

How Rational Can You Be?

My bride and I walked into a local bookstore with our eyes set upon finding a book related to our pursuit: that's rational 😊. As we searched various genres and authors, I get this "thought:" How do you go about choosing literature that will answer the questions you may have? Well, I figure a rational approach would narrow down the playing field. So, I made inquiry of a store employee. "If an individual is seeking for someone to trouble shoot a problem, they are having with their vehicle to whom would they make inquiry?" Answer: a Mechanic. "If an individual is seeking information on how to cook, to whom would they make inquiry?" Answer: A cook. Thus, "If an individual is seeking information on the mentally ill, to whom would they make inquiry...?"

Several years ago, my wife and I were having a discussion with a young Hebrew man. He had never so much as picked up a copy of a New Testament Bible regarding the life of Jesus of Nazareth. We perceived that this was his first trip to the United States and a significant exposure to "Christians." Over the weeks to come, we became better acquainted with the young man and he had grown relatively comfortable with talking to us about the New Testament. We asked if he had ever read the New Testament related to the life of Jesus Christ. He affirmed he had not, i.e., his mother would give him a good thrashing for doing so, but he was interested, but there is a problem.

Having been acquainted with several individuals unfamiliar with the English language we understood that a great deal of cultural background, figures of speech, and urban language makes it difficult for individuals, unfamiliar with the English language, to fully grasp certain details of a conversation. Thus! 🤔 what we would do is provide him with a copy of the New Testament written in Hebrew: that ought to fix it. Boy! Did it ever. Having received the Hebrew translation of the New Testament he returns the next day and says, "The translation is insulting, i.e., it is poorly written and that on an elementary school level. Fortunately, we were all able to have a good chuckle.

It was obvious that our understanding of Hebrew was lacking greater than his understanding of English. So, my wife does a bit of research concerning the translation and discovered it has been translated into Hebrew by the American Bible Society! "Perhaps I can illustrate what I mean with an example. On a visit to Japan, the widow of John Steinbeck was greeted by an admirer who told her he loved her husband's books, especially The Angry Raisins. A person who heard this comment and was familiar with American literature would have no trouble restoring the proper title, The Grapes of Wrath" (Peculiarities of Translating the New Testament into Hebrew, Ray Pritz).

All of that being said, "If an individual is seeking information about God and what the Creator wants us to know and do, where would you go? When Jesus prayed for the apostles, He requested of the Father, "sanctify them in truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Good place to start, don't you think? Ross Triplett, Sr.