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IS YOUR WORD LIST COMPLETE?

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The New Testament is at the present time being translated into many different languages all over the world. Unfortunately, however, in many of these languages, after the New Testament is published, it may be many years before portions of the Old Testament or the whole Bible is published, and in many cases even portions of the Old Testament may never be published.

What does this mean for the average reader in these languages? Lack of the Old Testament can hinder readers from clearly understanding many parts of the New Testament, because the meaning of those parts is only fully understood when the reader has understood the background of a relevant section in the Old Testament.

For example, what does Hebrews 11.4 mean? "By means of his faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead." The reader will not understand this sentence fully until he has read the story about Cain and Abel in Genesis 4.2-25.

How can we help such a reader? One way in which we can help him is to add some names to the Word List of the New Testament. We can add the names of Old Testament people who are mentioned in the New Testament. (Of course we will also have to teach our readers how to use the Word List correctly and to know what type of information is available in the Word List.)

Very many Old Testament people are mentioned in the New Testament, for example in Matthew 1.1-16. There are too many to include all of them in our Word List. Some of them are much more important than others, and these important ones at least can be included in a New Testament Word List.

The following list of Old Testament names is written in such a way that it can be translated and be included in a Word List.

Abel: The second son of Adam and Eve and brother of Cain. Abel sacrificed one of his animals to God, and God accepted his sacrifice, but rejected Cain's sacrifice. Cain became angry and killed Abel. From that time his blood cries to God for vengeance (Gen 4.2-25; Mt 23.35; Lk 11.51; Heb 11.4; 12.24).

Adam: The name of the first man created by God (Gen 1-3). This name in Hebrew means "man" or "mankind".

Cain: The oldest son of Adam and Eve. Both Cain and Abel his brother made sacrifices to God. God accepted the sacrifice of Abel but he did

not accept the sacrifice of Cain. Therefore Cain became angry and killed Abel. Cain was then punished by God (Gen 4.1-25; Heb 11.4; 1 Jn 3.12; Jude 11).

Christ: The title in the Greek language for the person God promised long ago to the people of Israel to be their prophet, priest and king. (The name in the Hebrew language is Messiah.) The name means "The one who had oil poured on his head to show that he was chosen by God". The people of Israel hoped especially that the Messiah would be a king. And Jesus is therefore called Jesus Christ.

King David: The youngest son of Jesse from the tribe of Judah from the town of Bethlehem-Ephrathah, which is very near to Jerusalem. God chose David to be the second king of Israel. God made Israel a mighty nation through King David. God promised the people of Israel that one of King David's descendants would be the Messiah, king of all kings. One time when King Saul was looking for David to kill him, David became hungry and ate the holy bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat (Mt 12.3; Mk 2.25; Lk 6.3). The key of King David in Revelation 3.7 refers to the almighty power of the Messiah as king of all kings.

Elisha: One of the great prophets of Israel who was a follower of the prophet Elijah, and received a double measure of the power of Elijah when God took Elijah to heaven (1 Kg 19.16-19; 2 Kg 2.9 and 13; Lk 4.27).

Esau: The first son of Isaac and twin brother of Jacob. One time when Esau was very hungry he sold his right as first born son to Jacob for some food (Heb 12.16). Years later Jacob tricked his father so that his father would bless him as first born son instead of Esau (Gen 25.26; Rom 9.13; Heb 11.20).

Eve: The wife of Adam who was the first man created by God. God made Eve from one of Adam's ribs. She was the first person in the world to be deceived to do evil (Gen 3.20; 4.1; 2 Cor 11.3; 1 Tim 2.13).

Isaac: Even after Abraham and his wife Sarah were too old to have children, Sarah conceived and gave birth to a son Isaac, as God had promised. Therefore, Paul in Romans 9.7-10 calls the birth of Isaac an unnatural birth, because he was born through a miracle. Abraham had another son named Ishmael by a slave girl of Sarah. Ishmael was not promised by God and was born in the normal way (Rom 9.8). Isaac and Ishmael were enemies (Gal 4.29). When Isaac was still a young boy God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac to him. When Abraham was at the point of killing Isaac, God stopped him (Heb 11.17; Jas 2.21). Isaac was the father of Jacob and Esau and later blessed them (Gen 18-35; Heb 11.20).

Israel: God changed Jacob's name to Israel (Gen 32.28). Since Israel was the father/ancestor of the twelve tribes/families of Israel, all of his descendants are called the people of Israel. And the land they finally possessed is called Israel (Jn 1.49; Acts 2.22; Rom 9.4). The language of the people of Israel is called Hebrew. This name comes from the word which means "from beyond" referring to the region beyond the Euphrates or beyond the Jordan. The people of Israel are also called Hebrews (2 Cor 11.22; the book written to the Hebrews).

Jacob: The second son of Isaac and twin brother of Esau. Refer to Esau to understand how Jacob obtained the right as first son and the blessing of Esau his senior brother. God changed Jacob's name to Israel (Gen 32.28). He was the father of twelve sons who became the heads of the twelve tribes/families of Israel. Therefore the people of Israel call Abraham and his son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob their fathers (Mt 8.11; Acts 7.8; Rom 11.26). (Also see Israel.)

Jews: Another name for the people of Israel. They were first called Jews after they returned from captivity in Babylon. The name "the Jews", therefore, refers mainly to those who accept the Jewish religion (1 Cor 1.22; Rev 2.9). In the Gospel of John, the name "the Jews" often refers to the leaders of the Jews who did not accept Jesus as the Messiah and opposed him. (Also see Jacob.)

Jezebel: The name John gave to a woman who lured Christians in the town of Thyatira to fornication and idolatry (Rev 2.20,23). John was probably thinking of Jezebel the wife of King Ahab, a king of Israel who many years before had lured some of the people of Israel to worship the false gods Baal and Astarte (1 Kg 16).

Jonah: A prophet of Israel. God sent him to a town called Nineveh, but Jonah ran away in a boat because Nineveh was a town of foreigners and idol worshippers. But God sent a storm to put the boat in grave danger. The sailors threw Jonah into the sea and a big fish swallowed him. Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days before God caused the fish to vomit Jonah out. Jonah went and preached to the people of Nineveh and they repented of their sins (Mt 12.39-41; Lk 11.29-32).

Joseph: One of the twelve sons of Jacob. See Acts 7.9-15 for a summary of the important events in his life (Gen 30-50; Heb 11.22).

Levi: One of the twelve sons of Jacob. The people of Israel chose the high priest and the priests and the Levites only from his family.

Messiah: See Christ.

Moses: One of the great leaders and prophets of Israel. God chose him to lead the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt back to the land of Canaan which God had promised to give to Abraham. In order for

the people of Israel to escape from the army of Egypt, God divided the water of the Red Sea to make a dry path through the water. The people of Israel walked through safely, but the army of Egypt was destroyed by the water. The people of Israel then wandered in the desert for forty years. During this time God showed them where they should go by moving a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire in front of them (Ex 13.21; 1 Cor 10.2). During their wanderings God fed them with manna from heaven (Ex 16.15; Jn 6.32). One time God told them to stop by a mountain called Sinai. God then came down on top of the mountain in a dense cloud, thunder, flashes of lightning, and a loud trumpet (Ex 19.16; Heb 12.21). Then God told Moses to come to the top of the mountain where God gave him the ten commandments, which he wrote down on two stones. He also gave him many other laws which the people of Israel were to obey. Later all these laws were written in a book. When Moses came down from the mountain his face shone because he had seen God (Ex 34.29; 2 Cor 3.7-13). One time when the people of God rebelled against God during their wandering in the desert, God sent snakes to kill them. But after Moses pleaded with God, God told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it upon a stick, so that when a snake bit someone he could look at the bronze snake and recover (Num 21.9; Jn 3.14; 12.34).

Noah: Noah was the tenth in the line of descent from Adam (Gen 5). Because all people on the earth were evil except for Noah and his family, God flooded the earth with water to kill them. But he told Noah to build a boat to save his family and a certain number of each of the different kinds of birds and animals. After the flood waters had dried up, God promised Noah that he would never cause water to flood the earth like that again (Gen 6.9—9.17; Mt 24.37-38; Lk 3.36; 17.26-27; Heb 11.7; 1 Pet 3.20; 2 Pet 2.5).

Rachel: The younger daughter of Laban, and the best loved wife of Jacob. She gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin (Gen 29-35; Mt 2.18).

Rahab: When the people of Israel were trying to defeat the city of Jericho they sent two spies into the city. Rahab helped them escape from the city, and as a result she was not killed when Israel defeated the city (Jos 2 and 6; Mt 1.5; Heb 11.31; Jas 2.25).

Zechariah: He was a prophet of Israel who openly accused the people of Israel of forsaking the worship of God in the temple and instead sacrificing to idols. The king sent men to kill Zechariah in the temple (2 Chron 24.20-22; Mt 23.35; Lk 11.51).