

25 BIAS IN TRANSLATION: MELLO = about to be, impending, imminent

INTRODUCTION: The ESV* is representative of most widely used English translations of the Bible, which weakens/ omits the Greek word mello, (meaning “about to”) in translating certain eschatological phrases. This has the effect of enabling a non-specific futurist conception of “end times” and changes the Biblical intent of imminence. Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) and Concordant Literal New Testament (CLNT)** are word for word translations and give a fuller understanding of the text, namely, that certain phrases were pointing to events that were about to happen in the first century I.e. a full preterist eschatology. The following is not a complete list.

1. Matt. 16:27, 28. The Second Coming and Judgment were Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. **28** Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

YLT: For, the Son of Man is about to come in the glory of his Father, with his messengers, and then he will reward each, according to his work. **28** Verily I say to you, there are certain of those standing here who shall not taste of death till they may see the Son of Man coming in his reign.’

CLNT: For the Son of Mankind is about to be coming in the glory of His Father, with His messengers, and then He will be paying each in accord with his practice. Verily I am saying to you that there are some of those standing here who under no circumstances should be tasting death till they should be perceiving the Son of Mankind coming in His kingdom.

2. Luke 21:36. End Times Events were Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

YLT: Watch ye, then, in every season, praying that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are about to come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

CLNT: Now be vigilant on every occasion beseeching that you may be prevailing to escape all these things which are about to occur and to stand in front of the Son of Mankind.

3. Acts 17:31 The Judgment was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

YLT: He did set a day in which He is about to judge the world in righteousness, by a man whom He did ordain, having given assurance to all, having raised him out of the dead.’

CLNT: He is about to be judging the inhabited earth in righteousness by the Man Whom He specifies, tendering faith to all, raising him from among the dead—

4. Acts 24: 15 The Resurrection was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: having a hope in God... that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.

YLT: having hope toward God... [that] there is about to be a rising again of the dead, both of righteous and unrighteous.

CLNT: Having an expectation in God ... that there shall be a resurrection which is impending for both the just and the unjust.

5. Acts 24:25 The Judgment was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: ... he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment...

YLT: ... he reasoning concerning righteousness, and temperance, and the judgment that is about to be...

CLNT: ...he is arguing concerning righteousness and self-control, and the impending judgment...

6. Romans 8:18-19 Glory (Resurrection) was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

YLT: For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory about to be revealed in us, **19** for the earnest looking out of the creation doth expect the revelation of the sons of God;

CLNT: For I am reckoning that the sufferings of the current era do not deserve the glory about to be revealed for us. For the premonition of the creation is swaying the unveiling of the sons of God.

7. II Tim. 4:1-2a The Judgment was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word;

YLT: I do fully testify, then, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who is about to judge living and dead at his manifestation and his reign; preach the word;

CLNT: I am conjuring you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, who is about to be judging the living and the dead, in accord with His advent and His kingdom: Herald the word.

8. Heb. 1:13-14. Salvation, that is Resurrection/Reconciliation was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? **14** Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

YLT: And unto which of the messengers said He ever, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I may make thine enemies thy footstool?’ **14** are they not all spirits of service — for ministrations being sent forth because of those about to inherit salvation?

CLNT: Now to which of the messengers has He declared at any time, “Sit at My right, till I should be placing Thine enemies for a footstool for Thy feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits commissioned for service because of those who are about to be enjoying the allotment of salvation?

9. Heb 10:26-27 The Judgment and wrath, was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

YLT: For we -- willfully sinning after the receiving the full knowledge of the truth -- no more for sins doth there remain a sacrifice, **27** but a certain fearful looking for of judgment, and fiery zeal, about to devour the opposers:

CLNT: For at our sinning voluntarily after obtaining the recognition of the truth, it is not longer leaving a sacrifice concerned with sins, but a certain fearful waiting for judging and fiery jealousy, about to be eating the hostile.

10. I Peter 5:1. Glory (Resurrection) was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

YLT: Elders who [are] among you, I exhort, who [am] a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of the Christ, and of the glory about to be revealed a partaker.

CLNT: The elders, then, among you I am entreating who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a participant of the glory about to be revealed.

11. Rev. 1:19 Complete Fulfillment of Revelation was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

YLT: ‘Write the things that thou hast seen, and the things that are, and the things that are about to come after these things;

CLNT: Write then, what you perceived, and what they are, and what is about to be occurring after these things

12. Rev. 3:10-11a. Second Coming, the Rescue from the Great Tribulation were imminent in the First Century.

ESV: Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon.

YLT: Because thou didst keep the word of my endurance, I also will keep thee from the hour of the trial that is about to come upon all the world, to try those dwelling upon the earth. **11**Lo, I come quickly,

CLNT: Seeing that you keep the word of My endurance, I, also, will be keeping you out of the hour of trial which is about to be coming on the whole inhabited earth to try those dwelling on the earth. I am coming swiftly.

13. Rev. 12:5. Rule of Christ was Imminent in the First Century.

ESV: She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.

YLT: and she brought forth a male child, who is about to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, and caught away was her child unto God and His throne.

CLNT: And she brought forth a son, a male, who is about to be shepherding all the nations with an iron club.

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