Why Research The Hebrew Text?

Why is researching the Hebrew text so important? Why not just stick with the English versions?

Ever heard the saying, ‘Something gets lost in the translation?’ Here’s a good example: When I was a teenager, my parents lived in Papua New Guinea. In those days a version of English was spoken called ‘Pigeon English’. It was actually a combination of about 4 different languages, with English being the dominate one. The way to say ‘piano’ in Pigeon English was went like this... ‘Big black box with half white teeth & half black teeth; you fight him, fight him, fight him & he cry, cry, cry!’ That’s a pretty good example of the difference between the Hebrew & the English. One Hebrew word can often take a bunch of English words to interpret. That’s one of the reasons why there is a variety of English translations & only one Hebrew script! And there are some things in the Hebrew that there are no equivalent in the English.

Why is it important for a Women’s Creation Science Ministry to research the Hebrew Text?

There are a variety of theories in the Creation Science Movement about what the pre-flood world was like, & what kind of geological processes God used to bring about the Flood, as well as a myriad of other things. The Hebrew text is very specific, & because of this, when the various theories are held up to the light of the Hebrew text, it’s easy to tell which theories are in alignment with the Hebrew text & those that aren’t. For example: The Theory of Catastrophic Plate Tectonics does not line up with the Hebrew Text, but the Hydroplate Theory does. Therefore this ministry promotes the Hydroplate Theory.

The Hebrew Text also gives direction for where Creation Science Research should be heading. I can think of a bunch of examples, but here’s a simple one: The Hebrew word for ‘ark’ is ‘teivah’ (pronounced tāy-vāh). It means a ‘chest’. Anything that deviates from this is out of alignment with the Hebrew Text.

The Hebrew names of people add detailed information to the story. (Only God could put that one together!) For example, the names of the 3 sons of Noah who were on the ark are also his sermon notes for what he was preaching, and it was a continuation of his great grandfather Enoch’s sermon.

Ok, what about the King James Version? Well, the Hebrew word that the KJV translates as ‘Heaven’ in Genesis 1:1 is ‘Shā-my-yim’. Anytime there is a ‘yim’ at the end of a Hebrew word, it’s plural. The proper translation into English is ‘Heavens’, & if you want to get real specific, the way the Hebrew word is constructed in Genesis 1:1, the numerical value is ‘2-heavens’. (& that would be in keeping with what the Apostle Paul said about being caught up to The Third Heaven.) My guess is that the people who originally translated the KJV were under the assumption that there was only one heaven, even though the Apostle Paul said that there is a third heaven (2 Cor 12:2). Because of this, I have to be a Berean & research the Hebrew text myself, because we are all infallible, including those who originally put together the KJV!!
What about, “You’re a woman! You’re not allowed to learn Hebrew! Only men who go to seminary to go into the pastorate are permitted to learn Hebrew!” My answer: Maybe that’s the case if you are a Gentile Believer & you are called to serve in a Gentile congregation. And that’s were I started from; however, one of the things I do is serve the LORD in a Messianic Jewish Congregation, & as in all Jewish congregations, the scriptures are read from a scroll written in Hebrew at the beginning of the sermon (& somebody from the congregation goes up to read from the scroll, and not the one doing the preaching!). Prayers in Hebrew are said, and we sing in Hebrew; therefore, it’s very much encouraged that everyone in the congregation learn Hebrew, whether you are a ‘him’ or a ‘her’. And besides this, even though I am a reprobate because of my genealogy of 8 different nationalities, I do have some Hebrew genes & therefore the Hebrew language is my God given heritage, & it’s a requirement for me to learn it! It’s mine!! You can’t take it away from me, because God gave it to me! But I’ll share it with you...

Gentile Christians would say, “Oh my gosh! How dare you put your research up on line when it’s not perfect?”

Messianic Jewish Believers in Yeshua on the other hand would say, “The LORD is well pleased that we are digging into the Hebrew Text! It’s His very words & He wants us to! The Hebrew Text is the original document!! Go for it! The Hebrew Text is inexhaustible, so how can somebody’s research ever be completed? Put it up there...Let’s study Torah, & we’ll share with you what we have learned from the Hebrew text too... Blessed be The NAME of The LORD Who has given us His Torah to dig into, to find the inexhaustible treasures stored up in His Hebrew Text!” (It’s a totally different attitude! It’s a joy to study God’s Word!)