



# BIBLE TRANSLATION REVIEW GUIDE

## ABSTRACT

An initial review of Bible Translation practices and effectiveness

Timothy F. Neu, Ph.D--Director  
Tom Warren, D.Min--content writer  
John Hutchins, M.A.--content writer  
Tabitha Price--content writer and editor

November 2017



<b>Introduction to Narrative Passages Review:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Narrative: The Birth of Jesus Christ</b>	<b>4</b>
Positive Statement:	4
Matthew 1:18-25	4
Matthew 2:1-12	6
Luke 2:1-7; 8-20	8
<b>Narrative: The Miracles of Jesus Christ</b>	<b>11</b>
Positive Statement:	11
Matthew 14:13-21	12
Luke 17:11-19	13
John 2:1-12	16
<b>Narrative: The Early Church Era</b>	<b>18</b>
Positive statement:	18
Passage: Acts 2:1-13	18

## Introduction to Narrative Passages Review:

A narrative is an account, whether historical or fictional, of related events. In general, a narrative may include an account about a person or people and what they did or what happened to them in a certain time or place that may be known or unknown to the reader. In biblical narratives these accounts are written to teach truths about God and how believers should live.

Some narratives are short and encompass one single event. Sometimes many short narratives are connected together to tell a longer story—for example to tell about the life of an important person or the account of important events.

In order to understand a narrative, the reader must determine:

- If the account is historical or fictional
- Who the characters are or who they represent
- The time and setting in which the narrative takes place
- The order of events and how they are connected

The Bible contains different types of literature that are expressed in narrative form. For example:

- History- true account of an event (or a series of events), that happened to real historical people, in real places, and that occur in time.
- Parable - a simple story told to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. A parable often has one main point.
- Prophecy - accounts of events that will happen in the future.

## Purpose of the Narrative Passage Review

Since the Bible is God's Word, every narrative passage is significant.

The purpose of testing the narrative/historical passages with the Review Guide is to affirm that the message of the events, the meaning of the stories, and their significance is clearly communicated in the translated passages.

1. Message of the events: Can the listener/reader recount the events of the story? Does he have an awareness of the historical/geographical setting?
2. Meaning of the events: Does the listener/reader understand these events? Can he identify with the characters and follow the progress of the account?
3. Significance of events: Does the listener/reader understand the doctrines supported by the stories?

## Narrative: The Birth of Jesus Christ

### Positive Statement:

The Bible clearly tells of Jesus' birth as a human being into this world. Although Joseph was considered Jesus' earthly father, Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary.

### Matthew 1:18-25

**Background:** This passage is written by the apostle Matthew about the events before Jesus was born.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
<b>Broad Questions</b>		
Summarize what happened this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, found out she was pregnant and decided he could not marry her. <input type="checkbox"/> But then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him that the Mary's baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> Her baby would be a son, who would save his people from their sins. <input type="checkbox"/> The angel told Joseph not to be afraid but to take Mary as his wife, and to name the child Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph did as the angel commanded him and took Mary as his wife. <input type="checkbox"/> She gave birth to a son. Joseph named the baby Jesus, just as he had been told to do.	
<b>Specific Questions</b>		
Who is in this story?	Joseph, Mary, the angel of the Lord, and Jesus.	
What did Joseph consider doing when he found out Mary was pregnant?	He thought about divorcing her (or breaking the engagement) but to do so quietly.	

Why do you think Joseph considered divorcing Mary?	He knew she was pregnant and the baby was not his.	
What happened to change his mind?	He had a dream and an angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him that Mary's baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and not to be afraid, but to marry her. He was told to give the child the name Jesus, because he was the one who would save his people from their sins.	
Significance of events		
What do verses 22-23 say about why all this happened?	These verses quote a prophecy about Jesus being born to a virgin mother. These verses tell us that everything happened the way it did to fulfill a prophecy made long ago.	
Why did Joseph name the child Jesus?	The angel of the Lord had told him to name the child Jesus--because he would save the people from their sins.	
What did the angel say in verse 23 would be the name of the baby?	Immanuel	
What does "Immanuel" mean in your language?	"God is with us"	

### Matthew 2:1-12

**Background:** This passage was written by the apostle Matthew. This passage tells of an event after Jesus was born.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wise men came from the east to Jerusalem looking for the child who was born and who was called the king of Jews. <input type="checkbox"/> Wise men saw the star in the east and followed it <input type="checkbox"/> They went to Herod asking about the baby who was born.	

	<input type="checkbox"/> Herod was troubled by the birth of the king of the Jews. <input type="checkbox"/> The chief priests and scribes told Herod that Christ was to be born in Bethlehem according to Scripture. <input type="checkbox"/> Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. <input type="checkbox"/> Herod ordered the wise men to return, telling them that he wanted to worship the baby, too. <input type="checkbox"/> The wise men went to Jerusalem, they found the baby, gave him gifts, and they worshiped him. <input type="checkbox"/> In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod; so they went back home another way.	
<b>Specific Questions</b>		
Who is in the story?	Wise men from the east, King Herod, Mary and the child. (Also the Jewish religious leaders--priests and scribes.)	
Where does this story take place?	In Jerusalem and in Bethlehem.	
Who went to Jerusalem looking for the king of the Jews?	Wise men from the east (a foreign country.)	
Why did they go to Jerusalem?	They said they "saw his star" and were coming to worship him.	
How did Herod find out where the Christ would be born?	He asked the priests and scribes of the Jewish people what the prophecies said. They quoted from the Scripture saying the Christ would be born in Bethlehem.	
How did the wise men find Jesus?	After being told he would be in Bethlehem, they left Jerusalem and the star guided them to the house where Jesus and his family were.	
What did they do when they found him?	They fell down and worshiped him and they opened their gifts and gave them to him.	

Significance of events		
What did the wise men first call Jesus when they came looking for him in Jerusalem?	They called him "king of the Jews."	
Why do you think Herod was troubled by the wise men calling the baby "king of the Jews"?	Herod was concerned that there was a new king to lead the Jews. Herod did not want anyone replacing him as king.	
Why do you think Herod asked the wise men to come back and tell him where Jesus was?	He needed to know where the baby was to be found, so he could kill him.	
There was a star over the place where Jesus was; there was a prophecy about his birth; and wise men came and worshiped him. What do you think these events indicate about Jesus?	These events indicate that Jesus is the Christ, the King of the Jews, and his birth was predicted in the Old Testament.	
How did the wise men know not to go back and tell Herod where Jesus was?	They were warned in a dream not to go back.	
Why do you think they obeyed the dream rather than Herod?	They may have not trusted Herod. They may have thought that Herod would have harmed the new king of the Jew. They may have realized the dream was supernatural (a message from God) like the star.	

### Luke 2:1-20

**Background Information:** This passage is from the gospel of Luke. In chapter one he tells about Mary's visit from the angel Gabriel. Gabriel told her that she would become pregnant.

Mary objected because she had never been with a man. The angel told her that the baby would be the son of God. The account begins with the birth of Jesus.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions: Luke 2:1-7		
Summarize what happened in 2:1-7.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary was pregnant and was about to give birth to Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph was engaged to be married to Mary. <input type="checkbox"/> There was a government census that was counting the people in Judea. Mary and Joseph traveled to their family home in Bethlehem so they could be counted. <input type="checkbox"/> Bethlehem was the home of Joseph. He was a descendant of King David. <input type="checkbox"/> Since the village inn was full, Joseph and Mary had to stay in in a stable with the animals. <input type="checkbox"/> So Mary gave birth to Jesus in the stable and laid him in a food trough with hay for his bed.	
Specific Questions		
Where did this story take place?	It started in Nazareth of Galilee and they traveled to Bethlehem in Judea.	
Who are the main people in this story?	Mary, Joseph (Jesus and Caesar)	
Who ordered the census?	Caesar Augustus--the ruler of the Roman Empire.	
What was the census?	Government officials counted the number of people in the country, and made a list of the names of those who were required to pay taxes to the Roman empire.	
In what kind of building was Jesus born?	He was born in a stable in Bethlehem.	



How did Mary care for her newborn baby?	She wrapped him in long strips of cloth and laid him in a manger.	
How do you understand the English word “manger” in your language?	A manger is a container for food out of which animals eat. For the baby Jesus, Mary wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in the manger.	
Broad questions: Luke 2:8-20		
Summarize what happened in 2:8-20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The shepherds were out in the fields at night guarding their sheep, when suddenly an angel appeared.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> They were filled with great fear but the angel told them not to be afraid, because he brought them good news that will bring great joy to all people: a Savior has been for you in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The angel said they could find the baby by going into the city of David. The angel said, “You will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Then a great heavenly host appeared with the angel and they praised God.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see what had happened, as the Lord told them.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Then the shepherds praised God because what they had seen was what just what the angels told them.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mary treasured all these things in her heart.</li> </ul>	
Specific questions		
Who were the main people in this part of the story?	The shepherds, the angel of the Lord, the host of angels, Mary and Joseph.	
How did the shepherds react	They were frightened.	

when they saw the angel?		
What did the angel tell them?	"Do not be afraid." Then he said he had good news and told them about the Savior was born in Bethlehem.	
What happened after the angel told this to the shepherds?	A whole group of angels appeared and they praised God.	
What did the shepherds do once the angels had gone away?	They went and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby.	
How did Mary respond to the shepherds' visit?	She thought about it in her heart.	
What did the shepherds do as they returned home?	The shepherds glorified and praised God for all the things they had seen and heard.	
Significance of events		
Why were the shepherds afraid when they saw the angel of the Lord?	They probably had never seen an angel before; they had no idea what to expect. The radiance/glory of the Lord was probably very bright and startling.	
How do you understand "good news" in your language?	It is a report of a wonderful event.. Here good news refers to God sending Jesus to save his people.	
Who will be glad to hear this good news?	All the people will be glad.	
Why do you think the birth of the Christ is good news for all the people?	A Savior for the people has been born who is Christ the Lord.	
How do you understand in your language the phrase for "A Savior who is Christ the Lord"?	As Christ, he is the Anointed One, God's chosen one to save his people; as Lord he is Owner, Leader, Ruler over all.	
The shepherds returned praising God for everything	They praised and glorified God because of what they had seen and heard.	

they had seen. Why do you think they were praising God?		
------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

## Narrative: The Miracles of Jesus Christ

### Positive Statement:

Jesus Christ did many miracles while he was on earth. By his miracles he demonstrated his authority over every natural and spiritual force, including storms, demonic forces, diseases and afflictions, even death.

### Matthew 14:13-21

**Background:** This story is from the gospel written by the apostle Matthew. Right before this, Jesus heard that his cousin John the Baptist had been beheaded by Herod, so Jesus and his disciples went away to a place far from people.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what happened in this story?	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus and his disciples went to a place far away from people, but the crowds followed them. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus had compassion on them and he healed those who came to him. <input type="checkbox"/> The disciples suggested that he send the crowds away to get food because they had no place buy food nearby. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said to his disciples that they should feed the people. <input type="checkbox"/> The disciples replied that they only had a couple fish and a few loaves of bread, and that would not feed even a few people. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus told his disciples to bring him the the fish and the loaves.	

	<input type="checkbox"/> He instructed the crowd to sit down and he blessed the food and gave it to the disciples so they could give food to the people. <input type="checkbox"/> After they ate, there were 12 basketfuls of food left over. <input type="checkbox"/> 5000 men were fed, not counting the number of women and children who were fed.	
Specific Questions		
Where does this story take place?	In a place far away from people.	
Who is in the story?	Jesus, his disciples, a crowd of people following after Jesus.	
Why did the disciples want to send the crowds away?	Because it was late in the day and it was a place far away from people, with no place to buy food.	
What miracles did Jesus perform here?	He healed the sick who came to him, and fed thousands of people with only a few small pieces of food.	
Significance of events		
Why do you think Jesus fed the crowd?	He had compassion for the crowd. He did a great miracle to feed thousands of people to show them his glory and power.	
According to this passage, how would you describe Jesus?	He has compassion, he is a healer, he is generous, he is powerful and the master even over what is impossible for others.	

### Luke 17:11-19

**Background:** This passage is from the gospel of Luke. In this passage, he is traveling with his disciples from one area to another in the land of Israel.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		

Summarize what happened in this story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jesus was traveling along the road going to Jerusalem (between Samaria and Galilee)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> As he came to a town, ten lepers were outside the town, and they were calling out to him from a distance.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> They begged him for mercy.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> He told them to go and show themselves to the priest.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> They obeyed him, and as they went they were healed of their leprosy.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One leper, when he saw that he was healed, turned and came back to Jesus.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> He glorified God and bowed at Jesus' feet thanking him.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The leper was a Samaritan.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said, "Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Is it only this foreigner who returns to give thanks?"</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Then he told the leper, "Go, your faith has made you whole" (or well).</li> </ul>	
<b>Specific Questions</b>		
Who is in this story?	Jesus, his disciples, and ten lepers	
Why were the lepers calling out to Jesus to have mercy on them?	They wanted Jesus to heal them. (They had probably heard that Jesus was a healer.)	
What did Jesus tell them?	He said to go and show themselves to the priest.	
What happened to them as they went?	They were healed.	
Why did the one leper return?	He wanted to thank Jesus for healing him.	
Why did the leper who returned to Jesus praise God?	He knew that it was through God's power that he had been healed.	
How did Jesus respond to the man who returned?	He asked about the others who had not returned, and commented that this man was a "foreigner" or	

	"Samaritan." Then he told the man to "go in peace" that he had been healed because he believed.	
How do you understand in your language the word for "faith"?	"Faith" is to have a belief, trust or confidence in someone or something. Here the Samaritan showed his faith in God.	
<b>Significance of events</b>		
Why do you think Jesus asked where the other nine were?	He was pointing out that only one man was thankful for what God had done.	
Why do you think Jesus healed the ten lepers?	He responded to their plea for mercy. He had compassion. He wanted to.	
Why do you think the leper's response of worship and thanksgiving appropriate?	Jesus had done something miraculous for him that he could not do for himself. He saw the power as coming from God and he praised God for giving him something good. His gratefulness may also have indicated his awareness of being unworthy (especially since it is noted in the passage that he was a foreigner).	

## John 2:1-12

**Background information:** This passage is from the gospel that the apostle John wrote. This story is the account of the first miracle recorded in John's gospel.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
<b>Broad Questions</b>		
Summarize what happened in this story?	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were at a wedding. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus' mother told him that there was no more wine. <input type="checkbox"/> At first, Jesus seemed reluctant to do anything about the wine, but then he told the servants to fill up six pots with water. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus turned the water into wine.	

	<input type="checkbox"/> The head waiter said it was the best wine they had at the wedding. <input type="checkbox"/> This was Jesus' first miraculous sign, and the disciples believed in him.	
Specific Questions		
Where did this story take place?	At a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee	
Who is in this story?	Jesus, his disciples, his mom, his brothers, wedding guests, servants, head waiter	
What did Jesus say to his mother when she told him that they were out of wine?	He asked her why she was trying to involve him and he told her it was not his time yet.	
What did Jesus' mother say to the servants?	She told them to do whatever Jesus tells them to do.	
What did Jesus do?	He told the servants to fill the waterpots that were used for ceremonial washing and then to take a cup from one of them to the head waiter. (The head waiter did not know where the wine came from but the servants knew.)	
What did the head waiter do?	He called the bridegroom and commented on how good the wine was. It was better than what had been served at first.	
How did the disciples respond to Jesus' miracle?	They believed in Jesus.	
Significance of events		
What was the result of this miracle?	The head waiter was impressed; Jesus revealed his glory; Jesus' disciples believed in him.	
How do you understand the phrase for "revealed his glory" in your language?	It means that by doing this miracle Jesus revealed himself as the Christ, the Son of God, having come from the Father.	
How do you understand the word for "sign" in your language?	It is a miracle done by God's power to confirm the glory of Christ and that the Father had sent Jesus.	

What does it mean that his disciples believed in Him?	They saw the miracle and believed that he was sent by God and empowered by God. That he was the Christ..	
-------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

## Narrative: The Early Church Era

### Positive statement:

After Jesus ascended into heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit whom he had promised to indwell believers. His disciples became witnesses of the gospel throughout the known world. Their ministries and testimonies were confirmed by signs and wonders, and God's church grew dramatically.

### Acts 2:1-13

**Background information:** This account is from Luke's second book. In the chapter just before this, Jesus instructed his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit. He told them they would be witnesses of him in their own regions and well beyond into the whole world. Then he ascended to heaven.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
<b>Broad Questions</b>		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> The followers of Jesus were all together in one place. <input type="checkbox"/> Suddenly a sound like blowing wind filled the house and they saw flames of fire resting on each of them. <input type="checkbox"/> The Holy Spirit filled them and they all began to talk in different languages, because the Spirit gave them the ability to do that. <input type="checkbox"/> People in Jerusalem heard the noise. <input type="checkbox"/> Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem at that time because it was the day of Pentecost, and they couldn't believe that each of them in the	



	<p>crowd could hear people talking in their own languages.</p> <p>❑ Some in the crowd dismissed it saying they must be have had too much wine to drink.</p>	
Specific Questions		
Who is in this story?	The disciples. A crowd of Jews from all over the known world; Peter.	
Where and when did this story take place?	In Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.	
How did the people (crowds) respond?	They marveled, and were amazed, and confused. They wondered what it could mean. But some made fun and said, "They must be drunk."	
What were the disciples talking about in these other languages?	"The mighty works of God--(The gospel, what God had done.)"	
Significance of events		
How do you understand the phrase for "filled with the Holy Spirit" in your language?	The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to do miracles like Jesus had done before his resurrection, and they were bold in their witness to Christ in ways they could not have done without his help.	

## Acts 8:26-30

**Background:** The church has grown a lot since Pentecost, and many believers have been scattered to regions outside of Jerusalem because of the persecution of the Jews. Philip, one of the apostles has been going to different towns and preaching the gospel. In this passage Philip receives instructions from a heavenly messenger to go to a specific geographical region.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Specific Questions		
Significance of events		