

today than they did then. That I think is very important. That is why I personally prefer to use a modern translation. I recognize it has its weaknesses and faults. But so does the KJV. But it is intelligent. It means something. Since I've been using it I've been amazed at how frequently it was that I would repeat through my life verses from KJV without stopping to think, What does this verse mean?

"Of his fulness have all we received and grace for grace." What does "grace for grace" mean? I'm sure it was very clear to the people 400 yrs. ago. Today if you'd say, He gave me blow for blow", you would mean that in response to every blow you gave him, he gave you a blow! And "grace for grace" if you would stop to think what it would probably mean to the average person today would mean, We show our grace to him and He reciprocates by giving his grace to us! Of course that's utterly heretical. There's no grace we can give to Christ. His grace is absolutely unmerited. But fortunately most people don't stop to think what the verse means, and they don't get that heretical notion from it. NIV translates it, "one blessing after another." That has a meaning. That's probably exactly the idea people got from "grace for grace", but nobody gets it today.

Last night I was reading a life of Theodore Roosevelt. It told how when he was a fairly young man, one night he was out in N. Dakota helping to round up cattle. He had great numbers of cattle. It said that during that night rain came down, wind blew, the cattle stampeded. He had to rush to try to rescue them, and drive them back. He almost lost his life in the process. It said it was a terrific experience. I was surprised to see the word "terrific" used that way in a book that came out in the last 5 yrs., because to almost anybody under 60 today the word "terrific" means wonderful, lovely. What a lovely experience it was. Surely that's not what the writer meant. To almost anybody over 60 "terrific" means bad terrible. To almost anybody under 60 it means wonderful! The word has just changed its meaning; reversed it.

I remember the first time somebody asked me to speak somewhere and I said, How would you like me to speak on this subject in the morning, and this subject in the evening. He said, That's terrific! I said, Oh my, I guess that's awful. I'll have to.... (laughter) That was the first time I came to realize (about 20 yrs. ago) that the word had completely reversed its meaning.

Now the words prophet, priest and king have not reversed their meaning but they have disappeared. Disappeared very largely. How many of the people you meet who don't attend church regularly does the word prophet mean much to them? If you say, Tomorrow is going to be a good day in spite of the fact they all tell us it's going to be rainy, you'll say, Oh are you a prophet? Prophet to the average person today means someone who can tell us what's going to happen in the future. Well, in the biblical sense "prophet" doesn't mean that. A Prophet did predict the future, yes, on many occasions, but predicting the future was not more than a fifth of most of his work at most. Perhaps not more than a tenth.