



1) Chapters 18 & 19

Introduction

Introducing the seminar-leader. The language(s) of the Bible – and of Jesus. John's Gospel – its composition and nature. The challenge of translation.

An example – chapter 19, verse 35:

He who saw this has testified so that you also may **believe**. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.

Range of meaning of *pisteuō*; use of tenses in English & Greek.

Handing over .. for better or worse.

A single word, *paradidōmi*, does a great deal of work

Then he **handed him over** to them to be crucified. [19.16]

It's a neutral word, often used with positive connotations – the tradition of the Communion service was 'handed down' to Paul by the early church leaders; Paul was 'commended' to God's grace when commissioned for his missionary journeys; in the parable the householder 'entrusts' talents to his servants before leaving on a journey. But it has another very specific use in the Gospels:

Now Judas, who **betrayed** him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. [18.2]

Although there's a perfectly good Greek word for 'betray' (*prodidōmi*), John and the other Gospel writers invariably use *paradidōmi* of Judas. Why? John, alone, uses it in another very unusual way:

Then he bowed his head and **gave up** his spirit. [19.30]

Do you see how the initiative has changed? Was Jesus' life taken ... or did he give it?

The One Who Is.

When God sent Moses to rescue the Hebrew people from Egypt, Moses asked God's name. Do you remember what the answer was?

Then Jesus ... came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, '**I am he.**' ... When Jesus said to them, '**I am he**', they stepped back and fell to the ground. [18.4-6]

Why did they fall to the ground? Greek verbs and pronouns. *Egō eimi*. A classic Johannine double meaning.

Finishing and completing.

Was the death of Jesus a failure or a triumph? The verb, *teleō*, tells us how John viewed it:

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now **finished**, he said ... 'I am thirsty.' ... So they put a sponge full of ... wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, '**It is finished.**' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. [19.28-30]

Other verses.

Do you have any translation questions to raise about anything else in these two chapters?