

FAITHFUL INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURES IS A MUST

A sister wrote, "God didn't say "I will", rather, He said "I have" preserved 7,000..." I had taken the quotation from the New Living Translation (NLT) when I was replying to a brother's post.

I pointed out to her that both I will (I will preserve) and I have (I have preserved) in the context of the narrative is the same.

Rather than give it up, she wrote back, "I will is future tense. What is yet to be done. I have is an action that has already taken place."

Grammatically she is correct but going by objective exegetical analysis, she is wrong. She has taken her meaning (understanding) from the New King James Version. Nothing wrong with that. But when she insists that only that translation is right, she errs. Had she compared her reading with another version, she would have had a better understanding.

In fact going by the Greek, NLT and NRSV, it is a future God knows must come to pass. Only the NKJV translated it as a completed action. The NIV, on the other hand, makes it out as a present action.

Conclusion: whether a past, present or future action, the 5 translations are correct: God is the same yesterday, today and forever. When God says a thing, it must come to pass. Whether God says that the 7000 are there already or He knows they will be there means exactly the same thing in God's eyes. And that is the meaning that we must exegete to our audience or we are in error.

Many of us have been conditioned to be dogmatic to the point we mislead others. I could have ignored it but someone coming across that post could be taken in.

The King James Version or the New King James Version is not the only translation. It is wrong to use one translation of the Bible to try and make a point. Those who know will tune off. Let us use our knowledge wisely.

VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS OF 1 KINGS 19:18

1. GREEK:

καὶ καταλείψεις ἐν Ἰσραὴλ ἑπτὰ χιλιάδας ἀνδρῶν πάντα γόνατα ἃ οὐκ ὤκλασαν
γόνυ τῷ Βααλ καὶ πᾶν στόμα ὃ οὐ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ (1Ki 19:18 BGT)

καταλείψεις: This Greek word means to leave -- it is a verb indicative future active
2nd person.

2. NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (NRSV):

Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal,
and every mouth that has not kissed him."

3. NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT):

Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or
kissed him!"

4. THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION (NKJV):

"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to
Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

5. THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV):

Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel--all whose knees have not bowed down to
Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."

A faithful interpretation of the Scriptures requires using more than one Bible
translation.

Currently we are teaching an online course on Biblical Interpretation. It is a 12
week course. And it is free.

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videos.