

The Message Bible

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
(Psalms 119:103-105 KJV)

Bible

Paraphrase

Commentary

Formal Equivalent

These translations attempt to reproduce the Greek and Hebrew as exactly as possible into English. Words, figures of speech, and sometimes even the sentence structure of the original languages are reproduced in a much more limited way in this type of Bible. These hold -in varying degrees- to a generally word for word approach.

Dynamic Equivalent

These Bibles run on a more thought-for-thought philosophy than the Formal Equivalent translations, but do so in a much more sparing manner than paraphrases. Greek and Hebrew figures of speech are replaced with modern rough equivalents. They are more readable in a sense, though sometimes in a freer translation some passages become more interpretations than translations.

Because dynamic equivalence eschews strict adherence to the original text in favor of a more natural rendering in the target language, it is sometimes used when the readability of the translation is more important than the preservation of the original wording. Thus a novel might be translated with greater use of dynamic equivalence so that it may read well, while in diplomacy the precise original meaning may be the uppermost consideration, favoring greater adherence to formal equivalence. (Wikipedia)

Paraphrase

These are not really translations, but rewordings of the Scriptures—trying to communicate the same thoughts in different words. However, theological biases often creep in and are readily apparent. These may be acceptable for devotional reading, but even the authors themselves would not suggest using them for study or as a church Bible. Some paraphrases are based on the original languages, while others are based on various translations themselves.

Commentary

As the name implies, this type of work consists of a man's comments, notes, and teaching about bible passages. Unfortunately, there is much evidence that it is not uncommon for commentary to become more important to some people than what God originally said. The Jewish Talmud (rabbinical discourse on Scripture) is an excellent example of this.

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life;
it is these that testify about Me;
(John 5:39)

The Message®

Published by NavPress and listed as one of their "best sellers"

Promoted by NavPress as, "The Bible in Contemporary Language"

Notes from the NavPress Website: {www.navpress.com}

The Message® is a version for our time designed to be read by contemporary people in the same way as the original koiné Greek and Hebrew manuscripts were savored by people thousands of years ago. Language is always changing. That's why NavPress® felt the time was right for a new version. When we hear something over and over again in the same way, we can become so familiar with it that the text loses its impact.

Is The Message® a translation or a paraphrase?

Translation is generally thought of as bringing the meaning from one language to another, whereas a paraphrase is usually a rewording of a document within the same language. Yet in one sense all translation involves paraphrasing. There is no clearly distinct line that can be drawn between the two.

What will I get from this Bible that I don't get from others?

It will give you a fresh perspective on the Bible. You'll begin to see passages and books as whole units of thought. You'll experience the excitement and feeling of the Bible as it sounded to its first readers. You'll be able to follow the train of thought much more easily. The Bible will seem more alive and understandable. And as you encounter passages you've read hundreds of times before, it will be like reading them for the first time

Just Press Pause.

You live in fast-forward-school, friends, work, God-it all adds up. This is your chance to press Pause. Sort of like TiVo for your spiritual life. Now you can reconnect with God in daily readings from the best-selling *The Message* //REMIX that take you through the

entire Bible in one year, two years, or four years. Read every story, every psalm, every crazy vision any minor prophet ever had.

Reader comments from the NavPress site:

"What a breath of fresh air."

"After 30 years of study I finally get it."

"The Message[®] is great for those who have never heard the Bible, as well as for those who have heard it so many times that they cannot hear the meaning anymore."

"The Message[®] is the boldest and most provocative rendering of the New Testament I've ever read. If you've become so comfortable with your Bible reading that the Scriptures no longer excite you, then this book is what you need." -- WARREN W. WIERSBE

"The Message[®] is certainly destined to become a devotional classic—not to mention a powerful pastoral tool." -- JACK W. HAYFORD

"Eugene Peterson's work is the freshest, most dramatic treatment of Scripture since The Living Bible. I look forward to reading it regularly." -- JERRY B. JENKINS, coauthor of the Left Behind series

WE HOPE WE CAN ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS LONG LIST OF MESSAGE READERS:

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From other sources:

Translated by one amazing guy, it's as far from old King James as one can imagine. For those who find the Bible warmed-over old news, The Message is like reading it for the first time. – KK

Here is the translation of the Bible you want to read: The Message. This new street-wise paraphrase is looser than a translation and so irks purists. But it is storming Christian campuses and youth groups with its boldness, readability, and strong vernacular.

A comment from the Word:

And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the
kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted."
(Matthew 13:10-11)

Paraphrase:

To communicate the same thought in different words with the purpose of making something easier to understand

Revelation 21:8

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (NASB)

KJV:	<i>fearful</i>	ESV:	<i>cowardly</i>
NKJV:	<i>cowardly</i>	NIV:	<i>cowardly</i>
RV:	<i>fearful</i>	YLT:	<i>fearful</i>
GNB:	<i>cowards</i>	MSG:	<i>feckless</i>

Feckless—

ineffective; incompetent; futile
having no sense of responsibility; indifferent; lazy.
Random House Unabridged Dictionary

lacking purpose or vitality; feeble or ineffective.
careless and irresponsible.
American Heritage Dictionary

Coward—

a person who lacks courage in facing danger, difficulty, opposition, pain, etc.;
a timid or easily intimidated person.
Random House Unabridged Dictionary

In a (non-scientific) survey that I conducted of approximately 50 people, the majority of whom were college graduates, not one – zero – knew the definition of the word ‘feckless’ while all – 100% -- knew the meaning of the words coward and fearful.

The work of a scribe was to write down what the Lord said; to as accurately as possible, communicate what God said – not what the scribe thought He meant. That is the job of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13)

The very first revelation of the enemy, Satan that the Lord gives is:

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
(Genesis 3:1 KJV)

There is nothing new under the sun – Ecclesiastes 1:9
.....

You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
(Deuteronomy 4:2 NASB)

Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.
(Proverbs 30:6 NASB)

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
(Revelation 22:18-19 NASB)

.....

How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.
(Jeremiah 8:8 NASB)

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.”
(Amos 8:11 NASB)

Being a “bond-servant” – Obedience – Submission

Colossians 1:7

just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, {NASB}

It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our friend and close associate Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him. {MSG}

Paul defines his relationship with Epaphras based on their common relationship with the Lord in the New American Standard – in the Message, their relationship lacks that insight.

Romans 16:19

For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. (NASB)

And so while there has never been any question about your honesty in these matters--I couldn't be more proud of you!--I want you also to be smart, making sure every "good" thing is the real thing. Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, (MSG)

KJV:	<i>obedience</i>	ESV:	<i>obedience</i>
NKJV:	<i>obedience</i>	NIV:	<i>obedience</i>
RV:	<i>obedience</i>	YLT:	<i>obedience</i>
GNB:	<i>loyalty</i>	FDB:	<i>obéissance</i>
LBLA:	<i>obediencia</i>	MSG:	<i>honesty</i>

Honesty is a good thing! It is not the same as obedience.

The Language of New Age Mysticism:

As above, so below

Hermeticism is a set of philosophical and religious beliefs based primarily upon the writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus, who is put forth as a wise sage and Egyptian priest, and who is commonly seen as synonymous with the Egyptian god Thoth. These beliefs have influenced Western magic traditions and held great influence during the Renaissance.

The Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus is a short work which coins the well known term in occult circles “As above, so below.” These words circulate throughout occult and magical circles, and they come from Hermetic texts.

The Emerald Tablet, or the Emerald Table as it is frequently called is part of the Hermetica and is one of most revered magical documents in Western occultism. Hermes Trismegistus is portrayed in art as holding an emerald upon which he inscribed the entire Egyptian philosophy. ... The most significant part of The Emerald Tablet is within its opening: As above, so below

Occultists of the 18th and 19th centuries have speculated that Tarot may be based on The Book of Thoth. In Tarot cards there is one, *The Magician*, which displays the concept of, ‘as above, so below.’

Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10 NASB)

With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this: Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best—as above, so below. (Matthew 6:9-10 MSG)

Oneness

The New Age guidebook *Metaphysical Primer: A Guide to Understanding Metaphysics* (states) the principle of the New Age Movement, “Everything is one with everything else. All that is on Earth is an expression of the One Deity and is permeated with Its energies.” (Yungen, Ray. *A Time of Departing*, p. 52) ... “This oneness of life is the crux of the New Age movement.” (Yungen, Ray. *A Time of Departing*, Lighthouse Trails Publishing, Silverton, 2002 p. 130)

This word, oneness, appears exactly zero times in the ESV, KJV, NKJV, RV, NASB, NIV or any other bible I have seen.

I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. (John 17:23 NASB)

I in them and you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, And give the godless world evidence That you've sent me and loved them In the same way you've loved me. (John 17:23 MSG)

Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. (1 Corinthians 10:17 NASB)

Because there is one loaf, our many-ness becomes one-ness--Christ doesn't become fragmented in us. Rather, we become unified in him. We don't reduce Christ to what we are; he raises us to what he is. (1 Corinthians 10:17 MSG)

one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:6 NASB)

one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. **Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.** (Ephesians 4:6 MSG)

The last, in Ephesians, shows a total addition to God's word. There is no linguistic justification from any Greek text for this phrase whatsoever.

Energy

Energy activates the spiritual force of New Age religion. Prayers, meditations, invocations, and rituals all create energies.

“The inflow of this energy has brought many hundreds of people into a new and deeper spiritual realization;. . . Thus is the New Age dawning . . . This is the occult law.” (Bailey, Alice. *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, p. 7)

“Every man should realize that in the use of energy lies direction and the treading of the Path. . . Students should familiarize themselves with the ‘energy concept’ and learn to regard themselves as energy units displaying certain types of energy.” (Bailey, Alice. *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 4)

But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,
(Matthew 5:44 NASB)

and what is the surpassing greatness
of His power toward us who believe.
These are in accordance with the
working of the strength of His might
which He brought about in Christ,
when He raised Him from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in
the heavenly places,
(Ephesians 1:19-20 NASB)

for it is God who is at work in you,
both to will and to work for His good
pleasure.
(Philippians 2:13 NASB)

I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to
love your enemies. Let them bring out
the best in you, not the worst. When
someone gives you a hard time,
respond with the energies of prayer,
(Matthew 5:44 MSG)

oh, the utter extravagance of his work
in us who trust him--endless energy,
boundless strength! All this energy
issues from Christ: God raised him
from death and set him on a throne in
deep heaven,
(Ephesians 1:19-20 MSG)

That energy is God's energy, an energy
deep within you, God himself willing
and working at what will give him the
most pleasure.
(Philippians 2:13 MSG)

Verse Comparisons:

Colossians 1:7

KJV

“As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow *servant*, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;”

NASB

“just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow *bond-servant*, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,”

NIV

“You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow *servant*, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,”

MSG

“It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our *friend and close associate* Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him.”

The Apostle Paul, as seen in the King James, New American Standard, and even the New International, is focused on a relationship that he has with Epaphras that is based on their common relationship with the Lord—that of a servant. Paul goes on to commend Epaphras for his faithfulness to Christ...

Pro 18:19 A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a citadel. (NASB)

Pro 18:19 Do a favor and win a friend forever; nothing can untie that bond. (MSG)

Zec 13:6 And *one* shall say unto him, What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends. (KJV)

Zec 13:6 And if someone says, 'And so where did you get that black eye?' they'll say, 'I ran into a door at a friend's house.' (MSG)

Mat 1:19 And Joseph her husband, being a **righteous** man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. (NASB)

Mat 1:19 Joseph, **chagrined but noble**, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. (MSG)

Mat 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them (**disciples**), saying, (KJV)

Mat 5:2 and taught his **climbing companions**. This is what he said:

Mat 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (NASB)

Mat 5:48 "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you. (MSG)

Mat 7:2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. (NASB)

Mat 7:2 That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. MSG

Mat 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Mat 16:24-25 Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from

suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.

John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with **righteous** judgment." (NASB)

John 7:24 Don't be nitpickers; use **your head--and heart!**--to discern what is right, to test what is authentically right." (MSG)

Act 16:30-31 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." (NASB)

Act 16:30-31 He led them out of the jail and asked, "Sirs, what do I have to do to be saved, to really live?" They said, "Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live--and everyone in your house included!" (MSG)

Rom 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, (NASB)

Rom 1:28 Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, **God quit bothering them** and let them run loose. (MSG)

Rom 16:19 For the report of your **obedience** has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

Rom 16:19 And so while there has never been any question about your **honesty** in these matters--I couldn't be more proud of you!--I want you also to be smart, making sure every "good" thing is the real thing. Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this,

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (NASB)

Rom 8:14 God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! (MSG)

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (NASB)

Rom 8:35 Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: (MSG)

1Co 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (NASB)

1Co 6:9-10 Don't you realize that this is not the way to live? Unjust people who don't care about God will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom. (MSG)

1Co 6:17-18 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. (NASB)

1Co 6:17-18 Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever--the kind of sex that can never "become one." There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another. (MSG)

2Co 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (NASB)

2Co 5:20 We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you. (MSG)

Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (NASB)

Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. (MSG)

Col 1:7 just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved **fellow bond-servant**, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

Col 1:7 It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our **friend and close associate** Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him.

1Pe 3:1 In the same way, you wives, **be submissive** to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, (NASB)

1Pe 3:1 The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, **responsive to their needs**. There are husbands who, indifferent as they are to any words about God, will be captivated (MSG)
see also: Heb 13:7

1Pe 5:6 **Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (KJV)

1Pe 5:6 So **be content** with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. (MSG)

Rev 21:8 "But for the **cowardly** and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (NASB)

Rev 21:8 But for the rest--the **feckless** and faithless, degenerates and murderers, sex peddlers and sorcerers, idolaters and all liars--for them it's Lake Fire and Brimstone. Second death!" (MSG)

We need an objective standard by which to test all things:

Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand. The LORD said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold I am about to put a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer. (Amos 7:7-8)

Just one final thought, or better yet, a question. Were you able to understand the verses that this document started with – Psalm 119:103-105?