

The Lamsa and Numeric Bibles

In 1933 the A.J. Holman Company of Philadelphia published a Bible translation by Dr. George M. Lamsa. This translation is based on Peshitta manuscripts written in Aramaic which was the spoken language of the common people during the time of Christ. In many instances it also appears to correct some questionable textual renderings in the Greek text. For example, in Matthew 19:24, the text "Again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle", has the word 'camel' replaced with 'rope'. These two words are written the same in Aramaic. There are many other examples which appear to clarify points that have generated significant theological discussion. Matthew 6:13. The King James text "and lead us not into temptation" the Lamsa text "and do not let us enter into temptation". Matthew 6:15; The King James text "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" the Lamsa text "But if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive even your faults". Matthew 6:19; The King James text "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth" the Lamsa text "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures buried in the ground". These are but a few examples.

The Lamsa translation includes both the Old and New Testaments. These and other differences hint at the possibility of the original New Testament manuscripts being first written in Aramaic and later translated to Greek. The Lamsa translation includes both the Old and New Testaments. Biblical quotes within Mr. Whipple's writings are taken from this translation and appear in *italics* as an aid in separating them from the text. For study purposes, the reader may wish to compare the Lamsa text with the more readily available King James version.

Mr. Whipple refers to another Bible translation, the Numeric Bible, as proof of the Bible's divine origin. It is the result of a mathematical approach to editing and correcting the earliest known Greek New Testament manuscripts and then translating them into English. This work was done by Ivan Panin and a first edition was published in 1914. Processing the Greek manuscripts through a numeric algorithm produced two significant points of interest. First, it corrected minor discrepancies and errors in the original Greek and second, it proved the Bible could not have been written without the inspiration of a higher power. The translation process and application of the numeric algorithm is described in some detail in the appendix of the second edition.

The following statement was made by Dr. Keith L. Brooks in reference to the Numeric Bible.

One of the most remarkable occurrences in our time is God's preparation of one individual to produce positive evidence that would completely undermine all Biblical criticism and bring atheism toppling to the ground wherever honest, thinking men will face the facts.

More startling still is the fact that this individual was a converted Russian Nihilist, a Harvard scholar, and a mathematician. At the very time when organized atheism was laying its plan to take control of Russia and make use of its vast resources to sow the seeds of atheism in every nation of the earth, God was preparing His Russian, Dr. Ivan Panin, to bring forth scientific evidence of the verbal and plenary inspiration of the holy Scriptures in the original languages.

Dr. Panin, who passed away in October, 1942, after 50 years of work on Bible numerics, was not the first to discover that there was a strange mathematical structure running through the Bible. There was Browne in his *Ordo Saeculorum*, and Grant in his *Numbers of the Bible* and Bullinger in his *Numbers of the Scriptures*. These all brought forth many striking examples of numeric features in the Bible.

It remained for Dr. Panin, however, by giving his very life to the task, to find that every letter of the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts is numbered and occupies its own special place in the order of the total number of letters in the Bible, the slightest variations of orthography being all God ordained. Since every Greek and Hebrew letter carries a numerical value (letters being used for figures in these languages), every word, phrase, sentence and paragraph has a definite arithmetical sum.

Dr. Panin devoted himself so persistently to counting letters and working out mathematical problems, that he often wore himself out physically. His works were voluminous and his discoveries seemingly without end. He was the author of a volume, *Structure of the Bible* and of a revision of the New Testament based upon his numeric discoveries.

Panin discovered a uniform design from Genesis to Revelation in the Hebrew and Greek texts and established a practically infinite series of complex systems using sequences, combinations and ratios. It is undoubtedly God's answer to modern atheism and higher criticism and His vindication of the verbal and plenary inspiration of Scripture.

The discovery settles many questions of text. It proves that the books of our present Bible, and they alone, have the required

features. It settles disputes of long standing as to some portions which scholars have said should be eliminated from the Bible.

The doctrine of the divine authority of the Scriptures has always been fully sustained by the proofs from fulfilled prophecy, from the inexhaustible depths of truth revealed, from its matchless power over the lives of men, from its indestructibility and from the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. However, some have been won over to wave aside these lines of evidence as unscientific.

Dr. Panin has submitted conclusive *scientific proof that the Bible could not have been produced by the unaided human mind*. This proof is found in the amazing numeric phenomena in the very structure of the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. Dr. Panin demonstrated, either that every writer of Scripture was an unparalleled literary and mathematical genius, or that he wrote as he was moved by the Holy Ghost. Prof. John C. Banks, a worthy successor of Dr. Panin, has been offering numeric evidence to the same proposition.

Panin laid his discoveries before the readers of a New York paper, copies of which were sent to leading skeptical educators and scientists with a challenge to disprove, if possible, the phenomena to which he had called attention. Since that time many other learned skeptics have been confronted with the same evidence, and not one has been able to discredit it. Some challenged him to find the same mathematical structure in Hebrew and Greek classics outside of the Bible. Panin, therefore, gave much time to the examination of other writings failing to find such phenomena. No such features were found in the seven books added by the Roman Catholic Church to their Old Testament.

Dr. Keith L. Brooks