

Chapter 7: MAST Preparation: Meaning-Based Translation

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading (Neh. 8:8).

YOUR NOTES:

There are different styles of translation. In this chapter, we're going to talk about a style called **meaning-based translation**.

A “meaning-based translation” does not focus so much on individual words, but instead on the overall meaning of the message.

A literal translation tries to restate every word of the source text, one by one, as directly as possible.

In an effective translation, the meaning will be understood by you, the speakers of the heart language. This is meaning-based translation.

The meaning and message of Scripture is what is sacred.

The message must be recreated in heart-language words that express its meaning in a way that is:

- **Natural**
- **Clear**
- **Accurate**

This requires translators to adjust certain words, and even the word order.

As long as the meaning is preserved, it is an accurate translation.

For example, in English, the word “grace” is one word. In other languages, the meaning of “grace” may need two or more words.

Other ways that “grace” could be translated include “divine kindness” or “God’s favor” or “God’s kindness and forgiveness for sinners” or “merciful kindness.” These are all acceptable, because they communicate the same meaning as the original text.

Translators should choose the wording that clearly communicates the original message to their heart language.

