



Aramaic M-South OT*

Discouragement Gives Way to Praise

As Bible translators pursue their challenging mission, the Enemy wants nothing more than to thwart this eternally valuable work. So he launches his attacks, which often come in the form of personal hardships and leave translators weary and discouraged. During these desperate moments, the temptation arises to wonder if the sacrifice is worth it.

But Bible translators aren't the only ones to wrestle with doubts. The writer of Psalm 73 also faced uncertainties and was perplexed by the prosperity of the wicked, while he himself endured endless afflictions. But as he reflected on God's holiness, he understood the awful destiny of the wicked (Psalm 73:17-20) and declared: "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (verse 26).

- **Pray that the Psalms will encourage the translators and other language speakers.**

Two Books in Progress

The first draft of the book of Psalms is now complete in the language, in answer to prayer. The translators have begun their team-check of the book. They've also started drafting the next Old Testament book—Genesis.

- **The team is still searching for an additional translator. Continue to pray that the Lord will lead them to a suitable person.**
- **Please pray for the country, which has lots of demonstrations and government crackdowns.**
- **Pray for a smooth transition to a new project manager and the fact that team members are separated by thousands of miles and many time zones.**

God's Elective Purpose

Evident in the book of Genesis is the sovereign working out of God's elective purpose despite obstacles along the way. For example, the building of the tower of Babel, Pharaoh's desire to take Abraham's wife Sarah, Esau's animosity toward Jacob and the slaughter of the town of Shechem by Jacob's sons over the matter of their sister Dinah all threatened to overthrow God's elective purpose through Noah's sons and the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



For security reasons, pseudonyms have been used for the language name and names of individuals.

- **Location: East Mediterranean**
- **Number of Speakers: 15,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2010**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2019**

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God's elective purpose from the beginning is indicated by the 10-fold outline of Genesis, where each division begins with the phrase, "These are the generations of ..." The non-chosen line is treated by the author before the chosen line. For example, the ungodly line of Cain is given treatment before the chosen line of Abel (in the person of his successor Seth). Interspersed between these line groupings are the gripping accounts of Noah and Abraham, given because of the importance of the covenants God made with each one.

What an encouragement this book will be to its readers as they come to know the God whose purposes can't be thwarted. Those whom the Lord has chosen as His children will certainly fulfill the happy destiny He has in store for them.

Six Steps of Translation

1. **First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
2. **Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
3. **Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
4. **Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
5. **Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
6. **Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

ARAMAIC M-SOUTH OT PROJECT UPDATE—2

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