



Aramaic Old Testament

Fighting Baal Worship in Israel

The broad outline of 1 and 2 Kings provides a fascinating overview of the sacred history from King David’s death until the fall of Israel to Babylon. The first half of 1 Kings is devoted to the glorious reign of David’s son Solomon as typifying the kingdom of God. This is evident in the elaborate attention given to the house of the Lord in those chapters. Next, the divided kingdom is recounted through the ascent of wicked Ahab to the throne.

Ahab’s dynasty is given a disproportionate amount of space (16 chapters) to show how God raised up the prophets Elijah and Elisha to fight Baal worship in Israel. This is ultimately wiped out by the Israelite king who overthrew Ahab’s line (2 Kings 10:28). The rest of 2 Kings narrates the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians and finally the fall of the Southern Kingdom to Babylon.

- **Pray that the message of 1 and 2 Kings will reach the hearts of many Assyrian Aramaic speakers.**

A Rundown of the Team’s Progress

Here’s a rundown of the team’s progress. A dozen Old Testament books still need to be translated in first draft in the Assyrian Aramaic language: 2 Chronicles, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon, Lamentations and seven Minor Prophets (Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi). More work remains to be done on the drafts of 1 and 2 Samuel as well. As for the drafted books, these are proceeding through the advanced steps. For example, Joshua and Judges are at the back-translation step in preparation for a consultant-check.

Plugging Away on Psalms

The Assyrian Aramaic team continues plugging away on the Psalms. Only seven psalms remain to be team-checked and more than 80 have been consultant-checked. The plan is to get the Psalms ready to print with the second edition of the New Testament.

Project advisor Kris had been looking for a new local person to review the translated book of Psalms. Her search led her to her Assyrian Aramaic tutor, who has expressed an interest. Kris gave her the first 20 psalms to see how well she does. If she likes the work, she may be able to continue.



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

- **Location: East Mediterranean**
- **Number of Speakers: 1,000,000**
- **Year Project Began: 1999**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2014**

- **Pray that the Lord will empower the translators to meet their objectives.**

- **Praise God that the Assyrian Aramaic team has been making good progress on the book of Psalms so it can be published along with the revised New Testament.**





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High Demand for God's Word

Kris got an email from an Assyrian Aramaic speaker in California. He's from a country in the Middle East and attended seminary there, but now lives in the U.S. He teaches the Assyrian Aramaic language in his church and also at a local society. He has a copy of the out-of-print New Testament and wants more. He uses them in church and also for teaching the Assyrian Aramaic classes. He said he likes the modern style, ease of reading and clear language of the New Testament. Kris also received an email from a gentleman in Australia who needs copies of the Assyrian Aramaic New Testament.

Completing the New Testament revision plus the Psalms is a high priority that the team is putting all their energies into so they can meet the increasing demand from all over the world. Kris expects the same will be true of the Assyrian Aramaic Old Testament when it's done. In addition, the team is experiencing an increasing demand for Assyrian Aramaic Bibles in electronic format. So as books are completed and checked, the team will be looking at how best to meet the needs of those who want Scriptures in that media.

- **Thank the Lord for this growing demand to have the Scriptures in the mother tongue. Pray that all who want God's Word will have ready access to it.**

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 OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org

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