

General Topics :: Original Bible Text

Original Bible Text, on: 2011/8/25 6:58

Have been reading about the original language of the NT. That they spoke in Aramaic and was translated into Greek. Wouldn't the Aramaic/Hebrew be more accurate? Or atleast be a good source to study from?

Re: Original Bible Text - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/8/25 7:22

To my knowledge it was written in the tongue of the people at the time, Greek. So therefore would be the more accurate language of the New Testament in terms of translating.

Quote:
-----The Jews of NT times spoke Aramaic at home and in conversations. Aramaic was similar Hebrew and Arabic. (al-Rahmaan, al-Rahim, in the Fatiha of the Quran were probably derived from the Aramaic language). In business life and official writings they used the common Koine Greek that all peoples in the area used for hundreds of years. They actually thought and talked in at least two or three languages as people do today. The Roman occupiers of the Holy Land at that time spoke Latin and Greek. Evidence of the three languages used in that time is found in the New Testament itself in the Gospel of John 19:19-20:(NIV)

Found this answer more specifically to your question though which is better than mine :) Dr. Ray Register is the author of the article and seems to be a good read (or at least the first half which I read)

<http://answering-islam.org/Bible/nt-languages.html>

Re: Original Bible Text - posted by ArtB (), on: 2011/8/25 19:37

by reformer on 2011/8/25 3:58:58

"Have been reading about the original language of the NT. That they spoke in Aramaic and was translated into Greek. Wouldn't the Aramaic/Hebrew be more accurate? Or at least be a good source to study from?"

At the time the books of the Bible was being written, the common language of the Roman Empire was Koine Greek. Most Jewish people in Israel used Greek on their tombstones in Jesus day. Jesus and his disciples spoke Greek. Paul wrote his letters in Koine Greek. Greek is the most exact language we know. It is the best language to say exactly what you mean, e.g. they have at least five different words for 'Love':

1. Mania – Manic love is almost not a love at all, it's a person possessed with obsession to have someone, regardless of how the other person felt about it.
2. Eros - emotional love, an insatiable desire to be with a person, but in their presence you become excited, emotional, nervous, and/or otherwise make a complete fool of yourself. A purely sexual attraction is usually present, but not always so. Eros does not appear in the Greek NT at all.
3. Philos: A brotherly love, or a very close friendship, 'a friend even closer than a brother', usually with the same sex, but not always. It is a love that grows with time.
4. Agape love is entirely about the lover, and has nothing whatsoever to do with the one loved. Agape love, in its purest form, requires no payment or favor in response. In the Bible it's God's love toward us.
5. Storge: a word for motherly or fatherly love, an ingrained natural affection..

On the other hand, no early Christian documents are extant in Aramaic! Just using the the known Greek documents of C

Christians from the first century AD and early 2nd century allows scholars to re-assemble the entire New Testament from their quotes of the NT, minus just a few verses.

The only ones I know that push for an early Aramaic Origin of the NT are those religious institutions that insist that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, did not have any other Children besides Jesus, and no sex with Joseph ever. The fact is, the Greek word 'Brother' actually does mean 'Brother'. And in scripture, it is very clear Jesus had brothers and sisters. The Greek has a totally different word for cousins. I discussed this on a Catholic Forum and the Catholic in charge of the forum insisted the gospels were written in Aramaic pointing out that the Aramaic has no clear word for brother. The Aramaic word simply means relative.

I read an early Christian letter (originally written in Greek) by a late 1st century Christian who states one of his companions is a son of one of Jesus brothers.

The Koine Greek was the common language, and it was invented by Alexander the Great who wanted to unite all of the nations of Greece under one language. I heard this on a documentary about the Greek civilization.

Re: Original Bible Text - posted by fromtheold (), on: 2011/8/26 4:27

the language spoken in Syria at the time. The first NT really was the Peshitta, then the Roman version of the Waldensians which was French mixed with Italian but in between there was also the Vetus Latina which is different from the Vetus Latina of the Roman Catholic cult. In the 4th century the beginning of the Roman Catholic cult also made a "vetus latina" which basically means the spoken language or the common language to confuse the people into believing their version instead of the original Vetus Latina which was the known scriptures. The Roman Catholic cult butchered the Waldensians because they stuck to the word and preserved it until about the end of the dark ages.