

Series: Bible Translation

Lesson: 4

Titles: Mystery and Ambiguity?

Text: Assorted Texts

Date: December 2, 2021

There are two translation philosophies:

1. Essential literal translations

Goal – Translate what the author SAID

2. Dynamic equivalent translations

Goal –Translate what the author MEANS

What are the assumptions or presuppositions that influence dynamic translations?

A. The Bible is a _____ book

The Lord's chief communication technique

There are at least two reasons the Bible is not uniformly easy to understand:

1. _____
2. _____
3. Some passages are _____ to understand.

The Bible is self-testifying to its difficulty.

Isaiah 55:8⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

Paul told Timothy to think hard

2 Timothy 2:7⁷ Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

B. The Bible should have no _____ or _____.

1. Essential Literal Translations of Psalm 88:18

New American Standard Bible

Psalm 88:18¹⁸ You have removed lover and friend far from me; My acquaintances are in darkness.

English Standard Bible

Psalm 88:18¹⁸ You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.

Now, getting down to the questions you asked in your letter to me. First, Is it a good thing to have sexual relations? Certainly but only within a certain context.

Conclusions

1. Literal translations do not _____ the interpretation, they deliberately choose to preserve the preserve the full interpretive potential.

2. Translators should translate not _____ our interpretive options beyond what is absolutely necessary.

3. Dynamic translations might be right and even helpful, if they are _____ in their interpretation.

ANSWERS: simple, Delayed insight, Difficult content, Intricate theology, easy, mystery, ambiguity, prejudice, exclude, correct

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 ³The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

New American Standard Bible

1 Corinthians 7:1 ¹Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

English Standard Bible

1 Corinthians 7:1 ¹Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

2. Dynamic Equivalent Translations of 1 Cor. 7:1

The New International Version

1 Corinthians 7:1 ¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.

The New Living Translation

1 Corinthians 7:1 ¹Now about the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to live a celibate life.

The Message

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King James Version (most accurate to the original)
Psalms 88:18 ¹⁸Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

1. "Darkness" could be a metaphor describing his friends.
2. "Darkness" could be a description of himself.
3. We could get some help from Psalm 88:8.

King James Version of Psalm 88:8

Psalm 88:8 ⁸Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.

English Standard Version

Psalm 88:8 ⁸You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

New American Standard Bible

Psalm 88:8 ⁸You have removed my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an object of loathing to them; I am shut up and cannot go out.

2. Dynamic Equivalent translations of Psalm 88:18

New International Version

Psalm 88:18 ¹⁸You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.

New Living Translation

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Psalms 88:18 ¹⁸You have taken away my companions and loved ones; only darkness remains.

1. Essential Literal Translation of Psalm 63:11

English Standard Bible

Psalms 63:11 ¹¹But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

King James Version

Psalms 63:11 ¹¹But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

New American Standard Bible

Psalms 63:11 ¹¹But the king will rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him will glory, For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

2. Dynamic Equivalent translations of Psalm 63:11

The New International Version

Psalms 63:11 ¹¹But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God's name will praise him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Today's English Version

Psalms 63:11 Because God gives him victory, the king will rejoice. Those who make promises in God's name will praise him, but the mouths of liars will be shut.

Contemporary English version

Because of you, our God, the king will celebrate with your faithful followers, but liars will be silent.

New Living Translation

Psalms 63:11 ¹¹But the king will rejoice in God. All who trust in him will praise him, while liars will be silenced.

One scholar says "We should note that Nida and other dynamic equivalent theorists generally do not deny ambiguities exist in the original text. They simply want to interpose their preferred interpretation and shield their readers from the ambiguities or mysteries of the original.

The challenge of translation by interpretation.

1. Essential Literal Translations of 1 Cor. 7:1

King James Version

1 Corinthians 7:1 ¹Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

Two things scholars agree on

1. Paul is quoting a slogan that some in the church were using.

2. "touch" is a euphemism for "sexual relations"

Context addresses abstinence in marriage.