

# UNIT 3: THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE – PART 2

LESSON 1 – Lost in Translation



# Introduction

- What we want to learn:
  - While it wasn't written in English nor written in our current context, the Bible remains trustworthy and profitable for our lives



# Introduction

- What we want to do with what we learn:
  - To be able to read, understand, and enjoy God's Word
  - To have an understating of its origins and what that means for how we should engage it today



# Scripture Focus

- Genesis 10:32-11:9
- Mark 15:33-37
- Isaiah 40:6-8



# Opening Prayer

Lord, I am asking you to give me eyes to see Your Word, a mind that understands Your Word, and a heart that embraces Your Word. Without Your help, I am lost. Thank You for loving me and teaching me through Your Word. Amen.



# Anchor Statement

The translation of Scripture into different languages is difficult, but it is a key part of living out what God has called us to do: dispersing throughout the Earth and filling it with His Gospel



# OVERVIEW



# Overview

- We will look at the different languages spoken by the writers of Scripture and at the ever-growing number of English translations



# Context and Details

## Genesis

Author: Moses (accepted)

Time frame: ~1400-1200 BC

Purpose: Details the earliest history of the world, including creation and the fall



# Context and Details

## Isaiah

Author: Isaiah, son of Amoz

Time frame: ~740-681 BC

Purpose: to call the nation of Judah back to God; to warn of coming judgment; to tell of God's ultimate salvation through the Messiah



# Context and Details

## Mark

Author: Mark (from Peter's firsthand account)

Time frame: mid 50s AD

Purpose: written to a non-Jewish audience, explaining Jewish customs in an effort for them to see the big picture



# THE SETTING



# The Setting

- Genesis – the first of many stories about humanity believing their ways are better than God's
- Even after the flood, humanity picks up the rebellion against God



# THE MAIN POINT



# The Main Point

- We will see the various languages represented within the Bible and why that matters
- Think more broadly about God's redemptive work across the whole world



THE LEAD IN



Goal

To think about the diverse origins  
and historical context of the Bible



# Question

- What do you know about where the Bible came from and the languages in which it was originally written?



# Origins

- **We're going to explore the origins of the Bible, like languages, contexts, and more that shaped the very first Biblical manuscripts**
- **Why it matters that we understand these things**



# THE MAIN EVENT



# Goal

- To have a better understanding of the origins of the book of the Bible



# Genesis 11

- Have you ever wondered how so many different languages came to be?



# Genesis 11:1-9

- **Context matters – alone, this seems like God is punishing people for building a tower**
- **But there is WAY more to the story**



Genesis 10:32

- **What was God's purpose for humanity after the flood?**
  - He wanted them to disperse and fill the land



# Genesis 11

- **We see that God gives the people a little bit of a nudge so that they finally follow His command to disperse**
- **We see different languages, cultures and people groups**



# Question

- **Do you think it would be difficult to translate the bible into a new language that you just learned?**



# Languages

- **The Bible was originally written in three main languages**
  - **Hebrew**
  - **Aramaic**
  - **Greek**



# Caution

- **If we don't understand**

- **Original languages**

- **Cultural nuances**

- **Historical background**

- **Intended messages**

- **...we could possibly misrepresent the message**



# Translators

- **There are people who have dedicated their lives to translating Scripture into new languages**
- **Not only are the actual words a big deal, but the context of Scripture is also important to communicate**



# Mark 15:33-37

- **How does Mark help us understand what is going on in this passage?**
  - **He wants to portray Jesus' words in the language they were spoken (Aramaic) so that the cultural context was maintained**



# Culture and Context

- Influence how words and concepts are understood and expressed in different languages
- Sometimes direct translation of a word isn't good enough to communicate what is happening



# Question

- **What role do culture and context play in Bible translation to other languages?**



# Question

- **Can we trust that translated versions of the Bible accurately convey the original message inspired by the Holy Spirit?**



Remember...

- **We can always trust that God is in control of His Word being communicated accurately to His people**



# Question

- **If the process is truly so difficult, why do we have so many different English translations of the Bible?**



# Translations

- **Languages evolve over time**
- **Each translation seeks to balance accuracy, readability, and faithfulness to the original languages**



# Common Translations

- **ESV – English Standard Version**
- **NIV – New International Version**
- **KJV – King James Version**
- **CSB – Christian Standard Bible**
- **NLT – New Living Translation**



# Anchor Statement

The translation of Scripture into different languages is difficult, but it is a key part of living out what God has called us to do: dispersing throughout the Earth and filling it with His Gospel



Isaiah 40:6-8

- **Even if we feel “lost in translation,” God has made a direct promise to have His Word be present in the life of the believer**



# THE LAST WORD



## Goal

- To consider how the Bible's original language and context impact how we read our English translations today



# Thoughts

- Consider how the Bible's origin can impact how we understand it and how we apply it in our lives



# Question

- **How does knowing about the Bible's original languages and contexts change how you think about its messages in English translations?**



# Continual Learning

- Keep exploring the Bible to fully appreciate its depth and breadth
- Keep questioning and seeking to understand as you read your Bible



