

## **Payton, Bible Translation, Session 25, Order of Events Resources from Notebooklm**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Payton, Bible Translation, Session 25, Order of Events, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This lecture by Dr. George Payton on Bible translation focuses on the challenge of non-chronological storytelling in the biblical texts. He argues that while such stylistic choices are acceptable in English, they can create confusion for readers whose languages require strict chronological order. Dr. Payton proposes solutions including reordering verses or adding clarifying words to improve clarity, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the original meaning and impact. He illustrates these techniques with various examples from the New Testament, such as passages from Mark and Luke, ultimately advocating for adjustments to enhance effective communication. The goal is to facilitate understanding without sacrificing the integrity of the biblical text.

**2. 37 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Payton, Session 25, Order of Events – Double click the icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introductory Series → Bible Translation).**



**Payton\_BT\_Session2  
5.mp3**

### 3. Bible Translation: Session 25, Order of Events

#### Order of Events in Biblical Translation: A Study Guide

#### I. Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Why might translating unchronological events directly from the source language be confusing for readers of the target language?
2. How does the example of the angel striking Herod (Acts 12:23) illustrate unchronological events?
3. What is the recommended approach to dealing with unchronological events like the parable of the Good Samaritan?
4. In the Jonah example, what clues indicate that the events are not presented chronologically?
5. Describe the two main options for addressing unchronological events in translation.
6. Why is harmonizing different accounts of the same event (e.g., Mark and Luke's accounts of the leper's healing) discouraged?
7. What is a potential drawback of reordering verses to achieve chronological order?
8. Explain the concept of "Hebraism" and how it relates to unchronological events in the New Testament.
9. What is the translator's responsibility when faced with unchronological events that create a barrier to communication?
10. Why is it crucial to avoid a form-based translation without addressing unchronological events?

#### II. Quiz Answer Key

1. Many languages require a strict chronological order for events. Translating unchronological events directly can disrupt the natural flow of the narrative, leading to confusion for the target audience.
2. The verse states that an angel struck Herod, and he was eaten by worms and died. Logically, the worms would have begun eating him after his death, not as the cause of it. This presentation is out of chronological order.

3. The recommended approach is to rearrange the phrases to reflect the logical sequence of actions. For example, pouring oil and wine on wounds would occur before bandaging them.
4. The text mentions the men becoming frightened before explaining that Jonah told them he was fleeing from God. This reverse order indicates a departure from chronological presentation.
5. The two main options are reordering the verses to follow chronological order and adding clarifying words or phrases to signal the sequence of events.
6. Harmonizing accounts is discouraged because it removes the unique perspective and style of each author. Each account contributes to a richer understanding of the event.
7. Reordering verses can disrupt the intended flow of information and literary impact. For example, the contrast between Jesus' command to the healed leper to say nothing and the leper's subsequent proclamation loses its power if the verses are rearranged.
8. "Hebraism" refers to expressions or grammatical structures characteristic of the Hebrew language. In the New Testament, unchronological events can sometimes be attributed to a Hebraic influence on the Greek text.
9. The translator is responsible for ensuring effective communication and removing barriers to understanding. This includes adjusting the presentation of unchronological events to align with the target language's norms and expectations.
10. A form-based translation that ignores unchronological events risks confusing readers and hindering their comprehension of the text. Faithfulness to the original intent requires clarity and understandability in the target language.

### **III. Essay Questions**

1. Analyze the challenges and potential solutions involved in translating unchronological events from the Bible into a language that requires strict chronological order.
2. Discuss the tension between maintaining the author's unique style and ensuring clarity for the target audience when dealing with unchronological events.

3. Evaluate the ethical considerations involved in reordering verses or adding clarifying words to address unchronological events. To what extent is such intervention justifiable?
4. Compare and contrast the two main options for handling unchronological events in translation, providing examples from the source material to support your analysis.
5. Explain how understanding the concept of "Hebraism" can aid translators in interpreting and conveying unchronological events in the New Testament.

#### IV. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronological order:** The arrangement of events according to the time they occurred.
- **Unchronological events:** Events presented out of their actual time sequence.
- **Source language:** The language from which a text is being translated.
- **Target language:** The language into which a text is being translated.
- **Harmonizing:** Aligning different accounts of the same event to create a single, consistent narrative.
- **Restructuring:** Rearranging elements of a text, such as phrases or verses, to achieve a desired effect.
- **Clarifying words/phrases:** Words or phrases added to a translation to improve clarity or comprehension.
- **Hebraism:** A linguistic feature or expression characteristic of the Hebrew language.
- **Form-based translation:** A translation that prioritizes preserving the formal features of the source text over readability or naturalness in the target language.
- **Effective communication:** Communication that successfully conveys the intended message to the audience.
- **Impactful communication:** Communication that evokes a strong emotional or intellectual response from the audience.

## 4. Briefing Document

### Briefing Doc: Order of Events in Bible Translation

**Source:** Excerpts from "Payton\_BT\_\_EN\_Session25.pdf" - Dr. George Payton, Bible Translation, Session 25, Order of Events

#### Main Themes:

- **Challenges of translating non-chronological events in the Bible:** Many languages require chronological order for clear communication, while the Bible sometimes presents events out of order.
- **Strategies for handling unchronological events in translation:** These include adding clarifying words, reordering verses, and identifying flashbacks for the reader.
- **Importance of effective communication in Bible translation:** The ultimate goal is to ensure the message is clear, impactful, and accessible to the target audience.

#### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Non-chronological narratives in English:** English allows for flexibility in presenting events, even using present tense for past occurrences. This is not always possible in other languages.

"We can't always do that in other languages. And as we said, the information in the last sentence, I was late all that week, is out of chronology to me telling you what this guy did, and he came up to me."

- **Examples of unchronological events in the Bible:** Acts 12:23: Death of Herod, where worms are mentioned before his actual death.
- Parable of the Good Samaritan: Binding wounds before pouring oil and wine.
- Revelation 5:2: Opening the scroll before breaking the seals.
- Jonah 1:9-10: Men's fear described before the reason for their fear is revealed.
- **Impact of cultural context on storytelling:** Hebrew storytelling often presents general statements followed by specific details, which can be confusing if translated directly into languages without this convention.

"They say the general first and then the specific after. We had that in previous discussions. Is that happening here? This might be a Hebrew overlay onto the Greek because the men who wrote the New Testament were all Hebrews, even though they were fluent in Greek enough to write it."

- **Reordering verses:** While sometimes necessary, this should be done cautiously, considering the impact on the flow of information and style.

"Remember, we need to keep the overall flow of information and style intact, even if we do reorder verses."

- **Devil's advocate questions:** The document raises questions about the ethicality of adding words and reordering verses, emphasizing the need for careful consideration and justification for such adjustments.

"Is it okay to add clarifying words to the text? Are we putting things into the text? Is it okay to reorder the verses?"

- **The translator's responsibility:** Translators have a responsibility to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps to ensure effective communication, even if it requires adjustments to the form of the text.

"And if they're confused, that means they don't understand. And if they don't understand, the question is, have we translated? Have we translated well?"

### **Case Study: Mark 6:16-19 (Herod and John the Baptist)**

This passage is presented as a complex example of unchronological storytelling. Dr. Payton meticulously breaks down the events, reorders them chronologically, and provides a suggested rendering that clarifies the sequence and removes potential confusion. This case study underscores the importance of careful analysis and strategic adjustments in achieving impactful communication in Bible translation.

### **Conclusion:**

Translating unchronological events poses significant challenges for Bible translators. This document highlights the importance of understanding the target language's narrative conventions, the original text's cultural context, and the translator's responsibility in ensuring clear and impactful communication. The strategies and examples presented provide valuable insights for translators navigating these complexities.

## 5. FAQs on Payton, Bible Translation, Session 25, Order of Events, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: Unchronological Events in the Bible

#### 1. What are unchronological events in the Bible?

Unchronological events refer to instances where the sequence of events in a biblical passage is not presented in the order they actually occurred. This can create confusion for readers, especially those unfamiliar with the literary styles of ancient Hebrew and Greek.

#### 2. Why do unchronological events occur in the Bible?

These occurrences stem from the differences between ancient Hebrew and Greek literary styles and modern storytelling conventions. Ancient writers sometimes prioritized thematic connections or stylistic flourishes over strict chronological order.

#### 3. Can you provide examples of unchronological events in the Bible?

- **Acts 12:23:** The verse states, "An angel of the Lord struck him, and he was eaten by worms and died." Logically, the worms would have begun eating him after his death, not as the cause of it.
- **The Parable of the Good Samaritan:** The Samaritan binds the wounds of the injured man, pouring oil and wine on them. This sequence would likely be reversed in reality: cleaning with wine and soothing with oil before bandaging.
- **Jonah 1:9-10:** The passage recounts Jonah's confession and the sailors' fear, but the order of the verses suggests that the sailors were afraid before Jonah told them about fleeing from God, when logically it should be the other way around.

#### 4. How do unchronological events affect understanding?

These instances can hinder comprehension, particularly for readers accustomed to linear storytelling. It can lead to misinterpretations of the events and their significance.

#### 5. What can be done to address the challenge of unchronological events in Bible translation?

- **Adding Clarifying Words:** Subtle additions can signal the correct sequence without altering the original meaning. For example, in Mark 1:43-44, adding "as he sent him away" clarifies that Jesus gave instructions to the healed leper while dismissing him.

- **Reordering Verses:** In some cases, rearranging the order of verses, usually no more than two or three, can improve clarity without disrupting the overall flow of the narrative. This requires careful analysis to ensure accurate reconstruction.

## 6. Are there potential concerns with adjusting the text for chronological clarity?

Some people might argue that any alteration, even for clarity, compromises the integrity of the original text. However, the goal of translation is to convey the intended meaning effectively, and adjustments for chronological flow can actually enhance understanding without changing the core message.

## 7. How do we ensure that adjustments for chronological order are appropriate?

- **Careful Analysis:** Translators must meticulously examine the passage to determine the actual sequence of events and identify potential points of confusion.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** It's crucial to consider how chronological order is perceived and understood in the target language and culture.
- **Community Feedback:** Consulting with native speakers from the target language community can provide valuable insights into whether the adjusted text is clear and natural.

## 8. What is the ultimate goal in handling unchronological events in Bible translation?

The ultimate goal is to facilitate effective and impactful communication of the biblical message. By carefully addressing unchronological events, translators can ensure that the text is accessible, understandable, and ultimately transformative for readers in every language and culture.