

I thought, Why on earth did she say, Good-bye to me? the first time she ever saw me? Then I found that in Germany whenever you meet somebody you say, Gooten tag, and when you leave them you say, Gooten tag. She had seen that Americans when they leave one another are apt to say Good-bye. So she assumed that is what you would say when you met somebody. Of course it left me puzzled as to exactly what she meant.

Habits are different in different languages. What you write down may be difficult to understand. When I was studying in Germany we did not yet have Aramaic. I was studying in the U. of Berlin, and my father and mother were living in Los Angeles. One time I got a letter from my mother in which she said, Last night Sam came over to see us and we have a very interesting talk together. I thought I wonder if that was Uncle Sam or whether that was Sam Sutherland, an old pal of mine from college days who lived not far away from us.

So I wrote a letter to her and I said, Was ~~it~~ Uncle Sam or was it Sam Sutherland that you had such a good visit with the night before you wrote the letter. Well when my wife(mother) got the answer it was 6 weeks from the time she had written and she had no recollection of the evening. So she made quite an investigation to find out which Sam it was she had mentioned in the letter. When she found out she wrote me and it was more than six weeks since I'd asked the question and I had completely forgotten about it. Thus a word in a revelation may have various meanings.

It is often difficult to know which meaning applies. For that reason that God did not give us a brief statement in a few chapters that would tell us exactly what He wanted about Him. God gave us a whole book in which He discusses various subjects as He dealt with people through the years. When we take that Book and compare Scripture with Scripture, when we look at those Hebrew words and see what various meanings they have, and when we see which one fits the context and then we compare that passage with another passage.

When we do that we get the meaning that God has put there for us. God looked forward through all the ages, and He gave the people of the 16th century exactly the truth, the answers they would need for that century. He gave us in the 20th century exactly the things we would need to know ~~in~~ in this century. Of course many of the things are the same. But I'm sure there are matters that were perfectly to people living in the 16th century that would be very difficult for us to understand living today. And there are matters that they found difficult to understand that we find perfectly clear today.

God put into that Bible the knowledge that He wanted His people to have in all the succeeding ages to come. Now this book I have in my hand here was a wonderful translation of the Scripture made 300 years ago from the English of that day. It was a very excellent translation, but it is only a translation.