

Audio Teaching Sermon

Message #15

Languages With Reason

[**A** Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:14]

Hello friends! Pastor Jefferson here. We are now up to **Message #15** of DWJD Ministries' Audio Teaching **Sermon Series**. We finished with up our discussion of the boy Jesus' visit to Jerusalem in the last message and I hope you enjoyed learning those facts about our LORD and Savior when He was a youngster. I don't know if you are aware, but we spent **5** full sermons discussing the **11** short verses out of the **2nd chapter** of **Luke** which covered this story. In our quest for Biblical knowledge, we wound up closely examining over **50** words out of the original languages. And were you surprised that fully **16** of those words were only used once or twice in the entire manuscript of the Bible? If you weren't amazed at that tidbit, allow me to educate you a bit further. Most folks who've spent any time in church or Sunday school know the Bible was written down in **3** original languages. The **Old Testament** was penned in **Hebrew** and **Aramaic**, with the **New Testament**, as you've already experienced a bit of, is written entirely in **Greek**.

[**B** Every Jot & Tittle Counts 1:14 thru 2:57]

Do you have any idea why God chose to record His word in this manner? In order to understand His reasoning, we must first realize that the entire text of the Bible is **100% God's word**. And yes, while it was indeed the hands and fingers of people which were used to put the ink down on the pages, men were in no way authors or originators of any of the original text. It was all God's doing. He used His **Holy Spirit** to motivate, train and enable men to record exactly what He wanted them to write down. And I mean each and every word, every comma and as Jesus said in **Matthew 5:18**, *"every jot and tittle."* The word we find for **jot** is [1] **eye-OH-tah**, which should sound familiar to you. The word **iota** means '**an infinitesimal amount**' and reflects the fact that the jot is '**the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet.**' It looks very similar to our modern-day apostrophe turned on its side. This word is only used once and is used metaphorically to refer to the smallest part or detail of something, often in the context of the Law or Scripture, as was done here by Jesus. The word for **tittle** is **keh-rah-EE-ah** and means '**a small stroke.**' The tittle is even smaller than the jot. The tittle is a small extension on a letter, a pen stroke that is used to differentiate one Hebrew letter from another. The word **keh-rah-EE-ah** reflects the exactness of God's Law.

[**C** **Boy That is Hot!** 2:57 thru 4:22]

Mortal men were merely the instruments God used to place His word into a codified format. Now the big question is, “*Why?*” Allow me to answer my question via the use of an example: If I speak the words, “**Boy, that is hot!**” What did I really just say? If you cannot see me to determine what I am looking at or handling, can you accurately decide what it is that I am actually talking about? Unless you already know the topic of discussion, you simply cannot. My statement all by itself is vague and holds no true meaning without some additional clarification. I mean I could be talking about a cup of coffee, a bowl of chili, a new sports car, an iron or a modern jet aircraft. You just don’t know. This is due to the fact that a huge problem with most modern languages, is they contain relatively small vocabularies, when considering the actual number of nuances and gradations available within the meanings of the words. Just as with my example of something being hot, without additional context, you don’t know what I’m saying. The original languages of the Bible, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek do not have this issue.

[**D** **How Many Words Do We Know?** 4:22 thru 5:38]

It is because God chose languages with vocabularies which contain a very large number of expressions with assorted distinctions in comparison to our modern-day tongues. In my case of seeing something hot, in the Greek language there are seven different words for hot, and another dozen adaptations of those words which can bring additional clarification. To continue with my example, the average English-speaking person, who is ten years of age, has a vocabulary of approximately **7 to 8,000 words**. And when they graduate high school, their vocabulary essentially doubles, where they now know approximately **15,000 words**. And by the time a person reaches their fortieth birthday, they possess a vocabulary of roughly between **20 and 27,000 words**. Now, if we are talking about a person of higher intellect and/or someone who works in a technically driven or similarly advanced field, the number can grow to **40,000 or 50,000 words**, or even higher. With the availability of You-Tube University on our devices, those numbers can skyrocket to much higher levels.

[**E** **Nouns Increase the Total Words** 5:38 thru 7:13]

Now, the Oxford English Dictionary tells us that there are around **171,000** words which are in common use today. And while number that might be true, if you remove all the words borrowed from other languages, such as *taco*, *cannoli*, *sushi* or *teriyaki*, the

number shrinks down considerably. Also, their number of words in common use doesn't reflect what the average person might actually know. In fact, statistics show that the average adult only uses about **25%** of that number. The other complication is that modern languages contain very large numbers of words describing what I call "*stuff*." I define **stuff** as '*words that are nouns reflecting all the assorted products which are present within our society today that are relatively new.*' The ancient Hebrew people and the Greeks didn't have all the inventions and creations around that we have in our world of today. Also, the modern age has a very large number of words which are purely technology related; like laser, computer, DNA or artificial intelligence. Back in ancient times, things were far more basic. Considering transportation for example, people either walked, rode on a horse, were carried in a wagon or on a cart. They could have rowed a boat or sailed on a ship. And that was about it.

[**F** The Growth of Knowledge **7:13 thru 9:29**]

When we consider all of the words in our vocabulary in common use today, which can reflect the nuances of the meanings contained within those words, the total number shrinks down to less than **6,000**. That's it! Nearly every other modern language has the same issue, with each containing similar numbers. This can explain why the verbal skills of students in school have steadily dropped since the beginning of the **19th century**. We can't blame it on the teachers. As it is the direct result of the abrupt growth in the size of our modern vocabulary. This is due to man's rapidly accelerating accumulation of knowledge. It is said that all of man's knowledge accumulated from the **creation** of Adam through the end of the **14th century**, a period of **5,300 years**, could be placed on a single Compact disc, or CD. Foot, horse and sail power were the prime modes of transportation. From the **1400's** until **1865**, an interval of less than **500 years**, man's knowledge doubled. This was due in large part to the recognized beginning of the industrial revolution which began during that time. The knowledge of man would now fit on 2 CD's. From **1865** to **1965**, a period of now **100 years**, which included the advent of tube technology, man's total knowledge doubled again, equaling 4 CD's. From **1965** to **1985**, just a **two-decade** span in years, knowledge doubled once more, due primarily to the invention of the microchip. At that time, the total of man's knowledge would fit on 8 CD's. In **1985**, it required only **four years** for man's knowledge to double again. Today, man's knowledge continues to double at an ever-increasing rate, estimated now to happen in **weeks** and

even **days**. The stack of CD's today would be a pile higher than the Washington monument!

[**G** English Literature is Passe 9:29 thru 10:35]

So, subjects such as English literature and poetry are no longer considered major disciplines to be learned and mastered. And the verbal test scores of students around the globe continue to fall at a precipitous rate. There are just far too many other subjects and topics available which our students need to be taught in order to survive in modern society. The computer is replacing most of the basic skills which people no longer are required to spend time learning. I remember when the first advanced calculators came out which could quickly and accurately solve most mathematical problems and equations with just a few entry keystrokes. In the modern age, the nuances of language have stopped being important. And sadly, this is the major reason why most Bible Studies have become something akin to topical or light reading vice an in-depth dig into the deeper meanings of the words of Scripture. Our modern society is telling us that this is no longer important.

[**H** One Third Are Used Only One Time 10:35 thru 12:19]

When we examine the text of the Old and New Testaments, written mostly in Hebrew, and Greek, with a minor part recorded in Aramaic, we find the text contains a total of **419,687 words**. When we remove those words which are the most commonly used, in English they would be words such as “*the, it, so, are, in, our, they, etc.*,” the number of the more major words remaining drops down to a still staggering **83,937** words. And of those, nearly **28,000** of them, fully one-third of these larger words, are seen in the text just a single time. So, it should not surprise you that in nearly every audio teaching message you’ve heard me render, there are usually a few instances where I point out words, which are used in the text of the Bible only one or two times. These exclusive words have a unique meaning, which requires a careful examination to discover. If this were not true, then why did God chose that particular word? The answer is He chose precisely the word needed. So, we cannot just grab the first definition which appears in the dictionary. Here’s where the miracle of Scripture takes place. If you are a fully-fledged disciple, or a true disciple walking the road to holiness—a trainee if you will—then the Holy Spirit will steer your thoughts to the correct word. Allow me to inform you of a few ways in which He does it.

[I In the Big Inning 12:19 thru 13:53]

If a word is used just once, God will frequently define what He is saying in an adjacent verse. Or, if not, then at times the meaning can be easily gleaned by closely examining and looking up the meanings of the other major words surrounding it in the text of Bible where it appears. If a word appears in more than one place, then we must go and look to see how it is used elsewhere. Allow me the pleasure of an example. Open your Bibles to **Genesis 1:1**. Most folks can quote it easily from memory: ¹ “In the beginning, ² God created ³ the heavens ⁴ and the earth.” My granddad always told everyone that God must have been the first baseball fan, as He’d say the Good book starts with, “In the Big Inning...” The first word we see for In the beginning is the Hebrew word, **bah-ray-SHEET**, and it means, ‘**the first, the chief, or the choice part.**’ The word is used to emphasize the concept of being first in the order or having preeminence. The word can mean the starting point of something, but it usually is very specific, that being first in terms of time, order or rank. This exact word is used in four other places in Scripture, all over in the book of **Jeremiah**, where in each case it is talking specifically about the beginning of a Hebrew king’s reign.

[J And Let Him Rule 13:53 thru 15:24]

For example, in **Jeremiah 26:1**, the verse begins ¹ “in the beginning ² of the reign of Jehoiakim, ³ son of Josiah...” Here we see the Hebrew word **bah-ray-SHEET** followed by the word **mam-lah-KUT**. This word means ‘**to reign or to be king, or to exercise dominion.**’ When we put the meaning of the two Hebrew words together, it becomes, “At the beginning of a king’s reign.” Therefore, the five places where the word **bah-ray-SHEET** is used is discussing the beginning of a king’s reign. Thus, **bah-ray-SHEET** in Genesis should be translated, “at the beginning of a king’s reign.” In **Genesis 1:1**, the Bible is talking about the first man, **Adam** and the start of his reign over the earth. **Genesis 1:27-30** makes it crystal clear that **Adam** was given the right to **rule and exercise dominion** over all the earth. In **verse 27**, the word we see for and let him rule is [1] **weh-yir-DOO** and it translates, ‘**to rule, to have dominion, or exercise authority over.**’ And just as we’ve been talking about this word only appears once in the entire Bible. There was only one man who was created that was given dominion over the whole earth and that man was Adam.

[**K** No Requirement to Learn Hebrew 15:24 thru 16:56]

These facts alone should tell you that God designed His manuscript to include many words having extremely specific meanings. He did it because first of all, the text of the Bible is something only God alone can create. Let me just tell you, that the more one digs around the word ***bah-ray-SHEET*** and how it defines the start of the reign of Adam, the more evidence you will find supporting it. I'm telling you folks, that the deeper you get into God's word, the more you will be amazed. The consistency of His message is simply astounding! But if you don't properly investigate it, you'll never see it. I was a believer in and follower of Almighty God for a long time before I discovered this true magnificence regarding His word. And, just for your comfort, I don't want you to become overly concerned about this large number of words from out of the original languages. Our discipleship program does not require anyone to learn **Hebrew, Aramaic** or **Greek**. Our method relies on modern tools which make looking up the meanings of words a cinch. It's all done with the point and click of a mouse. Of, if you use your phone or tablet, the tip of your finger. I present the phonetic pronunciation for the words purely for clarity. Hearing the word will bring familiarity and assist in recalling it in later lessons.

[**Z** Some Final Comments 16:56 thru 18:27]

So, when listening to these teaching sermons, make notes so you can go back later and look up the words and verses that I have spoken about. I promise that you too will be astounded. This is the type of work we do in our discipleship study program. I also want to point out that there are no tests, exams, quizzes or papers to write. There is no need for them, as since it is Jesus, along with Holy Spirit who are doing all the instruction, they don't require any tools to measure your level of knowledge or understanding. They already know. The entire course is self-paced and done entirely in the privacy of your space—wherever you choose to be. There are no grades given, only the approval of Jesus. Each volume consists of 20 lessons. If you are interested you can find all the details on our website: **DWJDMinistries.com**. If you have any questions or problems, you can email us at info@DWJDMinistries.com. And if you are still having trouble, there is a phone number on the website you can call. Leave a detailed message and a staff member will get back to you as quickly as we can. So, **until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**