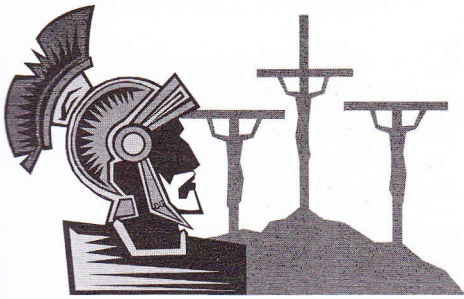


SERMON OF THE MONTH

War on the Word



“...they pierced my hands and my feet.”

Easter, Acts 12:4 – What were the KJV translators thinking?

An ominous wind blows! I’m not talking about a bunch of liberal preachers either. These are fundamental men who believe in the inspired, infallible Word of God. Yet, every now and again, I hear them say things like: “This would have been better translated...” “Unfortunately, this word should be...” or “this does not appear in the original manuscripts.” No, there does not seem to be an attempt from the pulpit to create doubt in the pew. Actually this innocent sincerity seemingly desires by scholarly means to set some thing aright. Such statements may even appear in the marginal notes of your Study Bible. Beware of these subtleties. Subtlety, my foot – It did not start subtle and it’s not subtle today. There was and still is an “in your face” “War on the Word!”

I. This “War on the Word” is not new.

The serpent was subtle (in a bad sense) but Satan was deliberate and exacting in his attack. From the start “the father of lies” (John 8:44) aggressively waged war on the Word of God.

Genesis 3:1 records “... Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Read it for yourself in Genesis 3:1-5. This spokesman of Satan misquotes God in verse one and then Eve turns right around and adds to God’s Word in verse three “...neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” That is not what the Lord God commanded the man (Adam), note Genesis 2:16-17. Yes, the attack, perversion, adding to and taking away from the Word of God was Satan’s strategy from the start. Lucifer’s very thoughts and intent were an assault upon the Glory of God. Hear the devil’s words, “For thou (Lucifer) hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isaiah 14:13-14. O, what vile words of rebellion. Just listen to the wicked one, Satan:

“I will ascend...”

“I will exalt...”

“I will sit...”

“I will ascend...”

“I will be...”

Then to the woman, “Yea, hath God said...” To this very hour this spirit of rebellion, defiance and disobedience continues. “The prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” Ephesians 2:2. Working, in the children of disobedience, men consecrated to Satan and disobedience against The Word of God.

II. This world system can’t get past the first book, first chapter, and first verse.

“In the beginning God” - evolution,

humanism and the entire barrage of lies start “War on the Word” with Genesis 1:1.

From the Old Testament to the New Testament the attack continues. Cults attack the deity of Christ in John 1:1 changing “The Word” and “God” to deny the deity of Christ. The Bible clearly says, “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus Christ) and the Word was God” John 1:1. “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” John 12:48. Behold, the very disgusting arrogance of this attack. Matthew 4:3 & 4 records, “And when the tempter came to Him (Jesus), he (Satan) said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” Now, underscore, highlight, in **RED** and **BOLD** what Jesus says: **IT IS WRITTEN, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.**” The devil again attacks the Word in verse six as well as misquotes Psalm 91:11-12. The devil omits and adds to the Word of God. In verse seven Jesus again responds with The Word. Then in verse ten the Lord again uses The Word in this final attack by the devil. The Word, the Word, the Word, how shall we live apart from His Word? (Deuteronomy 8:3) How shall we have faith apart from His Word? (Romans 10:17) How shall we have victory over sin apart from His Word? (Psalm 119:9 & 11) On and on we could go. “I will not forget thy Word.” (Psalm 119:16)

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III. "Wonderful words of life: let me more their beauty see, Wonderful words of life."

Be assured we have the inspired, infallible Word of God preserved for His children today. Some think differently.

The Messianic Psalm 22 records His Words "...they pierced my hands and my feet." Some will say, "this is not found in the Hebrew text. It should be translated "like a lion" my hands and my feet not "they pierced" my hands and my feet. The word "pierced" is indeed found in some Hebrew manuscripts. Many Hebrew manuscripts use "lion" or "like a lion."

(See inset table below)

I do not have the Septuagint and Syriac but understand that's the appropriate translation in both cases. For comparison I checked the

Amplified, New American Standard, New International, and along with the K.J.V. they use "pierced." We know the K.J.V. comes from a different direction than the other cited modern versions, however they all translate "pierced." Ancient versions and some manuscripts support the K.J.V. translation, "they pierced." I find it interesting that in one case the translation of a noun "like a lion" and then the translation of a verb for "pierced" or "digging" is used. Yet, either way, the idea of pierce, dig, bore, even tearing with painful effect is understood. I think the translators were right on! Zechariah 12:10 as well as the inspired New Testament writers clearly confirm the accurateness of "pierced." It appears some Hebrew copyist even gave a marginal note to make clear "pierced." In all cases, the words express the same brutality and sufferings of Christ. In the Old Testament and New Testament this

kind of death on the cross with the nailing of His hands and His feet is clear.

Here is a real charge for your brain. Judah advised his brethren to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites and forego taking his life. Remember that Joseph is often referred to as an Old Testament type of Christ. The symbol of Judah's standard according to rabbinical teaching is that of a lion (Jews – descendants of Judah with this symbol, a lion). Then in Matthew 27:25 "...His blood be on us, and on our children." The same awful moments are recorded in Luke 23:21 when the Jews cried, "...Crucify Him, Crucify Him." Yes, the Jews, descendants of Judah, with the symbol a lion and now Psalm 22:16b "a lion my hands and my feet" call for this brutal act. This bloodthirsty lion tore, clawed viciously into the precious impeccable pure hands of the loving Messiah. "[They] a lion [pierced] my hands and my feet." In 1Peter 5:8 "a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" desired to kill the Son of God and is bent on destroying you and I. It is quite clear from a historical perspective, as well as the scriptures, what transpired.

But don't despair, my Jewish friends. Jesus himself declared: "...I lay down my life for the sheep." "...No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself." (Read John 10:15-18) No raging mob, government, army, nor the Jews or Romans could take the life of "I AM." He would provide himself a lamb. No man would take the life of Jesus. He willingly would lay it down. Three days and three nights later neither death, neither hell nor the grave could keep Jesus from rising victoriously just as he promised. Keep in mind, "a lion my hands and my feet," "they pierced my hands and my feet." Revelation 5:5 records, "...the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed..." Was that a shout I heard? Don't get too carried away. The Lion of Judah, the Root of David prevailed. He is the Conqueror. Christ conquered at Calvary. Yes, the lions that gouged (pierced) His hands and feet,

ו:לשונ:י מדבק מלקוחי ו:ל:עפר-מות תשפת:ני
כ:ארי ידי ו:רגלי <22:16> יבש כ:חרש כח:
כי סבבו:ני כלבים עדת מרעים הקיפו:ני
כל-עצמותי המה יביטו יראו-בי <22:17>
(Psalms 22:15-17 BHM) <22:18> אספר

ארי m. a lion : Ps. xxii. 16, lit. like a lion. According to the reading of the Hebrew printed copies קָאֲרִי; but, according to Masora, קָאֲרוּ for קָאֲרִי.

כָּרַח to dig. KAL pret.

These words are interesting:

דָּקַר to stab or thrust through with a sword. KAL *pret.
פְּקָרוֹת f. pl. piercings.

מָחַץ to give a deep and deadly wound; see Smile. KAL *pret.
ב fut.

נָקַב to bore. KAL *pret. ב fut.

נָקַר to bore, pierce; to bore out, dig out; Niph. to be pierced with sharp pain. PIEL pret.

Credit to Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies

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that lion that seeks to devour could not defeat THE LION OF JUDAH!

Behold the Lamb in the midst of the throne. The lamb that was slain took the book, Thou art worthy to take the book, who hath redeemed us to God by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. Hallelujah!

IV. Watch carefully the persistent aggression against The Word.

Follow this assault from Herod's murderous slaughter and Rama's lamentation, the flight to Egypt and then Gethsemane, Satan tried to keep Christ from the Cross. In the garden, Hell's forces rallied to put a stop to Calvary's plan! With bloody sweat pouring from the Lamb of God, this massive spiritual assault of darkness pressed on. Yet Christ had set His face to Calvary. "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Satan would try to kill Jesus and stop Calvary. Being in great agony, Jesus emerged as planned from the foundation of the world. Another vicious attack upon the Word failed.

Prophecy of Christ was written over 700 years before His birth. That prophecy was translated from the Hebrew language into Greek then placed in the Alexandria Library 230 years before His birth. Isaiah records, "His visage was so marred more than any man..." what brutality was inflicted upon the pure, precious Son of God. They hit Him, spat upon Him, and mocked Him. His back was savagely beaten in the scourging. Up to 40 stripes were permitted by law. The Jews held it to 39, and if the scourge had as many as 12 thongs, that would equal 468 ripping lashes upon the back and loins of Jesus. They plucked off His beard by the roots, imbedded a crown of thorns upon His brow and mocked Him with a scarlet robe.

The Great Hall Pratorium, Via Dolorosa, Up Calvary's Hill, and Golgotha – can you hear the hammer strike the nails? Like ravenous beasts

with gaping claws of death, they tear at the flesh of the innocent Lamb of God.

Again, the "War on the Word" persists. Is the phrase, "they pierced my hands and my feet" to be found in the Hebrew text? Is there an error, omission, or incorrect translation? Over and over again we hear these things.

V. The warning – Don't fall for this trap.

Jeremiah 23:29-30 says, "Is not my word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words every one from his neighbor."

I was 17 years old when I preached my first sermon. From then until now I have held high the K.J.V. with one hand, pounding the pulpit with the other while declaring the Holy Bible to be the inspired, infallible Word of God. I have decided not to participate in this compulsion for adding to or taking away. Another example of this compulsion is Acts 12:4, "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." Yes, the word Easter is the Greek word, Pascha, which in 28 other places is translated Passover. Several other translations use the word Passover rather than Easter. What were the King James translators thinking?

Keep in mind, when translating a word, context must be considered and there are many examples of this. Here is one. The context here is understood from verse three "(Then were the days of unleavened bread.)" **The paschal meal was on the evening of the 14th Nisan while the seven days following (15th – 21st Nisan) are called the feast of unleavened bread.** Leviticus 23: 5-6. Therefore, the King James does not err, as do modern translations. It was not Passover and the K.J.V. is correct in context and translation. Oh, and yes, the K.J.V. translators knew Easter was pagan and did not use Easter to refer to the

resurrection of Christ. Again, the context is understood because it was after Passover and Herod did not want to kill Peter during the days of unleavened bread because Herod wanted to wait to kill another apostle after Easter (his pagan celebration). The K.J.V. understands Lev. 23: 5-6 as well as Acts 12:3. Therefore Acts 12:4 is correct. Once again as always, no need for scholars and preachers to correct God's Word. Yet, the "War on the Word" continues until the end times. However, I remind you that, "His name is called The Word of God" and don't forget this! Revelation 19:11-15. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doeth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the wine press of the fierceness and the wrath of Almighty God."

Pastors, teachers, and young preacher boys, you can with confidence open the Bible and proclaim, "Thus saith the Lord" from His inspired, infallible Word.

—RLW

REMINDER

Please remember this month's special envelope. Your support will help to continue this "Voice" around the world. **Thanks for your gifts.**