

I used to wonder what exactly was meant in Matthew where Jesus said the blind leaders of the blind strain at a gnat! Why would they strain so hard when they saw a gnat? Strain at a gnat! Why does he go on to say they swallow a camel? It was only very recently that I looked it up in the Greek and I found that the Greek word there does not mean anything like that. The Greek word means to strain out something. To strain out something from a liquid. It does have nothing to do with strain in this common sense. I don't believe that those great scholars who made the KJV wrote "they strain at a camel." You look at the previous English Bibles that were issued before that.

You look at the Bishop's Bible, the Geneva Version, Tyndale's Translation. In all of them it says "strain out a gnat." It is perfectly obvious to anyone who knows Greek that what it means is they strain out a gnat and swallow a camel. There have been hundreds of thousands, yes millions of copies of KJV in the last 300 yrs. that as far as I know every one of them say "strain at a gnat" which makes absolutely no sense whatever. It must have been an error on the part of the printer who published the first edition and it's been copied carefully ever since, exactly as it was with that perfectly obvious error in it.

So these few errors that we have in Scripture, the few errors in preservation--some of them in a way can strengthen our confidence that most of it is correctly copied tho the very fact that obvious errors, the few that there are, were still continued as they were.

We have hundreds of MSS. We have more MSS of the Bible than of any other book ever written. That have been preserved. Naturally no two of them exactly agree. But God has so preserved them that we are very & very close to the original. God enables us to profit from the knowledge that what we have, as we compare the evidence we have, what we have gives us the thoughts that He wants us to have. So that the whole Bible is indeed a revelation from God.

A few years ago I was talking with a man connected with the Inter-Varsity, and he was travelling from place to place dealing with students in the colleges. He said that that issue of (what was it one of the common magazines of that day widely gotten out) he said that issue reached a U. of Virginia when he said I was there and he said for 10 years the students would hardly listen to any talk about the Bible. Because that issue said, We can't depend on the text of the Bible at all! Even the Lord's prayer is in question! Well, the article wasn't near as bad as the way the students took it. I should say the headlines to advertize the article.

The article was simply a presentation of the efforts to examine the original text of the Bible -- of the NT, and to find more MSS. The article said, even the Lord's prayer is in question. What is in question is the last phrase of the Lord's Prayer--"for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory for ever and ever." Some MSS have it; some don't have it. It isn't in Luke at all. It is only in Matthew. Is that part of what Christ said or not? It is an interesting historical question. But as far as getting the knowledge to us of what God wants us to know why in Matthew the very words are introduced with the statement "don't be like the heathen and