

Why I Take God Seriously

I believe that the AV1611 Holy Bible came from God and that it's absolutely perfect. That being the case, I never delete, add, or change words or verses that I don't understand. I also believe that it's important to take Him literally unless it's clear that the passage is allegorical (The Lord has proved that He can explain Himself if you take Him literally when you shouldn't have. See Matthew 16:12 on how the disciples thought that Jesus was dishing out dietary advice until He explained Himself further and they realized that He was addressing false doctrine. Also see John 3 and how Jesus explained what being "born again" actually means when Nicodemus took Him literally)

God speaks clearly and always has, even if His words go right over my head sometimes. When that happens, I just remember that I'm a sinful idiot and that He is the eternal, "**only wise God**" Who "**inhabiteth eternity**" and who is "**perfect in knowledge**" and that He's right and that He knows what He's talking about even when I don't understand Him.

Some years back, I had the pastor of a big, ecumenical, give me a book to read on the subject of "interpreting the Bible." The gist of it was that if you trust what the experts and learned linguistic scholars have said about biblical manuscripts in other languages, then you can sort of piece together a mosaic of what God may (or may not!) have said thousands of years ago. I knew the book was garbage after just a few pages in, but it made me want to go and see what God said about how to approach His words (mind you, this was before I believed that God has preserved His words for us in the AV, and God used this to help me get to that point), and here are a couple of places He showed me.

In Genesis 2v17 God told Adam to stay away from the "**the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die**".

As it turns out, He meant that in more than one way! We find that the immediate "**death**" He was talking about was spiritual (see Romans 5), although eventual physical death followed as a result (Gen 5v5, 1 Cor 15v22). God was talking about TWO different kinds of death, and Adam would have been better off just obeying exactly what God said even if he didn't know what death was. God often speaks through His word far beyond my understanding, but if I just listen to Him exactly as He said it without changing anything, I'm always better off.

In another place, (Numbers 4) God is giving directions to the Levites on how to transport the tabernacle, the furniture, etc, and He says "**they shall not touch any holy thing lest they die**." (v15). Now it's easy for us to look at an old rule or an old road sign and think that since it's old that it must be outdated and no longer enforced. That's apparently what poor Uzzah was thinking about 450 years after God said this because 2 Samuel 6 tells how David was transporting the ark, and since they had disregarded God's instructions on how to move it (it was supposed to be carried on the shoulders, not on a cart), Uzzah went a step further and disregarded God's instructions not to touch it. You know the story. God "**smote**" him instantly and he died right there in the road.

Someone Who is just as serious after 450 years about something He's said as the day He said it, is truly Someone to approach with fear and trembling, and their words should be "**received as it is in truth, the word of God**" and not corrupted, changed, watered down, deleted, added, allegorized, or anything like that. Uzzah would have been better off if he'd taken God's word seriously and literally!

We're not that smart, and God knows that, so He talks straight where we can understand him, and has offered to help us understand the things that we don't understand if we'll ask Him (John 14v26, 16v13) No one, not even "**men of high degree**" should feel qualified to sit in judgement of that Book, and I encourage you to ask God for a heart toward His word like the Thessalonians had (1 Thess2v13).

I'm so thankful that He's preserved His word perfectly for us and given us His "good Spirit" to lead and guide us in all truth. Praise the Lord!