

every jot and tittle

"for assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." matt 5:18

that's how the king james interpretation of the bible rendered it. a jot is the tenth letter in the hebrew alphabet and the smallest. it was written above the line and looks to us rather like an apostrophe. a tittle is even smaller than a jot. a tittle is a letter extension, a pen stroke that can differentiate one hebrew letter from another. in today's vernacular one might say "iota," meaning every if, and, or but.

i had a dream the other day and i knew it was not just a "pizza dream," as an old pastor used to say. who can say how long a dream takes in a space where time has no meaning? was it seconds, minutes or hours? all i know is that it was apparently consequential enough that the Spirit drove me to get up at 2:30 in the morning to write this while it was still fresh on my mind. i was looking at three phrases and was examining them all closely. after a while i determined they were all actually saying the same thing.

it seems strange how now they are only vaguely remembered now when they were so clear and intensely studied for what seemed like a long time (there's that time thing again). anyway, "josie de josie" became "Jesus oh Jesus" which then became "Jesus the One who is worthy to be embraced." i don't remember the middle phrase that much, but it was something like "hand to hand," and had it own unique meaning as well. it was

all then ended with the "josie de josie" phrase again, which took on just a slightly different way of saying the same thing essentially.

since i speak no foreign languages, i don't know what all is involved in translating. i do know that some new words are added for clarification of meaning in the new language. it's important to understand emphasis and the true meaning laying behind one's rendering of the word. that's one of the reasons i like the translations that leave the deeper meaning just lying there, waiting for revelation to the one reading them. wordier translations have pre-assigned their own meaning, sometimes useful and sometimes misleading, but often obscuring a hidden truth.

certain words do take on new meaning over time, even within a culture. take the word "nice." in the past, this word used to mean "simple" or "foolish". it was meant as a derogatory comment about someone's less-than-stellar mental capacities. nowadays, it has a very different - and much "nicer" - meaning. the space that nice used to occupy is now owned by silly. and, of course, "gay" has now taken on a whole new meaning of it's own as well.

the point being, words and meanings change over time - but not the word of God. "heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." mark 13:31 the essence - the Spirit of His word never changes even though it goes from depth to depth. the meaning becomes deeper and fuller because, "the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." john 6:63 the Holy Spirit disseminates His word like

peeling back the layers of an onion.

the Word of God is infallible and there can be no discussion about what the meaning of "is" is. it changes not because He never changes. "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." john 1:14

the scribes took their job of preserving scripture very seriously; they would copy and recopy the bible meticulously, even counting letters and spaces to ensure each copy was correct. we can thank the jewish scribes for preserving the old testament portion of our bibles. some of the dead sea scrolls recently discovered ensure the veracity of the written word has been maintained over the generations.

although scribes weren't teachers per se, just as their job was to meticulously copy every jot and tittle, in like manner those who disseminate the word to others will be held to a stricter account also. the brother of Jesus said, "my brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." james 3:1

believe me, it is not my desire to be anyone's teacher. if anything, i need a more benevolent judgment rather than a stricter one. however, in my desire to talk and share about our Lord, many of my writings have essentially become "teachings" to some. but i ask, "what is one to do?" this is the mantle i feel God has laid upon me; the purpose He has assigned me to accomplish by His grace.

although, assuredly i claim no where near the mantle of the prophet jeremiah, i can much relate to his earnest cry. "then i said, 'i will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. but His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; i was weary of holding it back, and i could not." jer 20:9

i humbly beg you - please take everything i say or write to the scriptures with the Holy Spirit as your guide and let your faith stand in them - never in me or any other human being. the Holy Spirit wrote every jot and tittle; maybe not by finger but definitely by inspiration. and know this: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." heb 13:8 "for I am the Lord, I do not change." mal 3:6

"'you are My witnesses,' says the Lord, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.'" isa 43:10 let no one rob the truth of His word from you. every jot and tittle - every bold or italic expression emphasized has another layer to peel; a deeper truth waiting to be revealed; a fuller understanding to be unwrapped but the nugget of truth never changes. in His light we see light. "and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." john 8:32

just a quick closing but unrelated note. eclipses are prevalent of recent (solar and lunar)- four happening this year and more coming next year. we know the sun and the moon are for seasons, but also for signs. they are not all just random. i'm just saying: "always look

up and pray for understanding of what they might portend." maranatha!