

## The Jubilee Bible

The Jubilee Bible is an English translation from a Spanish translation that was written by Casiodoro de Reina in 1569. Casiodoro did his translation from the Hebrew & Greek. Over 400 years later the first English translation from the Spanish came to us by Russell Stendall in the year 2000.

What makes this translation so unique? Casiodoro de Reina was born in 1520 and learned Hebrew, most likely from the Jews that had avoided the official expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. The Jews of his area at that time spoke Hebrew as a “living language”. Therefore the subtle meanings of the Hebrew words were understood by Casiodoro when he wrote the Spanish translation from the Hebrew. In contrast, from soon after his days until Israel became a nation in 1948, nearly every Hebrew scholar has had to study Hebrew as a “dead language”. Casiodoro was able to catch nuances of meanings that other translators missed.

For example, in **Exodus 5** where we have traditionally read that before leaving Egypt under Moses, the people were given the added burden of having to gather “straw” to use in their making of bricks. The Jubilee Bible translates this as “firewood”, which makes much more sense too! Indeed the Hebrew word used is Strong’s No. 8401, which means “material, refuse haum”. “Haum” in Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary means “shoot, stem, stalk, column”. So yes, “straw” is a valid and common translation of this Hebrew word, but it could also mean other things such as “brush” or smaller firewood that is not good for anything else. Firewood is also a valid translation of this word in that passage of Exodus. Casiodoro knew the shade of meaning that was intended.

We turn to the Jubilee Bible as one of several that we use to gain insight into a passage that we are led to seek further light on. In general it reads similar to the King James Version, but I’ve found several confirmations in the Jubilee Bible that unlocked hidden mysteries and revealed patterns rarely found elsewhere.

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