

I saw from discussing it with him that he was impervious to logic and argument, so there was no point in going into any such matter. He said to me, Why I remember when my mother died, my grandmother cried out, Eloi, Eloi lama sabathani, "my God, My God for this thou hast kept me." Now I think, My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me would fit the context much better. But he as a little boy heard his grandmother say this, and did not understand it but it stuck in his head, and now he wrote this article. It was given a big slurr in American newspapers and now he's made this alleged translation of the Bible from the original Aramaic.

There are certain passages that are originally written in Aramaic -- the passages I've mentioned to you. But the rest of the Bible was written == the OT in Heb., the NT in Greek. There are those today who try to say the NT was originally written in Aramaic. Prof. C.C. Torrey of Yale wrote a book on it. To prove that the Gospels were written originally in Aramaic and translated from that into Greek. Most scholars agree that the alleged evidences are not sufficient. It may be that Mat. wrote his Gospel in Aramaic first. But if so, I think we are quite justified in being quite sure he also wrote an edition of it in Greek which is our Gospel. We have a statement in one of the early fathers somewhat to this (effect.) He used the word Heb. but he means Aramaic.

Question: Was Aramaic a spoken lang. as it was used in the time of Christ.

Answer: At the time of Christ one of the dialects of Aramaic was the language of Palestine. Greek was the official lang., but Aramaic was the common lang. of the people. When people found a parable which Jesus gave in two of the Gospels, and they say, Look here at these little differences! One of these is taken from the other, or there is a contradiction. I think they forget that Jesus undoubtedly at some time talked in Aramaic and sometimes in Greek.

And One Gospel may give us a very brief words Jesus used in telling us the parable Jesus used at one time, and the other Gospel may give us a good translation of the Greek of the way He told it in Aramaic on another occasion. Little changes can be easily accounted for in that way, very often between the Gospels if we remember that fact that Aramaic was the common lang. of the people, but most of the people also knew some Greek, and the educated people all ~~spoke~~ spoke (Greek) in Palestine in His day.

Aramaic largely died out at the end of the first few centuries of the Christian era, but it has been preserved in a few small groups in the Near East right up to the present time. How far back it was spoken, we don't know. But we have some material in it from fairly early times.

A very interesting thing happened in Babylon. Undoubtedly at Babylon as a result of the activities of Aramaic traders, the Aramaic lang. replaced the Babylonian language before the time of Nebuchadnezzar. So while in Neb's day, the official lang. was Akkadian (or Babylonian if you want to call it ~~xxx~~ that) the people doubtless, including the king and his family, spoke Aramaic.