

- V. There is a **CONVINCING TRUTH** in response to this evidence.
- A. A lost world sits in darkness.
 - B. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the source of Light (Rom 10:17).
 - C. The Gospel must be in one's language in order to see the Light.

So much is dependent upon one's response to the Gospel, yea even his eternity. A response to the Gospel is only possible if those of us who have the Word of God make it available to those who do not, then, a choice can be made of how to respond (Rom. 10:17). Does it not make sense that with so much at stake, the message of God's dear Son must be translated in order for people to understand the message? Without understanding, there is no value in the hearing. Many Christians want to send the Light around the world, but few are willing to pay the Light bill. Would you allow God to use you to be involved with getting the "Message of Light" translated and taken to all nations?

LESSON FOUR DEFINITIONS

Illuminate – To enlighten intellectually with knowledge or grace

Inspiration – The infusion of ideas into the mind by the Holy Spirit; the communication of the divine will to the understanding by suggestions or impressions on the mind, which leave no room to doubt the reality of their supernatural origin.

Preservation – The act of preserving or keeping safe; the act of keeping from injury, destruction or decay.

Revelation – The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God Himself.

Transformation – A change of heart in man, by which his disposition and temper are conformed to the divine image; a change from enmity to holiness and love.

Translation – The act of turning into another language.

TEACHER NOTES:



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio



NATIONAL
BIBLE
PUBLISHING
MONTH

ἡ Παλιὰ
ἰστορία

TRANSLATION
GOD ILLUMINATES THE WORLD

LESSON FOUR: TRANSLATION

God Illuminates The World

A FEW

A PEOPLE GROUP

A GENERATION

THE WORLD

The summary of these last four weeks begins with the will of God. God’s will and desire for all of mankind remains the same, to illuminate the darkened mind (Rom. 1:21) with a knowledge of Himself. He began a four-piece plan in which to accomplish this heavenly task. Each piece of the whole plan is progressive, reaching a larger audience than the preceding pieces.

Revelation is the first piece. God revealed truth, but it was limited to that individual’s memory to convey it to others.

Inspiration is the second piece, allowing the Revelation to be accurately written and giving it more accessibility. This would enable the truth to illuminate, not just to the individual who received it and the ones with whom it is shared, but also those able to read or hear it read to them in their own language.

Preservation is the third piece of God’s plan. What value would there be for an individual to carefully record a divine revelation only for it to fall apart and deteriorate? A procedure of accurately copying God’s revelation into a specific language makes the illuminating Scriptures available from generation to generation.

Translation is the final piece necessary to make illumination accessible to an entire world.

Translation is imperative in order for this preserved, inspired, illuminating revelation to be taken to all nations, not only to those fortunate enough to speak the original languages of the Scriptures (2 Pt. 3:9). Usually, the last words spoken by a person are serious words. When Jesus spoke to his disciples just before He ascended into heaven, He left them with a task of kingdom importance. This command was to carry the Gospel message to every creature. The person who was at the furthest reach was just as important as his neighbor next door.

In the context of spoken languages, the words *translate* and *translation* are not found in the Bible. However, inferences such as *all the nations, all the earth, all ye people, all ye inhabitants of the world, every creature, all ye lands, every tribe, every tongue, uttermost part of the earth, regions beyond*, and *out of every nation* are found in Scripture. In Rev. 7:9-10, we read, “*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*” In order for this to occur, all nations (people groups) must be able to hear or read the Word of God in their heart language. If “*...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17), then someone must interpret by mouth and translate by pen.

There are several evidences in Scripture indicating that Bible translation is a piece of God’s plan necessary to accomplish His desire of illumination.

- I. God’s **COMMAND** to go to all nations gives evidence.
 - A. It was a genuine concern of the Old Testament writers (Isa. 34:1-2; Zech. 2:11; Zech. 8:22-23; Ps. 117:1; Ps. 22:27-28; Ps. 67:2; Ps. 72:11, 17).
 - B. It was a genuine concern of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Passages that reveal His desire to reach all nations:
 - a. *The world* (Jn. 3:16; Jn. 8:12).
 - b. “*Them that believe*” (Jn. 1:1-12).
 - c. “*Whosoever*” (Jn. 4:13, 14).
 - d. “*Every creature*” (Mk. 16:15).
 - 2. People He reached show His desire to reach all nations.
 - a. Roman centurion (Matt. 8:5-13).
 - b. Samaritan village (Luke 9:51-56).
 - c. Syro-phoenician woman (Mt. 15:21-28).
 - d. He sent 70 from Samaria throughout Gentile areas (Luke 10:4-34).
 - e. Samaritan leper (Luke 17: 11-19).
 - f. Maniac of Gadara (Luke 8:26-37).
 - g. Greeks at Jerusalem (Jn. 12:20-32).
 - C. It was a genuine concern of the Apostle Paul (he quotes Is. 49:6 in Acts 13:44-47).
 - 1. “*Unto the ends of the earth*” (Acts 13:47).
 - 2. “*Cause that it be read*” (Col. 4:16).
 - 3. “*Regions beyond you*” (2 Cor. 10:16).

As seen in Acts 13:44-49, God used the Apostle Paul to provide the transition from Judaism and salvation for the Jews to salvation to the Gentile (whosoever) by grace through faith. Paul, being trained by Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), would have been an avid scholar and authority on Jewish ceremonial practices. What better vessel could have been chosen to expound on Jewish teachings and explain their messianic fulfillment than the Apostle Paul? He clearly demonstrated the transition from God working through the Jews to working through His church in order to impact the world (Matt. 16:18). Additionally, Paul had an understanding of the role and responsibility carried by the priesthood. He would have placed a high priority on the obligation of the scribe to copy and pass on that which was written in the Word of God. We see that he taught and gave instruction to the churches in his care to continue that assignment (Col. 4:16), basing his instruction on the God-given responsibility of the royal priesthood (Heb. 7; 1 Pt. 2:9).

- II. There is a **COMPELLING MOTIVATION** that gives evidence.
 - A. For God’s **GLORY** (Jn. 17:1-5).
 - 1. He truly is worthy of all **PRAISE** from every individual from every nation.
 - 2. He truly is worthy to be **PRESENTED** to every individual from every nation.
 - B. For man’s **GOOD**.
 - 1. Eternal life (Jn. 3:16).
 - 2. Changed life (1 Cor. 6:9-11- “such were some of you”).

The end goal of Bible-translation should be less about words on a page and more about transforming lives. Producing a Bible in the heart language of a people allows each element of a culture to be given a standard, a measuring stick, by which lifestyles and customs can be compared with the Word of God. A natural byproduct of Bible translation will be transformation.

- III. There are many **COMPREHENSIVE FACTS** that give evidence.
 - To bring closure to the Great Commission, our generation MUST do its part to take that with which we have been entrusted (1 Thess. 2:4) and pass it on for others. To effectively do this task, we must understand the following:
 - A. Over 7,300 known major languages spoken globally.
 - B. Approximately 600 languages have the entire Bible.
 - C. 1,500 languages have only the New Testament.
 - D. Around 1,005 languages have only Scripture portions (one or more books).
 - E. 209 million people comprise the languages with no Scripture portion at all.
 - F. 40% of the nearly 8 billion people today do not have access to any Scripture.

- IV. Today, we have a **CONVICTING DILEMMA** in light of this evidence.
 - A. 70% of all Independent Baptist missionaries are over 60 years old (*BIMI statistics*).
 - B. Only 1% of US Bible college students are preparing to go to the foreign field.
 - C. For every 10 people that surrender to the field, only 1 actually makes it there.
 - D. For every 4 missionaries that return home on furlough, only 1 returns to the field.
 - E. On average, comparing the number of known missionaries going to the field and the number of churches in the U.S., it takes four churches to produce one missionary (ratio of missionary to churches is 1:4).

Did God cease to call missionaries into His harvest fields or have we just stopped listening?