

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they
are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
Psalm 19:10

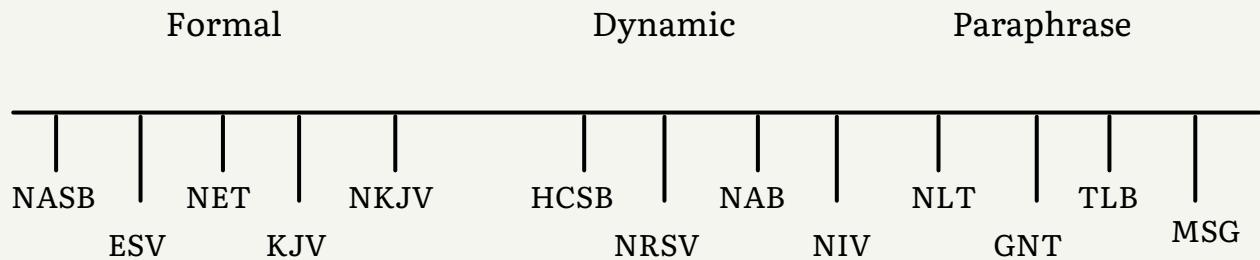
Reading God's Word

A basic guide to Bible reading.

She Writes For Jesus



Choosing a Translation



Formal equivalence/Literal - the goal of this is to keep as close to the “form” of the Hebrew or Greek (the original language of the Bible) both the words and grammar.

Functional equivalence/Dynamic - this is also keeping the Hebrew or Greek in the way that it was written in the original copies however the words and idioms were put into the more modern way of saying it in English.

Free translation/Paraphrase - these are what we call the paraphrased version with less concern about using the exact words of the original.

Tips in choosing a translation

Choose a translation that you can understand. The very goal of translation is not to lessen the value of the original texts that were written in Hebrew and Greek, but it is so that we, who lives in the modern time, in a different culture and who uses different language, will be able to understand the Word of God.

Choose a translation that is written by a group of Bible scholars and not just written by an individual. In this way, there are fewer biases and the texts were more examined to be as faithful as they can be to the original texts. We can also trust those Bible scholars to be qualified in translating the Bible.

Choose a translation that is based on the original Hebrew and Greek.

Tip: You can always use more than one translation just to compare the texts :)



Know The Genre

Narrative/Laws

- *Genesis*
- *Exodus*
- *Leviticus*
- *Number*
- *Deuteronomy*

Narrative/History

- *Joshua*
- *Judges*
- *Ruth*
- *1 and 2 Samuel*
- *1 and 2 Kings*
- *1 and 2 Chronicles*
- *Ezra*
- *Nehemiah*
- *Esther*
- *Acts (NT)*

Poetry and Wisdom

- *Job*
- *Psalm*
- *Proverbs*
- *Ecclesiastes*
- *Song of Songs*

Prophecy

- *Isaiah*
- *Jeremiah*
- *Lamentations*
- *Ezekiel*
- *Daniel*
- *Hosea*
- *Joel*
- *Amos*
- *Obadiah*
- *Jonah*
- *Micah*
- *Nahum*
- *Habakkuk*
- *Zephaniah*
- *Haggai*
- *Zechariah*
- *Malachi*

Narrative/Gospel

- *Matthew*
- *Mark*
- *Luke*
- *John*

Letters

- *Romans*
- *1 and 2 Corinthians*
- *Galatians*
- *Ephesians*
- *Philippians*
- *Colossians*
- *1 and 2 Thessalonians*
- *1 and 2 Timothy*
- *Titus*
- *Philemon*
- *Hebrews*
- *1 and 2 Peter*
- *1, 2 and 3 John*
- *Jude*

Apocalypse

- *Revelation*

Knowing the genres will help us in interpreting and applying God's word. Some are to be taken literally, some speak figuratively, and some are for practical life lessons. Don't hesitate to research what you can learn and how you should read each genre :)



Big Deep!

Know the background:

- Who is the Author?
- Who is the audience?
- What's the purpose of it?
- What is the message?
- Research their culture.



Observe the text closer:

- Find the connections between the thoughts
- Look for words: *If/then, therefore, but/and*
- What are the repeating words?
- Create an outline
- Ask this as you read: What does this mean to the original audience?
- What is the difference (and/or similarities) between the biblical audience and us?
- What is the difference between their culture and ours?
- Use commentaries

Applying the Word:

- Get the theological principle
- Consult the entire Bible for supporting verses
- Determine the specific area of your life where you can apply this.

