

Bible Advertisements

Commentary for November 13, 2009 — A Little Confusion

ASK has received numerous inquiries by phone, email, and letter from people confused about recent solicitations and advertisements about a Bible in the original manuscript order. Quite a lot of "buzz" has been generated on this and I hope to clarify matters with this Commentary. People are wondering if this is Dr. James Tabor's "Original Bible Project," now known as the "Transparent English Bible."

Here is a sample email:

"Dear Mr. Sielaff -- I have received notices from Century One Bookstore, and have seen advertisements in BAR, regarding the new Bible being published in its original manuscript order. But according to this literature, it seems that this Bible publication is not the same translation as Dr. Tabor had been working on for several years.

Has Dr. Tabor discontinued his work of translation?

Will a Bible in original manuscript order be published using his translation?

This Bible version was to be named the Transparent English Bible (TEB) according to information in my file from Feb 15, 2004 and following. Will the Original Bible Project be publishing a Bible different from that being currently advertised? Your response would be appreciated. Thank you."

Two Separate Projects

My response was as follows, greatly expanded here:

These are two different projects. One is completed. The completed project is by Fred Coulter. It is called "The Holy Bible in the Original Order." I wrote a review of this Bible in the January 2009 article titled "[Review of: 'The Holy Bible in the Original Order'](#)." Contact and ordering information is in that article.

The second project (which began several years earlier) is being conducted by Dr. James Tabor. Originally titled "The Original Bible Project," it is now known as the "Transparent English Bible" as noted in the quote above.

The current status of this project can be determined by Dr. Tabor's November 10, 2009 update on the "Transparent English Bible" webpage at <http://www.centuryone.org/obpindex.html>, along with prior notices at that site.

Please contact Dr. Tabor directly for additional information or further questions.

We Know What You Know

ASK has no other information than what I just presented to you above, and what has been made public. Contact these separate projects and organizations on your own, please.

ASK has not participated in solicitations or advertisements for either Bible. However, I am pleased to note that my positive comments have been noted for "The Holy Bible in the Original Order."

It is hoped that many Bibles would be produced with the books arranged in the order found most often in the various extant Greek manuscripts. This was Dr. Martin's great desire and it is mine. The more the better!

Dr. Martin's Book that Started It All

For information on why any Bible should be printed or at least read in the correct order, see Dr. Martin's book *Restoring the Original Bible*. This book is not a Bible. It describes the design and development of the Holy Scriptures. You will learn more about the Bible than you ever thought possible.

Furthermore, you will learn about the New Testament canonization process as described within the New Testament itself. Scholars and general readers need to recognize this vital information. It is an exciting story.

The entire Bible has a divine design to its structure. Read "[The Geographical Design of the Holy Scriptures](#)." Note as well the symmetrical structure of the books of the Bible which you can view at <http://www.askelm.com/restoring/index.asp>. Christ is the center of the complete Bible, just as He is the center of creation.

As noted on the Order Page for Dr. Martin's *Restoring the Original Bible*:

"This book is a key research work that provides the biblical student with information concerning the historical growth and progression of the Holy Scriptures. It could be academically titled "[The Design and Development of the Holy Scriptures](#)." It shows from clear historical and biblical records that our modern Bibles have abandoned the order and arrangement of the books as they left the hands of the prophets and apostles who canonized them (though they do contain all the books of the Holy Scriptures in the normal Protestant versions).

It was in the early fifth century that Jerome gave to the world our present (and erroneous) arrangement of the books of the Bible. This order of Jerome is at variance with the early manuscript design. When the original arrangement is restored, a marvelous and harmonious context is shown that reveals truths of the Scripture that could not be seen otherwise.

The intended design by those who canonized the Bible (which can be easily shown and proved) provides the modern reader with the accurate type of Bible that the prophets and apostles desired the world to have.

Even modern scholars around the world have argued that the Holy Scriptures should be restored to their pristine and proper order of the manuscripts (as shown by Dr. Martin in this book) so that modern man can have the same Bible that left the hands of those who canonized it."

Restoring the Original Bible is available **FREE** online at <http://www.askelm.com/restoring/index.asp> or for purchase in printed book form at <http://www.askelm.com/books/book002.htm>.

For the future I hope that any printed Bible you order would give you an option of buying it in the correct manuscript order. It is my understanding that both Fred Coulter and Dr. Tabor feel the same way because both have written and taught extensively on the matter in the past. The order of the books is not a minor point or a small matter.

Whatever you do, study the Scriptures — God's Word. And at least once read it in the order God intended His message to be read and understood. God will bless such study.

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