

The Message

The Message is a contemporary translation of the Bible; a translation by Eugene Peterson. I have it both in paper and in an electronic form; and use it in the stories collectively called *Time & Season*, the book of Ecclesiastes.

What is different about this translation? Well, possibly not much; but by immediate impressions, it reads differently: instead of having verse by verse, it is continuous – like the prose of a novel or similar. This de-classification or categorization by verse may be a little disconcerting or difficult for the Bible scholar, but has the advantage or benefit of reading in a continuum – rather than sectional or verse.

From the introduction of the electronic form, the following description and desire is provided by Mr. Peterson:

The Message is a reading Bible. It is not intended to replace the excellent study Bibles that are available. My intent here (as it was earlier in my congregation and community) is **simply to get people reading** it who don't know that the Bible is read-able at all, at least by them, and to get people who long ago lost interest in the Bible to read it again. I leave out verse numbers to encourage unimpeded reading (no Bibles had verse numbers for the first 1,500 years). But I haven't tried to make it easy—there **is much in the Bible that is hard to understand**. So at some point along the way, soon or late, it will be important to get a standard study Bible to facilitate further study. Meanwhile, read in order to live, **praying as you read**, “God, let it be with me just as you say.”

Much more could be said about this translation – and the translator and working pastor, Eugene Peterson. For right now, I close by saying thank-you for *The Message*; first to God who formed the Word; and then to the translator and other staff who translated it to *The Message*.