

Assignment 1

Section 1 - Genesis 4:8-10

Arthur Hay

NKJV

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "where is your brother?"

He said, "I don't know. Am I my Brother's keeper?"

And He said "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground".

New English Bible

Cain said to his brother Abel, "let us go in to the open country". While they were there, Cain attacked his brother Abel and murdered him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "where is your brother Abel?"

Cain answered, "I do not know. Am I my Brother's keeper?"

The Lord said, "what have you done? Hark! Your Brother's blood that has been shed is crying out to me from the ground.

The Living Bible

One day Cain suggested to his brother, "let's go out in to the fields". And while they were together there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

But afterwards the Lord asked Cain, "where is your brother? Where is Abel?"

"How should I know?" Cain retorted "am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"

But the Lord said, "Your Brother's blood calls to me from the ground. What have you done?"

Holy Bible - the self interpreting Bible c1875

And Cain talked with Abel his brother and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And the Lord said to Cain, where is Abel thy brother?"

And he said , "I know not. Am I my Brother's keeper?"

And He said, "what hast thou done? the voice of thy Brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."

NIV

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field".
And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.
Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"
"I do not know" he replied. "Am I my Brother's keeper?"
The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your Brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

Differences

In some versions Cain and Abel were already out in the fields and in other versions Cain suggested to Abel that they go out in to the fields. One version called the fields the open country, but as the World's population was so low in those days the 2 terms were probably used interchangeably. Sometimes names are mentioned more often in some versions and in 2 versions the Lord called Cain to attention before explaining that Abel's blood was crying out to I'm form the ground.

God asks Cain a straight question and Cain acts very guilty, firstly by lying and then asking the Lord a question to ask why he was asked that question in the first place. The Living Bible puts that conversation in a lot more words, while that does emphasise the story in a certain direction it could be one person's amplification of the text, someone else might take it a different way.

Part 2

1. Yes I do, I believe men wrote the Bible at Gold's inspiration and prompting, so while it was actually written by men the words came from God.2. Textual criticism is making sure you are working from the original and most authentic text. The original text is the Word of God and when translating it is the message that must get across, it is too easy to lose context or to get the wrong point when something is "lost in translation". That can also happen within a language, Australian English and UK English use different words and phrases at times, I remember Ruth once thinking I made up words because I was saying words used in England and not Australia, I was later vindicated when we were watching a BBC tv programme. Sometimes words are changed to convey the same message.

3. Bible translation - putting Gold's word from the original text in o another language.

Translation is not simple because words can convey different meanings, some words might not exist in another language, like the German word Gemutlichkeit, and the culture can affect how the same word can be used.

Two approaches - formal and functional. Formal tries to be word for word the same as much as possible while functional will put the text in to everyday language to convey the same meaning. With formal the reader may lose the thread of the message getting bogged down in words. In functional there could be 2 or more versions of the same translation. My preference is functional as that conveys what you need to know but a copy of the formal is necessary if you need to look up the original text to see what the original word was. I was not always good at scripture in school because we used the Old KJV written in Shakespearian language, not my everyday vernacular and I had trouble understanding it. Another Christian once challenged me for not using the Old KJV which he thought was the only valid translation, I told him I like to read a Bible in a language I can understand and refer to another version if I need to clarify something.