement between the Old Greek [Septuagintal] tradition and 4QSama than actually is found in our fragments". [http://en.orthodoxwiki.org/Septuagint#Variations_with_the_Masoretic_Text_.28MT.29 and Hershah Shanks, 4QSama - The Difficult Life of a Dead Sea Scroll, Biblical Archaeology Review, Vol 33 No 3, May/June 2007, pp66-70.]

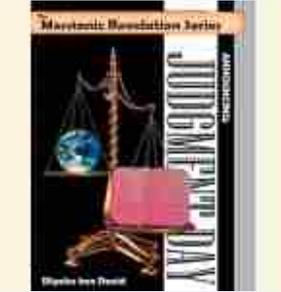
Clearly, if the much older Hebrew OT of the Dead Sea Scrolls contains the NT quoted phrases that are left out from the later Hebrew Masoretic Text it can only mean one thing. In their denial of Y'shua the Messiah, the Rabbinic Jews altered the Scriptures in those problematic passages to obscure the truth that Y'shua is the Messiah!

This is much more than a theory. Around the end of the 1st century Rabbi Akiba controlled the Rabbinical School at Yavneh a/k/a Jamnia. He is the Rabbi who supported the Jewish rebel leader, Bar Kokhba, as the Messiah. He completely re-ordered Rabbinic Judaism in his own image, and in support of his goals. As part of his campaign, he had a new Hebrew Bible produced while getting rid of all earlier versions. A Greek version was also produced. These Rabbinic versions commissioned by Akiba altered the OT

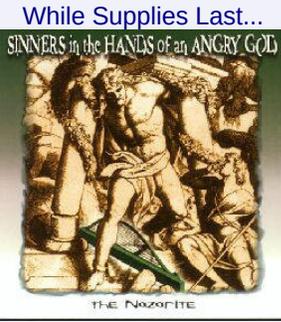


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verses quoted in the NT in support of Y'shua as Messiah, to make way for Bar Kokhba, as Messiah. His scheme seemed iron-clad. (Of course, he knew nothing of the Dead Sea Scrolls from 300 years before Christ, preserved in caves by YHWH for safe keeping - to be uncovered just in time for the last days!)

Professor S. H. Horn (Archaeology, Andrews University, Michigan) comments on this:

However, the facts - that a unified [Hebrew] text suddenly became the standard at the end of the first century and that not one copy of a divergent text survived (except for the hidden Dead Sea Scrolls), indicate clearly that the Council of Jamnia must have taken action in this matter. Moreover, the fact that Aquila, one of Akiba's pupils, soon thereafter produced a new Greek translation that slavishly translated the [new version] unified Hebrew text for the use of the Diaspora Jews gives credence to the idea that Akiba must have been a key influence in the standardization of the Hebrew text. [S.H. Horn, "The Old Testament Text in Antiquity, Ministry, Nov. 1987 p.6]

This means that the Hebrew Masoretic Text is the version of the OT commissioned by Akiba and completed in the early 2nd Century AD. Since this was the only readily available Hebrew OT version still available after Akiba got rid of the earlier, more accurate versions, the Akiba version became the basis for future versions and translations of the OT, including the KJV and other translations commonly used today.

To put this in perspective, realize that most of the text remained unchanged. However, those verses quoted in proof of Y'shua as Messiah were altered to blunt their otherwise powerful support of Y'shua. Today this is a proven fact, thanks to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

I suppose that my comments here could make a lot of people mad at me. Those who hold to the KJV as THE inspired translation in English certainly won't like this - since the facts here presented prove them wrong about that claim. Likewise, those who think it anti-Semitic to point out any evil of Rabbinic Judaism also won't like these comments. However, the truth is the truth, and the truth on this issue is now as clear as a bell. While I support a Hebraic understanding of Scripture, I do not support altering the Scriptures to one's own purposes, for any reason - whether Jew or Gentile makes no difference to me. What I care about in this is the veracity of the Scriptures. The Hand of YHWH is all over this. He did not allow Akiba to get away with this subversion of the Scriptures, but left the LXX as a testimony through the ages, and in our day, by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, proved the trustworthiness and integrity of the early Messianic believers in their honest and accurate support of Y'shua as the Messiah. His rightful place as Messiah is a fact that cannot be successfully resisted or denied.

From Eliyahu

Insidious is one word that comes to mind as we consider the assault of ha satan on truth down through the ages. Another word characterizing that evil assault would be *unrelenting*. The lies just keep coming wider and deeper from day to day and through the ages to the extent that it can seem overwhelming to the truth seeker to discover what the truth is, obscured by the unrelenting and stinking pile of delusion deliberately crafted to cover up the Truth. One reason for the sheer volume of falsehood is the fact that ha satan has no trouble finding human helpers to spread his lies. Selfish, greedy, jealous, lustful, power hungry, self-seeking money lovers have always been in plentiful supply. Such people will do and say anything to get what they want - so a deal with the devil is always easily struck. Rabbi Akiba in the comments above is one example of how a strategically placed liar can even distort the Scriptures, deceiving millions through millennia thereafter. Another example, perhaps the prime example, would be the occult satanic priesthood of the power elite that is charged by satan himself with the insidious and hideous task of erasing God from the minds of men and replacing Him with the Big Lie that is at the heart of the mystery religion of the Ages. Hopefully, this latest Tsiyon program will strike a blow against that pack of pernicious liars by revealing the origin of the Mystery Religion Priesthood. Its not a pretty picture - but people everywhere need to know who these people are and what they have been up to for nearly 6,000 years.

Blessings and Shalom,

Eliyahu ben David
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