

God permitted His Word to be persecuted for some time in the past (Revelation 11). However, in the End Time—our time—, God has permitted the Bible to be read by 95% of the Earth's population.

Bible Societies have been essential for the translation and distribution of the Scriptures.

We can read the Bible in our mother tongue, but we should understand some basic concepts about its original language and context, so we can understand its message better.

-  Language
-  Words
-  Repetition
-  Context
-  Authorship



LANGUAGE

“And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’” (Acts 26:14)

Why did God want the Bible to be written?



To testify of His work through history.



To make His Salvation Plan known.



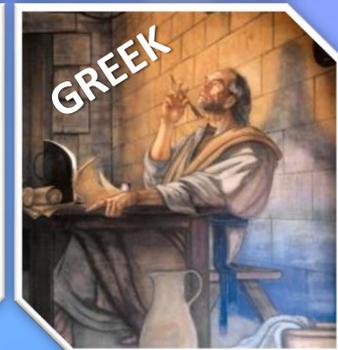
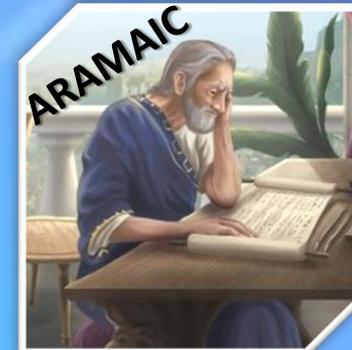
To teach us how to act with justice.

God chose a people and told them the truth in their language, Hebrew.

The books that were written from the exile in Babylon include some sections in Aramaic. It was the “universal” language of that time.

The New Testament was written in “common” Greek, which everybody could understand at that time.

Today, there are translations of the Bible that allow us to understand it, so we can put its principles into practice.





WORDS

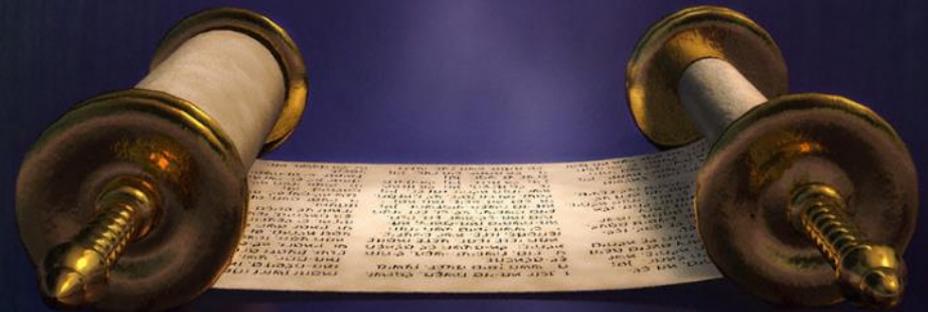
“Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.” (Psalm 63:3)

As in any other language, there are words in Hebrew and Greek that have several meanings or transmit diverse concepts. For example:

- **Chesed**. Grace, goodness, kindness, mercy, piety, favor, righteousness, graciousness, compassion.
- **Shalom**. Peace between two parties, inner peace, serenity, wholeness, completeness, well-being.

There are also different words that are translated by only one word in our language. For example, “remnant” (*she’ār, pālat, mālat, yāthar, sārīd* and *‘aharīt*).

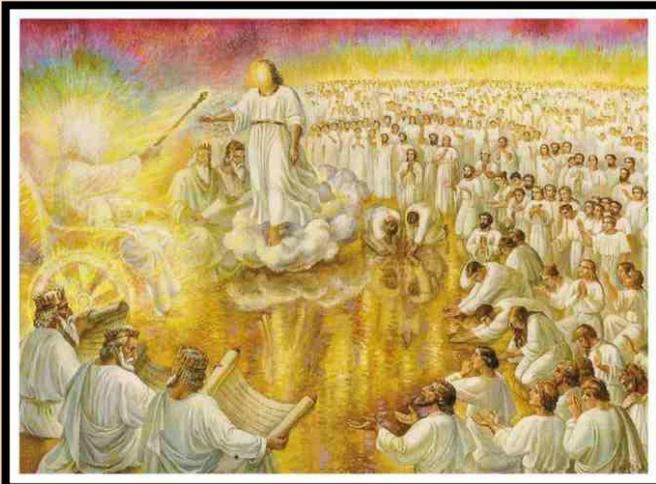
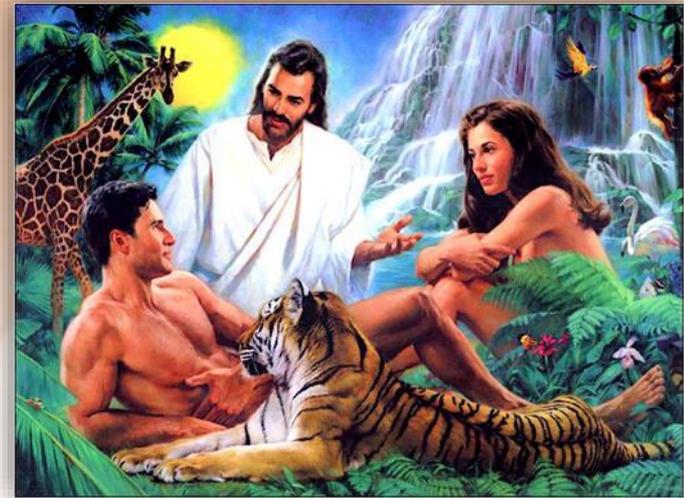
The richness of the language enables us to better understand the message God has sent through the Bible.



REPETITION

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

We may emphasize an idea by using exclamation points, boldface, italics, or underlining or highlighting it. However, that was not possible in biblical Hebrew.



The Bible authors used other ways to emphasize ideas. One of these was to repeat a word, like “created” or “holy”. When authors wanted to highlight a characteristic of God, they repeated the same word three times (Gn. 1:27; Is. 6:3; Jer. 7:4).



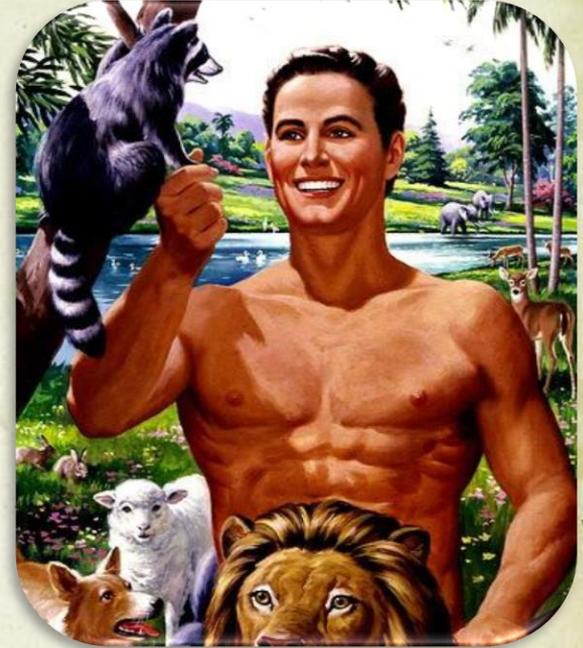
For example, Daniel emphasized how Nebuchadnezzar challenged God by repeating ten times that he built and statue (Daniel 3:1, 2, 3, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 18).

CONTEXT

“He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.”
(Genesis 5:2)

In addition to understanding the meaning of the original words, we should also understand how they’re used in their literary and historical context.

A good example is the Hebrew word “*adam*”, which can be translated both as Adam’s name (Genesis 5:3; cf. 2:23) and as humanity (Genesis 5:2; cf. 1:27).



The context is essential to correctly interpret the message in each verse.

According to the context of Romans 5:14, how should we interpret the word “*Adam*” in this case?



AUTHORSHIP

**"The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake."
(Amos 1:1)**

We can better understand the message of the Bible if we know details and background about who wrote each book and the author's writing style.

We know who wrote many of the books of the Bible, and even the date when it was written (Amos is a good example). However, this information is only available through the Judeo-Christian tradition in other cases.

In some cases, the historical context is especially important. For example, we may not understand the book of Exodus completely if we have not read Genesis first.

In addition, the Bible contains poetic, historical, prophetic, and epistolary books. Each style should be read and interpreted in a different way.

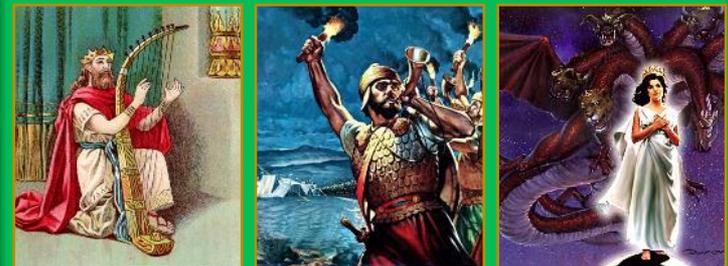
SEVERAL AUTHORS



SEVERAL AGES



SEVERAL STYLES



“Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another.

[...] a different aspect of the truth in each, but a perfect harmony through all. And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life.”