

Introduction Scripture For Seekers (S4S)

Version 4: 2-3-17

This is The Word of YAHWEH! Do not treat it "lightly"!

The Scriptures are a Hebrew text. The Old Covenant was written in Hebrew for Hebrew people by The Hebrew Elohim (God). That characteristic is foundational. It should never be ignored. It's also highly likely that a Hebrew text of The New Covenant existed at some point. Unfortunately the Greek versions we have available create a serious problem with maintaining a Hebrew perspective on the life of The Messiah.

The Old Covenant text features a unique element - the usage of ׀. These two Hebrew letters are aleph and tau, the first and last letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet. Both YAHWEH and YAHUSHUA are identified in Scripture as The First and The Last. In The New Covenant these show up as the Alpha and Omega. That's Greek. It's not correct.

The appearances of these letters in The Old Covenant have extremely important significance for the text. However, they are virtually never indicated in the English texts. Traditionally these are treated as representing "a marker for the direct object of a verb". **This is not correct!** These letters represent a means of **emphasis** for the terms they are connected to. You will now be able to see where each of these occur within the Hebrew text and how they influence the meaning or the significance of the text.

The book order will be that of The Tanakh for The Old Covenant. A new order is given for The New Covenant. The Tanakh is the Hebrew format for their Scriptures. There's a profound logic in their order that's lost when it's altered. Because of the material in The New Covenant a new order for the books is presented. An explanation is given in the notes for the text.

The format is different. It's designed to be read out loud! Hebrew is a "vocal" language. The Hebrews were taught their Scriptures by having them read out loud to them. They didn't have a written copy from which to read. We ought not miss this element. The impact on the mind of reading out loud is very dramatic. The mind absorbs the material much more effectively.

The format is also designed to focus on the individual elements of the text. The impact is far different than when compared to those using standard paragraph structures. The Hebrews thought in concrete terms, not abstract ones. This is often lost in other formats. This format helps to delineate their concrete thinking more clearly. It also permits a wide space for your personal notes when printed.

This text will use the proper Hebrew name of The Creator, YAHWEH. It will not use the other "euphemisms" that traditional texts use such as "The LORD, Jehovah, Ha Shem, G-d etc. It will also use the name YAHUSHUA, for The Messiah. This name has a very specific Hebrew meaning. The Hebrew Messiah would **NEVER** have been given a Latin or Greek name. **His name is not "Jesus".**

Hebrew names are used instead of "English" names in order to maintain the character of the text. Hebrew names carry great significance. They have explicit meanings in most cases that are pertinent to the text itself. This will challenge you a bit but it's important that you THINK about what you're reading and take it very seriously. The meanings for the names are provided in the notes.

This work was created differently than most. It's been prepared in a manner that YOU could do yourself, using the resources that are available today. Accordance Bible Software (www.accordancebible.com) has been used in its preparation. (A module is being prepared for your use in Accordance.) Every single word of the Hebrew or Greek text has been reviewed using the Masoretic Hebrew text in an effort to determine an accurate rendering. The context may shift the nuance of the word slightly, but the fundamental concepts always remain.

While this has the character of a new "translation" this is, more accurately, an "edited" text. It's the result of an extensive review of each word and phrase in an attempt to determine the best way to present the concepts within the text itself.

The notes are essential to a proper understanding of this text. Without them you'll miss much of the meaning within it. There are detailed explanations of many of the terms used in order to help you better understand the text.

A very careful study of what we know about the words used and their meanings is the foundation. Not everything is clear. Much of the Hebrew character of the work is lost in any translation into English. This is unavoidable. However, every attempt has been made to place as much Hebraic influence into this text as possible. A relatively literal sense of the terms is used wherever possible, recognizing that "literal" is not always an accurate rendering of the intent of the text. Parables and analogies are an example of where this becomes a problem with being too "literal".

This text has been prepared by a seminary trained former pastor with over 65 years of Bible study and teaching experience.

Note: This text will challenge the traditional views of your faith. What we've been taught by traditional means is often far different than what The Word of YAHWEH actually teaches.

Are you prepared to LEARN? Or are you going to be stiff-necked like the Yisra'elites - and the "traditionalists"?

May you be blessed in your study of The Word of YAHWEH!
Obed BenYAH