

The Targums

Targums are Jewish Aramaic translations of the Hebrew Bible, often including paraphrases, interpretations, and expansions to clarify the meaning for Aramaic-speaking Jewish audiences, and some have acquired authoritative status within Judaism. The targums have existed since the times of the Messiah and most of the disciples including rabbi Paul knew and used this as an interpretive tool for understanding the Hebrew scriptures. Just as John the apostle did when we read the targum interpretation for describing Jesus being the MEMRA -or Word of God. John's ideas came from the Aramaic targum not from Greek philosophy. John was a Jewish follower of the Messiah not a Greek. And his concepts about the Messiah are completely Hebraic not Greek.

Here's a more detailed explanation on the Targums:

- **What they are:** Targums are Aramaic translations of the Hebrew Bible, encompassing both literal renderings of the text and additional material like paraphrases, interpretations, and expansions.
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- **Purpose:** They were created to help Aramaic-speaking Jews understand the Hebrew Bible, which was no longer their primary spoken language.
- **Origin:** The practice of translating the Hebrew Bible into Aramaic emerged in the synagogue, as the Jewish people transitioned to Aramaic as their primary language.
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- **Examples:** Some notable targums include Targum Onkelos (on the Torah), Targum Jonathan (on the Prophets), Targum Pseudo-Jonathan, and Targum Neofiti.
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- **Significance:** Targums are valuable for:
 - Understanding the diverse ways ancient Jews interpreted their Scriptures.
 - Providing insights into the debates that Jesus had with the Pharisees and scribes.
 - Serving as a source of information about the Jewish faith.
 - Being used in Jewish religious services and study.
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- **How they differ from other translations:** Unlike some other translations, like the Septuagint, the targums often included explanatory paraphrases and interpretations, rather than focusing solely on word-for-word translation.
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- **Use in Judaism:** Some targums, particularly Onkelos on the Torah and Jonathan on the Prophets, are still used extensively in Orthodox Judaism today.
- [Google sources]