

History of Received Text

The Languages of Scripture
Study Pak 2A

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"I count it a great blessing from God to have been allowed to study the Greek and Hebrew languages. I love both languages (though I admit to loving Greek a whole lot more than Hebrew!), and have received a tremendous amount of satisfaction from seeing men and women that I have taught in these languages using them to the glory of God. But I also recognize that most Christians who are reading this book have not had the same opportunity to learn the languages in which God originally inspired the Scriptures. I am also well aware that those of us who know the languages are often guilty of using them in a way that is opposite to our professed reasons for having learned them. That is, rather than making things *clearer*, we may well *obscure* God's truth by going off into some unnecessary (and cryptic) discussion of some point of grammar that is really not germane to the issue at hand. Those who have been given the privilege (and hence the responsibility) of knowing these languages should always strive to make their knowledge useful in the edification in the body of Christ."

~~ James White, *The King James Only Controversy*, p. 20 ~~

I. THE LANGUAGES OF SCRIPTURE

- A. The Old Testament was written _____ were written in Aramaic, a language related to Hebrew. Hebrew was both the national and the everyday language of the Jews.
- B. The New Testament was written in "koine" _____ Greek. This was the everyday language of the Greek people.

II. FACTS ABOUT THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

- A. The Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 letters which are all consonants. There are no vowels but a system of markings known as vowel points give clearer meaning to the words today. They also aid punctuation.
- B. Hebrew is rather "concrete." What it says it says with little room for differences in tone. Consequently, Hebrew words require more interpretation and explanation.

III. FACTS ABOUT THE GREEK LANGUAGE

- A. Greek has an alphabet of 24 letters.
- B. Greek words have the ability to convey _____

with the simple change of one or two letter word endings. It is a more technical and precise language than either Hebrew or English.

- C. "Classical" Greek was used by only few of the most educated Greeks. The New Testament uses common Greek.

IV. THE LANGUAGES OF SCRIPTURE ARE DEAD LANGUAGES

"Strange as it may at first thought appear, it is unquestionably true that the Bible has been

Had these languages continued as living tongues they would have been subject to those changes in the meaning of words which is a constant characteristic of living tongues. In this respect, human life and linguistic life are similar. So long as a vital, formative energy is at work particles of the body are becoming effete and are being cast off. We could not live if we did not literally die daily. Dr. Draper has well defined death as "a cessation of dying." So with languages. While living they are subject to the _____; they are perpetually "sloughing off" rejected words, _____ into new meanings. _____."

~~ Jacob Embury Price, *The Book Divine*, 1889 ~~

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