

HaMoshiach. Both of these, Yehuda and Ya'akov, were half-brothers of Moshiach and, like Moshiach, could indeed claim King Dovid as their direct ancestor. In referring to “the faith which was once for all handed over and transmitted to the Kadoshim,” Yehuda is speaking of the body of objective truth which has been handed down as *Massorah* (universally binding, authorized Jewish teaching of the Zekenim of Israel, that is, Messianic *Massorah HaZekenim*, Authoritative Jewish Teaching of the Elders of Israel, to be passed down from generation to generation). As such, this requires Messianic *Shomrim* to guard the orthodox Jewish faith (*orthos* = right, *doxa* = belief) and contend for it and accurately transmit it through the generations inviolate. It is for the purpose of equipping such *Shomrim* that the **OJB** version was translated, a work which really began only four years after the Six Day War, when a revived Jewish interest in the Messiah began world-wide, because, prophetically, Jerusalem was no longer trodden down by Gentiles (Lk 21:24) and the Fig Tree, replanted in 1948, was beginning to blossom (Lk 21:29-31). Over two decades before, preparations had begun for the publication of the *New English Bible*, the first major new translation of the Bible into English since Tyndale. As Benson Bobrick has said, “Next to the Bible itself, the English Bible was (and is) the most influential book ever published” (*Wide As the Waters*, Penquin Books, p.11). Commenting on the uniqueness of the **OJB**, the Jewish, yeshiva-trained, Israeli scholar and author, Yosef Shulam wrote favorably, “It is like nothing I have seen before...” We lift up his favorable assessment to G-d and say to Hashem be the glory, and may the Hebrew shine forth in this English version to every believer on earth!

On a more personal note, let me say that this translation reflects the Holy Bible as a well-worn treasure map that I have been studying nearly all my adult life. Without this infallible map, we sit in darkness, without hope and without G-d in the world (Mt 4:16; Ep 2:12). What is the treasure that the Bible maps us toward? Joseph had treasure put in the sacks of his brothers (Gn 43:23), treasure that did not bring them joy because they didn't know their Savior (Gn 43:18). There is a veil over the eyes when the unregenerate person gazes at Scripture (2C 3:14-16), an idol stands at the door of his “inner gate” (Ezek 8:3), and, as long as the “scales” of unregenerate uncircumcision (Ac 9:18) have not been removed, the Scriptures are unfathomed (1C 2:14), and there is no turning to the L-rd, no craving for the pure milk of the Word (1K 2:2), not even a taste for it (Jer 6:10).

Some believers stop looking for treasure in their Bibles after a while. They don't stick to the map, don't rely on the Word to chart their course, and after a while they get detoured into a maze of self-help books, psychology, intellectual speculation, philosophy, materialism, educational title-mongering, mass media punditry, or motions of empty religiosity. In His mercy, from the Read-More Bookstore in Hollywood, California, unto this present hour, G-d has been trying to keep me from blundering into any of those sad “rich young Ruler (Mt 19:22)” dead-end streets. Instead, He beckoned me to pursue after the true silver and gold (Prov.3:13-14), for the joy of which a man will go and sell all that he has to purchase that treasure (Mt 13:44; Lk 14:25-30, 33; Pp 3:8). So many times in a bookstore the Bible would cost all I had, and buying it would mean going without food for a time. But G-d was testing me: did I want Him and His Word more than anything in life? Was I willing to turn my back on the treasures of Egypt (MJ 11:26)? Sometimes I let Him down. Other times, trouble, not just poverty, would come in open-air preaching (Jon 3:4), because of the Word (Mt 13:21). Would I encourage myself in the treasure chest of Scripture (1Sm 30:6)? Will you? Dt 28:12 promises that the L-rd will “open up unto thee His good treasure.” I know that is true for all who love the truth (2Th 2:10-11; I Yn 4:6)! Mere religion can be unmasked (see Lk 22:52-23:38); beyond mere religion, as one who has examined it, I can assure you the Bible is true to the core.

Robert Lewis Stevenson started with an imaginary map and developed a novel called *Treasure Island*. However, there is a treasure map that is not imaginary, and that map I happened upon as a young professional film actor browsing in Read-More Bookstore on Hollywood Blvd in 1970. That bookstore no longer exists, buried in the sands of time. But the treasure map is still today in my