

THE MISTRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW WORD (OLAM) TO MEAN “FOR EVER”

DR. FILLMER HEVENER

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MOST CHRISTIANS KNOW THAT THE OLD TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE IS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH FROM THE HEBREW LANGUAGE ALONG WITH A FEW BRIEF PASSAGES WHICH ARE TRANSLATED FROM ARAMAIC. THOSE OF US WHO ACCEPT THE MESSAGES IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS AS INSPIRED BY GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT, UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSLATOR FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS AND FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF ITS ENGLISH COUNTERPART. IN ADDITION, WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE TRANSLATOR IS OBJECTIVE IN HIS WORK OF TRANSLATION, NOT ALLOWING PERSONAL BIASES TO “COLOR” HIS WORK. IN ADDITION, WE ALSO KNOW THAT ALL HUMANS ARE SUBJECT TO ERROR WHEN PERFORMING ANY TASK. CONSEQUENTLY, IF CERTAIN BIBLE PASSAGES SEEM TO CONTRADICT EACH

OTHER, THE FIRST PLACE THAT WE SHOULD LOOK FOR POSSIBLE ERROR IS IN THE TRANSLATION PROCESS.

ONE SUCH MISLEADING TRANSLATION, FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT OF THE 1769 EDITION OF THE *KING JAMES BIBLE*, IS IN THE RENDERING OF THE HEBREW WORD “OLAM.” THIS WORD IS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AS “FOR EVER” IN 330 PASSAGES AND AS “EVERLASTING” IN 66 PLACES.

THE NUMBER OF THE WORD IN *STRONG’S CONCORDANCE* IS 5769. STRONG’S LONG DEFINITION OF THE WORD IS: “LONG DURATION, ANTIQUITY, FUTURITY.”

***BROWN-DRIVER-BRIGGS* DEFINE THE WORD AS MEANING “LONG DURATION, ANTIQUITY, FUTURITY;” THIS DEFINITION AGREES FULLY WITH STRONG’S DEFINITION.**

NOW, LET’S LOOK AT SEVERAL OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES, WHOSE MEANINGS CHANGE DRAMATICALLY IF THE WORD “OLAM” IS MISTRANSLATED AS MEANING “FOR EVER” OR

“ETERNALLY.” EXODUS 12: 14 AND 17 USE THE WORDS “FOR EVER” WHEN REFERRING TO THE KEEPING OF THE PASSOVER. THE TERM “FOR EVER” IN ENGLISH, WOULD SEEM TO MEAN WITHOUT BEGINNING AND WITHOUT END. HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT THIS COMMAND HAD A BEGINNING AND HAD AN END (THIS POINT WILL BE DEVELOPED LATER.) WE ALSO KNOW THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “ETERNITY” AND “TIME.” ETERNITY HAS NO BEGINNING AND NO END; EVENTS OPERATING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TIME, HAVE A POINT OF BEGINNING AND A POINT OF ENDING. THEREFORE, THE TRANSLATOR MAKES A MAJOR ERROR WHEN HE USES THE HEBREW WORD “OLAM,” HAVING GOD COMMAND THAT MOSES, ISRAEL, AND OTHERS OBSERVE AN ORDINANCE THAT HAD A BEGINNING AND WOULD COME TO AN END WITH THE DEATH OF THE ULTIMATE PASSOVER LAMB, JESUS CHRIST. IT WAS CHRIST, THE PERFECT SACRIFICE, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR MANKIND ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY.

THESE ORDINANCES, WRITTEN BY MOSES AND PLACED OUTSIDE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (SIGNALING THAT THEY WERE TEMPORARY), WERE IN FORCE FOR A TIME, BEING USEFUL ONLY UNTIL THE MESSIAH WOULD COME AND SHED HIS BLOOD FOR MANKIND.

UNLIKE THE PASSOVER COMMAND WHICH HAD A POINT OF BEGINNING AND ENDING, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (EXODUS 20), WERE TRANSFERRED FROM HEAVEN AND WRITTEN BY THE FINGER OF GOD, IN STONE ; THEY WERE PLACED INSIDE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (SIGNALING THEIR ETERNAL NATURE), FOR THEY ARE THE MORAL STANDARD AGAINST WHICH ONE'S ACTIONS ARE MEASURED TO DETERMINE IF THE ACTIONS ARE RIGHTEOUS OR SINFUL. WE KNOW THAT THERE WAS SIN IN HEAVEN WHEN SATAN COVETED THE POSITION OF CHRIST; THEREFORE, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WERE IN FORCE IN HEAVEN AND TRANSFERRED TO STONE BY GOD. BECAUSE SATAN BROKE THE COMMAND NOT TO COVET, HE SINNED AND WAS CAST OUT OF HEAVEN INTO THE

EARTH. JAMES TELLS US THAT MANKIND SHALL BE JUDGED BY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (JAMES 2: 10-12.) THEREFORE, WE SEE THAT THE DECALOGUE WAS IN FORCE IN HEAVEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN FORCE FOREVER INTO THE ETERNAL FUTURE.

NOW, LET'S LOOK SPECIFICALLY AT SEVERAL ADDITIONAL VERSES THAT USE THE TERM "OLAM" AND DISCOVER HOW THE MISUSE OF THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD CAN COMPLETELY CHANGE THE MEANING OF THE PASSAGE.

WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED EXODUS 12: 14 &17. THE TRANSLATION OF "OLAM" TO MEAN "FOR EVER" IN BOTH OF THESE VERSES SEEMS TO MEAN "WITHOUT END." HOWEVER, WHEN WE STUDY PAUL'S WRITINGS, WE FIND THAT THIS TRANSLATION IS ERRONEOUS. IN I CORINTHIANS 5:7, PAUL STATES THAT CHRIST BECAME OUR "PASSEVER." THEREFORE, TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE ANY PORTION OF THE PASSEVER COMMAND WOULD, BY IMPLICATION, SUGGEST THAT CHRIST'S SACRIFICE WAS

IN SOME WAY INADEQUATE. HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT CHRIST WAS THE PERFECT, SPOTLESS LAMB OF GOD, THE LAMB WITHOUT SIN, AND THE LAMB WHOSE DEATH WOULD ASSURE THAT THOSE WHO BELIEVE ON HIM AND FOLLOW HIM WILL BE GIVEN SALVATION IN HEAVEN. **COLOSSIANS 2:14-17, TELLS US THAT CHRIST'S DEATH BLOTTED OUT THE HANDWRITTEN ORDINANCES OF THE MOSAIC LAW, THE HOLY DAYS, AND THE YEARLY SABBATHS, "NAILING THESE ORDINANCES TO THE CROSS." THEREFORE, FOR THE TRANSLATOR TO USE THE HEBREW WORD "OLAM" TO DESCRIBE A COMMAND WITH A BEGINNING AND AN END AS "FOR EVER" IN ENGLISH, IS A SERIOUS TRANSLATION ERROR, INDEED!**

THERE ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE MISTRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW WORD "OLAM" IN THE *KING JAMES VERSION*:

1. **EXODUS 21:6** - A SLAVE, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, IS DESCRIBED AS SERVING HIS MASTER "FOR EVER." A MORE ACCURATE

**TRANSLATION WOULD BE
“PERMANENTLY.”**

- 2. JUDE 1:7- SODOM AND GOMORRAH WERE DESTROYED WITH “ETERNAL FIRE.” OF COURSE, THE FIRE IS NOW OUT; ETERNAL, FOR EVER, AND SUCH TERMS MEAN UNTIL THE THING/ACTION HAS FULFILLED ITS PURPOSE WITHIN THE SETTING OF “TIME.” EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD OPERATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TIME, HAVING A BEGINNING AND AN END.**
- 3. THE ARONIC PRIESTHOOD IS DESCRIBED AS BEING “EVERLASTING.” (EXODUS 40: 1-5.) HOWEVER, IT WAS SUPERCEDED BY THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD, TO WHICH CHRIST BELONGS. (HEBREWS 7: 14-18.)**
- 4. JONAH 2:6- THE USE OF “FOR EVER” DESCRIBING JONAH’S EXPERIENCE, CANNOT HAVE THE MEANING OF “UNENDING.” JONAH WAS IN THE BELLY OF THE WHALE THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS. (MATTHEW 12:40.)**

**ALTHOUGH OTHER BIBLICAL EXAMPLES
COULD BE CITED, THESE ARE ENOUGH TO**

GIVE CREDENCE TO THE THESIS OF THIS ARTICLE, THAT THE HEBREW WORD “OLAM” IS FREQUENTLY MISTRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH IN VARIOUS VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE, INCLUDING THE *KING JAMES VERSION*.

THEREFORE, WHEN GOD COMMANDS THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO KEEP PASSOVER “FOR EVER” (OLAM), HE IS NOT STATING THAT THE PASSOVER WILL BE KEPT WITHOUT END, BUT UNTIL CHRIST, THE MESSIAH AND SPOTLESS LAMB OF GOD, WOULD OFFER HIMSELF FOR MANKIND, SPILLING HIS BLOOD, ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY.

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED THIS SACRIFICE TO COVER YOUR SINS? IF NOT, I INVITE YOU TO BOW YOUR HEAD NOW AND ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND COVER YOU WITH CHRIST’S ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(PLEASE FORWARD THIS ARTICLE TO YOUR FRIENDS.)

**DR. FILLMER HEVENER, FARMVILLE, VA. 23901.
FHEVENER@OILART.COM
WWW.GUTHRIEMEMORIAL.ORG**

