

WORDS THAT MUST MAKE YOU PAUSE | SESSION 3

The Bible is a book of *words*, not *ideas*. It is the *words* that are foundational to the *ideas* of the faith, and the *ideas* must always submit to the *words*.

With the importance of the words themselves, there are several “words that must make you pause” because these words have inherent challenges of translation into English from the Hebrew or Greek.

WORDS FOUND IN EITHER TESTAMENT

- Angel – This can be a human or a divine agent
 - Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14 - human
 - Luke 7:24 – human
 - John 5:4 – pagan
 - Acts 12:7 – heavenly
 - Genesis 32:1 – heavenly; Genesis 32:3 – human
- Hell - the place of departed spirits
 - Job 26:6 – the grave
 - Amos 9:2 – an unreachable place
 - Mark 9:43 – a place of punishment
 - Acts 2:27 – the place of the dead
- Heaven – one of three meanings
 - The “first heaven” is the sky – Genesis 1:9
 - The “second heaven” is the universe - Genesis 22:17
 - The “third heaven” is the abode of God – Genesis 24:7
- Saint – One who has been set apart by God’s choice
 - This word needs pause because of the way *the world* has defined it, which is different than the clear teaching of Scripture.
 - Sometimes *saints* are angels – Deuteronomy 33:2
 - Most of the time *saints* are Israel – Psalm 16:3
 - Of the 35 usages in the Old Testament, *saints* are never anyone outside of Israel, unless angels.
 - In the New Testament, *saints* are never given another definition except the one shown in the Old.
 - In the New Testament, the first five times the word is used it cannot possibly mean anything other than the remnant of Israel, those set apart by God’s choice. – Matthew 27:52, Acts 9:13, 32, 41, Acts 26:10.
 - Saints are seen 16 times from Hebrews to Revelation, making it difficult to argue that they are *the body of Christ*, which is not at all in view in these books – example: Revelation 20:9.
- Spirit / spirit – It can be a “sense” or the third person of the Trinity.
 - Compare Genesis 1:2 with Genesis 6:3.

- Places that display the need to pause:
 - Exodus 35:21
 - Psalm 51:10-11
 - 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - 1 Corinthians 14:2 compared to vv. 14, 15, 16.

WORDS THAT ALWAYS MEAN ISRAEL

- Elect / Chosen - God's selection of a people for Himself
 - Matthew 24:24 – speaks about the Tribulation, a time at which the dispensation of the grace of God has ceased.
 - 2 Timothy 2:10 – clearly a reference to Israel
 - 1 Peter 1:1-2 – Peter's salutation
 - 1 Peter 2:9 – Often missapplied
- Shepherd / Flock –
 - There are dozens of Old Testament references to Israel as the sheep/flock of God under the Shepherd.
 - There are numerous New Testament references to the Shepherd and sheep, mostly in the Gospels in relation to Israel.
 - Acts 20:28-29 – instructions to the Elders at Ephesus concerning the **church of God**, also a reference to the **little flock to whom the kingdom will be given** (Lk. 12:32).
 - There are no references to the Shepherd or the flock in Pauline letters.
 - 1 Peter 5:2-4 gives instruction similar to the Ephesus instruction.