

Bible Babble Buffet Versions and the "science" of textual criticism

1 Samuel 13:15 "And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men."

So read the Hebrew texts as well as the NASB, NIV, NET and NKJV. However the RSV, NRSV, ESV, Revised English Bible 1969 add a whole bunch of words from the LXX. The RSV, ESV read: "And Samuel arose and went up FROM GILGAL. THE REST OF THE PEOPLE WENT UP AFTER SAUL TO MEET THE ARMY; THEY WENT UP from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin." The Catholic versions add all these extra words too and the New Jerusalem bible informs us in their footnote that all these extra words come from the Greek but they are not found in the Hebrew texts.

Let's back up just a minute and take a look at several other places where the ESV has ADDED to the Hebrew text, and OMITTED it in others in these few chapters of 1 Samuel.

We could ask Why did the ESV NOT follow the LXX reading in 1 Samuel 11:8 where the Hebrew text says of Saul that "he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were 300,000 and the men of Judah 30,000." However the LXX says the numbers were 600,000 and 70,000! That is quite a difference in numbers, yet no modern version I saw follows the LXX reading here. What is interesting here is that both the RSV 1946 and the ESV 2001 retained the Hebrew numbers here (300,000 and 30,000), but the NRSV of 1989 reads "300,000 and those of Judah 70,000! So the NRSV took one reading from the Hebrew and the other one from the Greek, but then the revision of the revision of the revision - the ESV - went back to the Hebrew readings for both numbers. This "science" of textual criticism is a kick in the head, isn't it?

1 Samuel 12:3 the RSV, NRSV, ESV add the words in capital letters from the LXX, but they are not found in the Hebrew, nor in the RV, ASV, NASB, NIV, NET, NKJV nor. "Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? TESTIFY AGAINST ME and I will restore it to you."

Again in 1 Samuel 12:8 the RSV, NRSV, ESV, Revised English bible 1989, New English Bible 1970 add "When Jacob went into Egypt, AND THE EGYPTIANS OPPRESSED THEM, then your fathers cried out to the Lord..."

All these extra words come from the LXX, but are not found in the Hebrew text nor in the RV, ASV, NKJV, NASB, NIV or Dan Wallace's NET version. By the way, the LXX not only ADDS all these extra words in this verse but it also ADDS "When Jacob AND HIS SONS went into Egypt..." The New English Bible of 1970 and the REB 1989 also ADD "and his sons" as well as "and the Egyptians oppressed them", but the RSV, NRSV and ESV do not. Gotta luv it, right?

Then in 1 Samuel 12:15 the RSV, NRSV, ESV, NEB 1970, REB 1989 and this time the NET version too ALL ADD words from the so called LXX and OMIT words found in all Hebrew texts. In the Hebrew and the KJB we read: "But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, AS IT WAS AGAINST YOUR FATHERS."

Agreeing with the Hebrew text and the KJB are the RV, ASV, NASB, NIV, NKJV and Holman Standard - (only the NIV omits 2 of the 3 times the word LORD occurs here.) However the RSV, NRSV, ESV, REV, NET all say: "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you AND YOUR KING." Thus these versions OMIT the Hebrew reading "as it was against your fathers" and ADD "and your king" taken from the so called Greek Septuagint.

1 Samuel 14:41 Again, in this verse all the words in capital letters have been added to the RSV, NRSV, ESV, Dan Wallace's NET version, NEB, REB 1989 from the LXX (so they say) but they are not found in the Revised Version, ASV, NASB, Holman Standard 2003, NIV 1984 edition, NKJV.

The KJB, as well as the RV, ASV, Holman Standard 2003, NASB 1995, NKJV, and the NIV 1984 edition, says: "Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, GIVE A PERFECT LOT. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped."

The RSV, NRSV, ESV, NET, NEB, REB **AND NOW THE NIV 2011 EDITION TOO** read, adding all these words, "Therefore Saul said, O LORD God of Israel, WHY HAVE YOU NOT ANSWERED YOUR SERVANT THIS DAY? IF THIS GUILT IS IN ME OR IN JONATHAN MY SON, O LORD, GOD OF ISRAEL, GIVE URIM. BUT IF THIS GUILT IS IN YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL, GIVE THUMMIN. And Jonathan and Saul were taken, but the people escaped."

Daniel Wallace's NET version also adds all these extra words and then footnotes: "Heb "to the Lord God of Israel: 'Give what is perfect.'" The Hebrew textual tradition has accidentally omitted several words here. The present translation follows the LXX."

Well, guess what. So too do ALL the Catholic bible versions like the Douay, St. Joseph and New Jerusalem bible as well. Then the New Jerusalem bible footnotes that "the Hebrew is corrupt".

In a footnote the ESV says these additional words come from the Septuagint. However my copy of the Septuagint does not read like the ESV says it does. It says instead "Lord God of Israel, give clear manifestations; and if the lot should declare this, give, I pray thee, to thy people Israel, give, I pray, holiness. And Jonathan and Saul are taken..." Quite different from them all, isn't it? Folks, don't be deceived or taken in by the lies these bible agnostics refer to as their "science" of textual criticism. It has a lot more in common with witches brew than it does with any legitimate science known to God or man.

Hi all. This is just a small section taken from my study on the ESV (English Standard Version = just another new Vatican Version) You can see the whole article here if you wish -

<http://brandplucked.webs.com/theesv.htm>