

Biblical Doctrine and Polity Committee
Statement to the 96th International Assembly

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS
(For Affirmation, not for Decision)

“ . . . we recommend that this Assembly give voice of approval of the English King James Version of the Bible as being the authority for our Church doctrine and teaching” (56th *Assembly Minutes*, Section 4, September 18, 1961, pages 131, 132).

“ . . . we recommend that this Assembly give voice of approval of the Spanish Antigua Version de Casiodoro de Reina of the Bible up to 1909 A.D. as being the authority for our Church doctrine and teaching in the Spanish language” (66th *Assembly Minutes*, Section 9, September 13, 1971, page 143). **These citations are the historical rulings of the Church of God of Prophecy concerning Bible Translations.**

In recent years, there has been a tremendous advance in scholarly work concerning biblical translations that have utilized the increased knowledge of the original languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. Additionally, cultural understandings of the modern English, Spanish, French and other languages have made the archaic words of past translations more difficult for the average reader to comprehend and respond appropriately. Furthermore, the message of the gospel is now being translated into scores of other global languages. Daily we are challenged to face the need to present the gospel in the most effective methods possible to reach all nations. The Church of God of Prophecy has become an international movement encompassing many languages and cultures. As such, we must affirm the diversity of appropriate translations needed for the ever-widening harvest throughout the nations.* All mankind needs to hear and read the “good news” in the language that speaks to their understanding.

In light of this urgent need of the harvest, we encourage our ministers to use appropriate translations in their preaching that will bring all people to the saving light of Jesus Christ. While we embrace the earlier translations referenced in the 1961 and 1971 Assembly rulings, we also want to encourage our ministers to use other legitimate and reliable translations to plant the seed of the gospel of Jesus into every hungry heart and to inspire a deeper understanding of God.

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Version: Final Draft, April 23, 2010. With questions or comments related to this Recommendation, please contact the Assembly Committee for the Biblical Doctrine and Polity by e-mail at bdp@cogop.org.

* With the proliferation of reliable Bible translations and versions, we have determined that there is a need to do further study of our past statements on Biblical Translations.

Therefore, the Assembly Committee for the Biblical Doctrine and Polity will begin this Fall a comprehensive study of Biblical Translations/Versions to help us better understand the transmission of the canonical books.

We welcome those who desire to submit brief papers to help us in this prayerful study.