

is a word to use to translate in this context, but it may not fit at all in another context. Every Hebrew or Greek word has the possibility of being interpreted with an idea that is not in an English translation. And every word in an English translation has a possibility of being interpreted in a way that does not correspond to the original.

The translator wants to get as near to it as he can, but in the very nature of language, he cannot get exactly to it. So we have to study Scripture in context and compare passage with passage. When we get to precise interpretation we have to go to the original text. We have to use careful judgment there.

When we come to the original language, God could have had it written on plates of metal, written so easily and so thoroughly that it could hardly be lost by the passage of time, and then kept it in a room kept at an even temperature like the way the standards of measurements are kept in Washington, so that ~~no~~ no slightest change would occur and we could be sure we had exactly the words that God gave. in the beginning.

He could have done that if He chose. I think if He chose to do that He would have explained it to us in Scripture somewhere that that is what He was doing. The fact of the matter is that he did not do that. Consequently there are ~~xxxx~~ no two MSS of the OT or of the NT that exactly agree. That's not strange                     

If any five people here were to sit down and take the book of Acts, and make a copy in your own writing. When you finished and compared the Bible, I would be surprised if you'd find any two of the five that were exactly identical. You could be sure that you would make mistakes in copying.

When you figure that these MSS were copied, recopied, etc. and the older ones wore out, you might say it's a marvel ~~of~~ that our present ones can be at all like them. The fact of the matter is that as we compare our present text of the Hebrew and Greek, we have evidence to get very near to the original. But not quite to it. There was a big argument at the U. of Virginia a few years ago. One of the intervarsity representatives spoke to me about it.

There had been an article in I think it was LOOK magazine on Textual Criticism telling about groups that were trying to find MSS of the Greek NT. The article had at the top: Even the Lord's Prayer Questioned. The facts were that some of the MSS contained the words, For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Others did not contain those words. This man said it will be 30 years before students at the University of Virginia will be willing to look at the Bible any more. Their faith has been completely destroyed by these arguments that say you can even depend on what the Lord's Prayer is.

Does any Christian question that the power and the glory belong to God ~~xxx~~ forever and ever? We don't question whether that is true or not. We all believe it whether it's in the Bible or not. The only question is when Jesus gave the Lord's prayer which he probably did on several occasions, did He always include those words?