

Was the New Testament Originally Written in Hebrew?



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A translation called *The Scriptures*, released in 1998 by the Institute for Scripture Research, is purported to be “a literal translation of the Tanakh and the Messianic Scriptures.” In their Preface they present the theory that what they call the “Messianic Scripture” (“New Testament”) was originally written in Hebrew.

Any such “Messianic Scriptures” written in Hebrew is but a phantom text construed out of a paradigm of Messianic theology. Error in premise equals error in conclusion.

The only supposed “support” for this phantom text seems to be in the necessity of their theology. It looks like a case of reverse theological engineering akin to the proponents of the “KJV Only” adherents who purport that their Bible is the only valid one – because it is based on the *Textus Receptus*. This used to seem like such a powerful argument in my mind, until I realized that the *KJV* translators actually *created* their own new Greek text. The so-called *Textus Receptus* of the *King James Version* never appeared as a printed text under one cover until 1881. The so-called *Majority Text* never appeared as a printed text under one cover until 2007.¹

Even if the Greek Scriptures “originally” were written in Hebrew, it is a moot point since, if it *was*, God in His sovereignty did not deem it necessary to preserve it for us. The irony is that even our Messianic friends must use the Greek preserved by God to retrofit their “restored” version of the supposed “Messianic Scriptures.”

1. For more information on the *Textus Receptus* and *Majority Text* see my book *The King James Version: 400 Years of Bondage*.

The sad thing is that, in the 8-page Preface, not one single passage of Scripture is used to support the premise, while many are used to support peripheral matters. Telltale signs not only of a phantom text, but a phantom faith rooted in “Judaism.”

Neither give heed to Jewish fables (Titus 1:14).

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