READING THE PASSION BIBLE

Posted on July 28, 2017 by Eddie

A short post, pointing to a useful resource about one English translation of the Bible.
Category: English Bibles

A couple of years ago, I posted about a new translation of the Bible into English called the Passion Bible. At the time, the overhyped publicity and frankly awful English that was on display in the examples that were available made me somewhat sceptical about the quality of the translation.

Since then, and despite my non-too-subtle attempts to get a review copy from the publisher, I've not had the opportunity to look at the Passion Bible. However, a friend of mine has drawn together lots of resources on this translation and made them available at readingthepassionbible.com.

The reviews and comments on the site do nothing to lessen my original negative impression of the site. In an overview of the translation of the Song of Songs, George Athas of Moore College writes:

> *This translation of theÂ Song of SongsÂ is truly awful. As a professor of biblical studies who works with the original languages, I can assure you that this translation does not reflect either the words or the meaning ofÂ Song of Songs, contrary to what it claims. Itâ€™s not that the translation is carelessâ€"rather, itâ€™s eisegesis. It is imposing pre-conceived ideas onto the text and then claiming that the change is due to the translation strategy. Itâ€™s terrible!*

He then gives a number of examples to back up his claim.

However, the bit that I found most interesting was when the translator described the origins of the Passion Translation.

> *"He breathed on me so that I would do the project, andÂ I felt downloads coming, instantly.Â I received downloads. It was like, I got a chip put inside of me. I got a connection inside of me to hear him better, to understand the scriptures better and hopefully to translate.â€*

To which the editor of the site replies:

> *Most Wycliffe Bible translators would love this supernatural gift of translation to help them translate Bibles for people groups who currently have no Bibles in their heart-language. Yet, if these reports by Brian Simmons are true, Godâ€™s priority must be yet another new English translation*

Do I hear an amen?

There are also links to an interesting series of blog exchanges between Andrew Wilson and Brian Simmons, the translator.

The Passion Translation emerges out of a movement called the New Apostolic Reformation and there are a good few articles about this group on the site, too, but my focus is on the translation itself.

Once again, I have to give theÂ *caveat* that I haven't read the translation and that I'm effectively giving you a second-hand view. However, the articles linked to on this site are by people I respect and I pass them on with confidence.

A couple of years ago, I tried to cadge a free copy of the Passion Translation from the publishers so that I could review it. In the interim, I've read enough to know that I really wouldn't want to bother, but don't take my word for it, read some of the reviews and comments and make up your own mind.

Meanwhile, out in the real world, there are still over a thousand languages without a single word of Scripture...