

One New Man Bible - Review by Peter Sammons

The One New Man Bible aims to bring greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the power given to believers for their daily walk. In the words of its Preface: "The One New Man Bible ... makes the Jewish roots of Christianity come to life" having been "edited from a public domain English translation. The English has been brought up to date and many words previously translated according to tradition have been changed to the literal. The New Testament is the Power New Testament, a fresh translation of the Fourth Edition United Bible Society Greek Text. An effort has been made to keep the text as free as possible from denominational biases and doctrinal interpretations"

*Why the name **One New Man**? The inspiring text is Ephesians 2:16 where the 'enmity' between Jew and Gentile is finally healed, these two becoming One New Man. Ephesians 2:14-22 is provided in the preface as a sort of Scriptural raison detre for the new translation. Certainly the Hebraic Root of Christianity comes to life in the One New Man translation. Hebrew is a very expressive language, so this translation brings out much of the power that has commonly been omitted from traditional English translations. The One New Man Bible will undoubtedly help to open the eyes of the Church to appreciate its Jewish Root, and to recognize that Yeshua (Jesus) was born Jewish, that He grew up Jewish, and that He is the same today as He was then (Hebrews 13:8). This fresh translation adopts the Jewish ordering of the books of the Old Testament, which helps readers to recognise a direct link between the chronicle of the Jewish story with the chronicle of Jesus and the apostolic church. Hence the Old Testament ends with Chronicles.*

Scripture translated with the power and meaning of the original language really does come alive! One early surprise is in Genesis 12:1 when God does not say "Go" to Abram, but "Get yourself out of here!" Later He tells Moses to order Pharaoh to "Send My people away!" instead of pleading "Let My people go." These passages are the literal translation from the Hebrew. Some words have been translated differently because the traditional translation conveys something not intended by the author. One of those words is the Greek word Ecclesia, which means a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into a public place. Ecclesia is commonly translated 'church', but because of our association of 'church' with both a building and an organization, in the One New Man translation, Ecclesia is translated 'congregation'.

The One New Man Bible achieves its goal to be a very readable text that flows from one book to another while preserving much of the Jewish flavour, especially the Jewishness of Yeshua, and much of the power in the Hebrew and Greek expressions. If I have one minor complaint, it is that Morford failed to address the poor translation of John 3:16 which should better be translated as "God thus loved the world" rather than misusing the seventeenth century language of "God so loved" which in a modern idiom seems to be so hard-wired into modern translations. But that is a small issue in such a massive enterprise!

*My verdict? This book is more than a useful addition to the serious Bible student. It is something that every such student should have available. Would it be a reliable stand-alone, general purpose Bible? My first impression was 'no' but I have to say that with use this fresh translation does 'grow' on me as a reader. I am enjoying it more and more. I believe that over the next 20 years this fresh translation will become far more widely adopted. It is priced competitively with higher quality translations." **Peter Sammons, writer and publisher***