

We can depend on the Bible. It is true. But we should read it carefully and not jump to conclusions by taking things out of context. A very interesting case of this is where you get over in to the books of Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah. There are four cases, I won't call your attention to a particular case now -- where it speaks about a certain sum of money and it says (telling about this period -- the Persian period ) that they gave so many darcumim of gold. You look at the word darcumim and you think, What does that mean? If you knew something about ancient history darcumim would suggest to you dracma, and the dracma was the Athenian measure. But in Athens the Athenian greatness came quite a while after this Persian period, and it's way across the Mediterranean from Palestine. You would not want to translate it dracma, would you?

I'm sure the KJV translators faced the question and they said, That seems unlikely. They would have less excuse today because we have now found in inscriptions by Phoenician sailors in the Port of Athens which have this very spelling, darcumim, for the Athenian dracma. So we know that's the way Semitic speaking people would express the Athenian dracma. But you turn to your KJV in these 4 places, and you will find that it say so many drams of gold. Our word dram is derived from dracma, but I think it's generally used as a liquid measure, isn't it? At least we don't use it as a measure of gold today, I don't believe or as a measure of weight, of that type. It says so many drams. Why didn't they say drachma. The Heb. word is drachma, but leave out the k and you get drams. But when the RV was made in 1901 they did not think they wanted to keep the reading of KJV because they knew that by that time in the Persian empire they had a measure, a coin called the derek after King Darius. So in the RV it says so many dereks of gold. That's all right, but just as dram left out the k, derek leaves out the m. So one's just as bad as the