

And the differences will be very minor. To my mind getting the Bible into language people today can understand from any _____ of any _____ is to me 1000 times more important than trying to be absolutely sure as to each word in the text. Which you can't.

So I feel that most of those arguments are based on nostalgia for those beautiful old words we are accustomed to, and it is a rationalizing.

Question: Verbal inspiration has been used quite differently in our circles. Just what does that term mean?

Answer: There were those who said the Bible is inspired, but of course the words aren't inspired. The thoughts are inspired. Well now, I like to use the word revelation and inspiration as two different things. I like to use revelation as conveying of thought, and God conveyed thoughts by the writers. And He used the writers--their whole observation of their experiences--to lead them to draw conclusions from activities. And these were put together in the Book He gave us, so it is a revelation of God's love.

Now inspiration to me means God kept these words free from error in the sense they do not incorporate into them any erroneous ideas. I think it is the words that are inspired; the thoughts are revealed. That inspiration refers to words, not to ideas. But that the important thing isn't getting the words but it is getting the ideas out of the words. Comparing the words to see what the ideas are.

Question: You used the illustration from 1 Samuel _____ Do you have any others.

Answer: Yes there is a very good one in Chronicles-- in the list of the sons of Samuel. It says the sons of Samuel were the firstborn and Vashni. KJV has the word Vashni. KJV has only 2 names that begin with a V. One is Vasti, a Persian name, and the other is this Vashni. There is no others because there is no Hebrew word that begins with a V. The Hebrew was.

In this case the Hebrew word would be Vashni, the second son. The thing is that some of the _____ names have dropped out. KJV translates "and the second was Vashni" And five verses down you have the name of the first one given as Joel. There are other cases too. The reference is 1 Chron. 6:28.

"The sons of Samuel, the first born Vashni and Abiah." And you read further down and you have reference to his son Joel. Joel is the first, Abiah is the second. The word Joel has dropped out in the course of copying. To me it's an evidence of the dependability of the Bible rather than the opposite. That when an error occurred at a very early time which was like these two-- perfectly obvious. Anybody could see it was an error. The scribe did not feel they were competent to correct the error. They copied exactly what they found.