The Markings in the Bible (Continued)

Quick Review of Lesson 5	22. Acts 11 – 27 gives a history of the Church and shows that Jerusalem was the first headquarter of the Church, but after Paul's arrest, it was moved to Antioch, Syria (Antioch is now part of Turkey). Church history tells us that in AD 380, the leaders of the Church decided to relocate the headquarter to the Church in Rome, where it remained the power over all the Churches in the world until the reformation with men such as Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli in the 1400s – 1500s. 23. The original manuscripts of the New Testament were kept in the care of the Apostles and the men they trained to be pastors and missionaries of the Church. As the manuscripts were shared with the local congregations, copies were made. Soon every Church had copies of the New Testament. In our museums, we have fragments of these copies that date from AD 100, just four years after John finished writing the Revelation. The earliest full copy of the New Testament in our care is the Codex Sinaiticus which dates to AD 330-350. 24. When purchasing a new Bible, you should read the preface and forward material to understand how the text was put together and the history of the versions that came before the version you have just purchased. New English versions are rarely attempted. New versions seek to correct obsolete words and phrases that have lost their original meanings in older versions. Current words are replaced that have the definitions of the intent of the original words. 25. Some original idioms are shortened in the English text or simply left out. Some connective words such as "and" are left out because the original languages used those kinds of words as punctuation, whereas English uses a period and a question mark. 26. Not all original language idioms have been translated easily or clearly into English.

Principles of Translation
(Continued)

ALTERNATIVE READINGS: In addition to the more literal renderings, notations have been made to include alternate translations, reading of variant manuscripts and explanatory equivalents of the text. Only such notations have been used as have been felt justified in assisting the reader's comprehension of the terms used by the original author.

Note: You will find these ALTERNATIVE READINGS at the bottom of the page. A small letter in superscript will be at the beginning of the first word or phrase where other versions of the English Bible render a different, but plausible alternative to the NASB text. Here is one example.

Matthew 10:29. "Are not two sparrows sold for a [n]cent?" At the bottom of the page, we find [n] Gr., *assarion,* the smallest copper coin	What does this mean? In America, our smallest coin is a "cent;" therefore, the committee translated the Greek word *assarion* as a "cent" instead of the literal translation of "the smallest copper coin."

HEBREW TEXT: In the present translation the latest edition of Rudolf Kittel's BIBLIA HEBRAICA has been employed together with the most recent light from lexicography, cognate languages, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Note: This entry simply tells us the unified, accepted, Hebrew compilation that was used to verify the OLD TESTAMENT text, a compilation created from all the Hebrew scrolls, fragments, and full booklets that have been stored in the great ancient libraries and found in the archeological digs in the last two hundred years. It is for information purposes only.

HEBREW TENSES: Consecution of tenses in Hebrew remains a puzzling factor in translation. The translators have been guided by the requirements of a literal translation, the sequence of tenses, and the immediate and broad contexts.

Note: This entry tells us of the difficulty of translating the Hebrew into English. Hebrew words are word pictures. One word can take many words in English to express. Here is one example. At the beginning of Psalm 59, you

find the Hebrew word *Altashheth*. In English, that one word in Hebrew must be translated as "Do not destroy." One Hebrew word becomes three English words. An example of the impossibility of a word-for-word Hebrew to English literal translation. We must trust the scholars in this area.

Now to a topic that we must know about! It is essential for everyone to know and understand!

THE PROPER NAME OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: In the Scriptures, the name of God is most significant and understandably so. It is inconceivable to think of spiritual matters without a proper designation for the Supreme Deity. Thus, the most common name for the Deity is God, a translation of the original Elohim. One of the titles for God is Lord, a translation of Adonai. There is yet another name which is particularly assigned to God as His special or proper name, that is, the four letters YHWH (Exodus 3:14 and Isaiah 42:8). This name has not been pronounced by the Jews because of reverence for the great sacredness of the divine name. Therefore, it has been consistently translated LORD. The only exception to this translation of YHWH is when it occurs in immediate proximity to the word Lord, that is, Adonai. In that case it is regularly translated GOD in order to avoid confusion. It is known that for many years YHWH has been transliterated as Yahweh, however no complete certainty attaches to this pronunciation.

Let's unpack this section for clarity: Three Hebrew names for the persona of God are translated into English in a specific way in our NASB Bible. These names are Elohim, Adonai, and YHWH. Here are examples.

Elohim – the Supreme God of Creation
Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning **Elohim** …" is translated as "In the beginning **God**…."

Note: The committee has been careful to look at the context when translating Elohim to "God" with a capital "G." Elohim is also found in the Hebrew to refer to foreign, fake gods as in Exodus 12:12 "against all the gods [elohim] of Egypt…." In such cases, a small "g" is used.

Adonai – the Master or Ruler
Adonai is a name used by the Hebrews when reading the Bible instead of pronouncing the name YHWH. We do not know exactly how it was chosen by the Jews to use, but we do know that its vowels were taken from natural forming vowels in the mouth when saying the word YHWH. The Name Adonai is always translated as "Lord" in the NASB Bible when it applies to YHWH. Here is an example of where Adonai is used in the Bible.

Joshua 3:11 "Behold, the ark of the covenant of **Adonai**…" is translated as "Behold the Ark of the **Lord**."

Note: The committee has been careful to look at the context when translating Adonai as "Lord." As in the Joshua 3:11 verse above, Adonai clearly refers to YHWH because the sentence is associated with the Ark of the Covenant. For this use, a capital "L" is always used, followed by small letters "ord." However, the word Adonai is found in many other places in the original text because it means "master or ruler." When Adonai is found in the context to refer to a regular human master or ruler and not to YHWH, the committee has used the word "lord" in all small letters. An example is found when Hannah replies to Eli's question by saying, "No, my lord [Adonai], I am a woman oppressed in spirit…." (1 Samuel 1:15). Hannah was replying to the priest as if he had authority over her.

In summary, in the NASB, when you see the word "Lord," it is always a translation of the word Adonai with reference to God. When you see the word "lord," it is always a translation of the word Adonai with reference to a human master, ruler, or someone in authority who is not God.

YHWH – the Specific Name of the Creator God
We have already mentioned the name YHWH under the topic Adonai above. Adonai was the name used and substituted by the Jews when coming to the word YHWH when reading the original manuscripts. They felt that the name YWHW was too holy to pronounce. Yet, YHWH is found written throughout the Old Testament. YHWH

always means the name of the persona of God, Who, was the Creator. It is never applied to a human. YHWH tells us that YHWH is His name in Isaiah 42:8.

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD [YHWH], that is My name."

Note: The committee has been careful to always translate the name YHWH as "LORD" in all caps. Sometimes you will see it in the large-cap, small-cap lettering such as "LORD," but in all caps, it always means it is the word YHWH.

Let us stray from the NASB for a moment. If you happen to read Spanish, you will notice that your translations use the name Jehovah. Jehovah is an older English word that was created and used in the original King James Version as a substitute for the word YHWH. It is an intentional mispronunciation and miss-spelling of the word YHWH. Here is how it is derived. We start with YHWH. "Y" = Je, "H" = ho, "WH" = vah. Je-ho-vah. Hebrew has no vowels; however, natural vowel sounds occur as the mouth and tongue move from consonant to consonant. Those sounds were used to create the name Jehovah from YHWH. For example, in the King James Version, Genesis 22:14 is "YHWH sees," but the KJV rendered it "Jehovah sees." The Spanish versions picked up on this and used the name exclusively instead of YHWH throughout the whole Old Testament.

<div align="center">

The Combination in the Text of
Elohim and YHWH

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When the words YHWH and Elohim are next to each other, the committee of the NASB has been careful to always translate it the same way as "LORD God." Here is an example.

Genesis 2:4 "… the day that the **YHWH Elohim** made earth and heaven …" is rendered "… the day that the **LORD God** made earth and heaven…" in the NASB.

Before moving on to complete the information in the Preface and Forward material, let us stop to make an Old Testament, New Testament connection to the LORD Jesus in the New Testament and the LORD YHWH in the Old Testament. Here are two examples.

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Isaiah foretells of John the Baptist coming to announce the coming of YHWH in the flesh. ...A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3	John the Baptist announces the coming of Jesus. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the LORD, make His paths straight.'" Mark 1:2 -3

| Joel explains how to be saved through YHWH.

... And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered … Joel 2:32 | Peter and Paul explain how to be saved through Jesus.

Peter says, "... and it shall be, that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." Acts 2:21

Paul says, "... whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved." Romans 10:12-13 |

Let us summarize what these examples tell us. In the Old Testament, the LORD YHWH is the persona of God, Who, actually did the act of creation. He is the One walking and talking with Adam and Eve in the garden. He is the One speaking to Noah. He is the One Who called Abram out of Ur to go to the future Promised Land. He told Abram that he and Sarah would have a son. He is the One Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush, YHWH – the I am that I am. He spoke with Joshua, Gideon, Samuel, David, Solomon, and all the prophets of the Old Testament. But who is this YHWH of the Old Testament? Is He presented anywhere in the New Testament?

Yes, He is! Comparing passages from the Old Testament, we find that the LORD Jesus of the New Testament is YHWH of the Old Testament.

Our Jesus of the New Testament is the LORD of the Old Testament.
He is found on almost every page of our Old Testament, in every book, and in every chapter.

Continuing with the Preface Material

GREEK TEXT: Consideration was given to the latest available manuscripts with a view to determining the best Greek text. In most instances the 26th edition of Eberhard Nestle's NOVUM TESTAMENTUM GRAECE was followed.

Note: This entry simply tells us the unified, accepted, Greek compilation that was used to verify the NEW TESTAMENT text, a compilation created from all the Greek fragment, full pages and booklets that have been stored in the great ancient libraries, museums, and found in archeological digs of the last two hundred years. For non-Koine Greek speaking people, it is for information purposes only.

GREEK TENSES: A careful distinction has been made in the treatment of the Greek aorist tense (usually translated as the English past, "He did") and the Greek imperfect tense (normally rendered either as English past progressive, "He was doing"; or, if inceptive, as "He began to do" or "He started to do"; or else if customary past, as "He used to do"). "Began" is italicized if it renders an imperfect tense, in order to distinguish it from the Greek verb for "begin." In some contexts, the difference between the Greek imperfect and the English past is conveyed better by the choice of vocabulary or by other words in the context, and in such cases the Greek imperfect may be rendered as a simple past tense (e.g. "had an illness for many years" would be preferable to "was having an illness for many years" and would be understood in the same way).

On the other hand, not all aorists have been rendered as English pasts ("He did"), for some of them are clearly to be rendered as English perfects ("He has done"), or even as past perfects ("He had done"), judging from the context in which they occur. Such aorists have been rendered as perfects or past perfects in this translation.

As for the distinction between aorist and present imperatives, the translators have usually rendered these imperatives in the customary manner, rather than attempting any such fine distinction as "Begin to do!" (for the aorist imperative), or, "Continually do!" (for the present imperative).

As for sequence of tenses, the translators took care to follow English rules rather than Greek in translating Greek presents, imperfects and aorists. Thus, where English says, "We knew that he was doing," Greek puts it, "We knew that he does"; similarly, "We knew that he had done" is the Greek, "We knew that he did." Likewise, the English, "When he had come, they met him," is represented in Greek by: "When he came, they met him." In all cases a consistent transfer has been made from the Greek tense in the subordinate clause to the appropriate tense in English.

In the rendering of negative questions introduced by the particle *me* (which always expects the answer "No") the wording has been altered from a mere, "Will he not do this?" to a more accurate, "He will not do this, will he?"

THE LOCKMAN FOUNDATION

Note: This entry tells us the difficulty of translating Koine Greek into English. It is a good idea to read this part of the preface at least once in your life to grasp, if nothing else, the complicated nature of translating the Greek text and tenses into proper English grammar. Unless you are studying Koine Greek (not Classical Greek) and have become accomplished in Koine Greek, it is best to trust the scholars in this area and how they have rendered the Greek into English for us.

Now for the Explanation of the General Format in the NASB of
FOOTNOTES, PARAGRAPHS, QUOTATION MARKS, "THOU," "THEE" AND "THY,"
PERSONAL PRONOUNS, ITALICS, SMALL CAPS, ASTERISKS (*), [ ] and ( ),
but that will come in the next lesson.