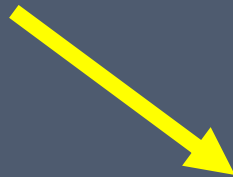# HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 10 – THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH (TO THE KING JAMES VERSION)

Dan Leiphart

FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION

CANONIZATION

TRANSMISSION

TRANSLATION

Translation of the Bible

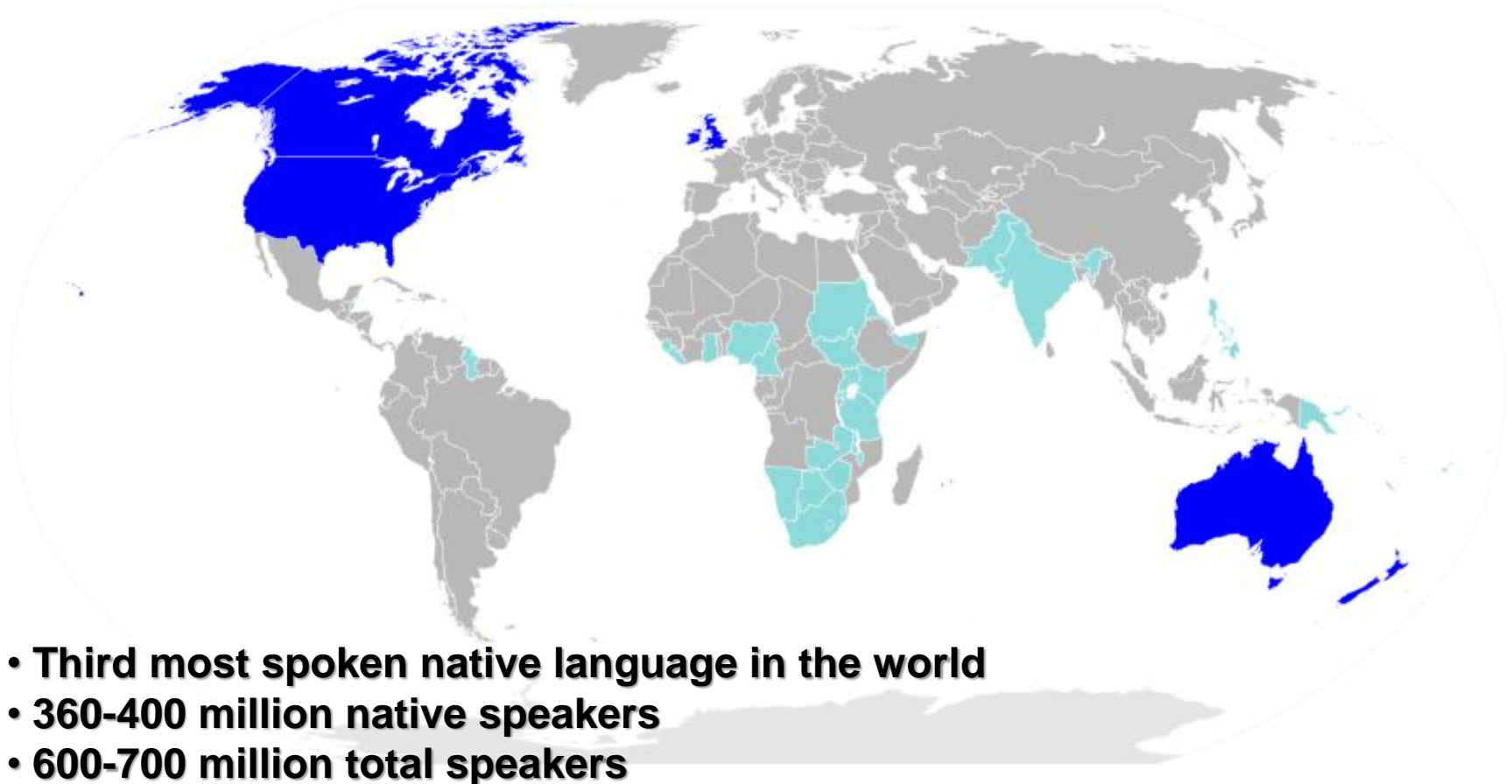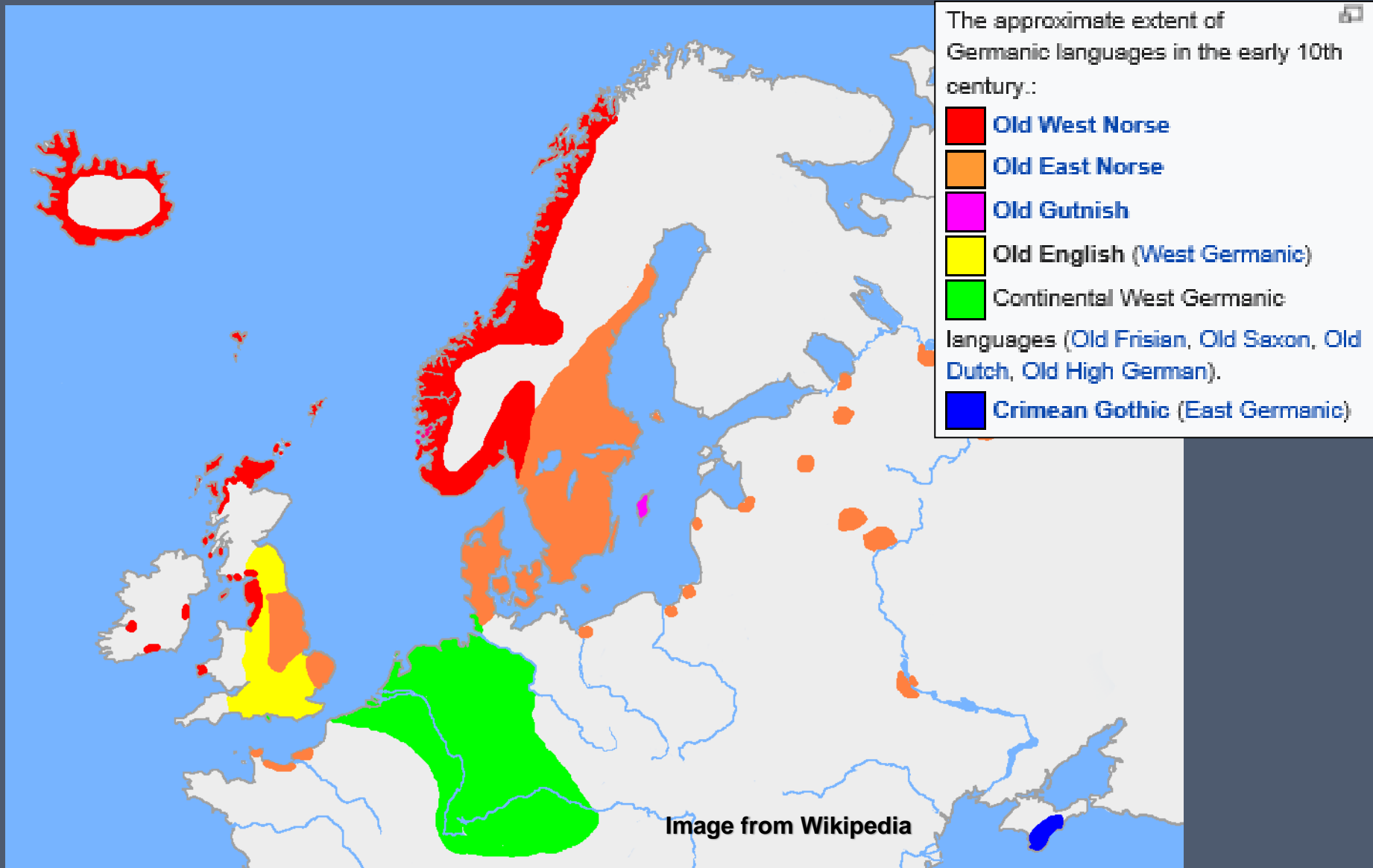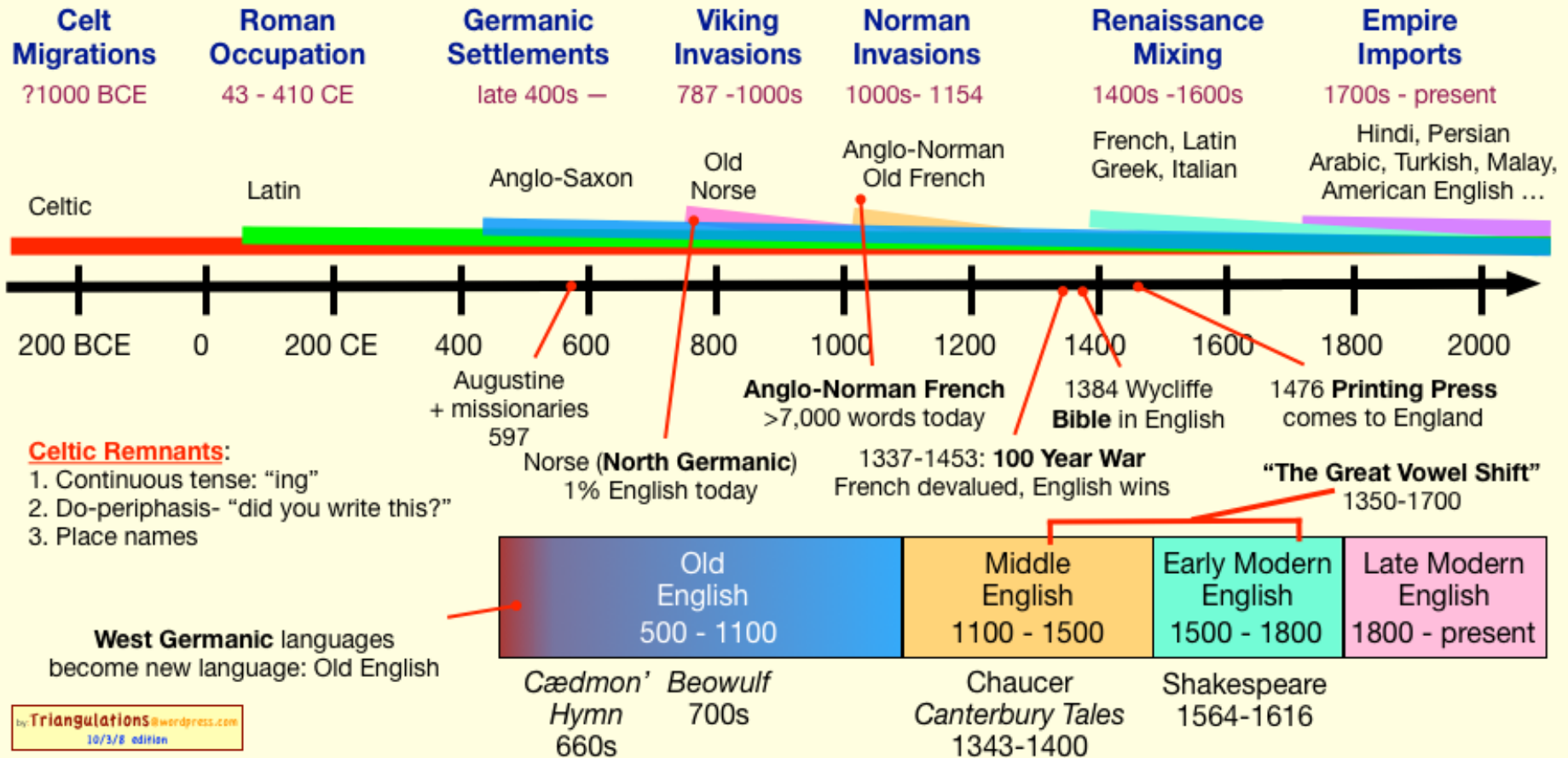# The Bible in English

Modern English Language Distribution

- **Third most spoken native language in the world**
- **360-400 million native speakers**
- **600-700 million total speakers**

Image from Wikipedia

Extent of Germanic Languages (~1000 AD)

The approximate extent of Germanic languages in the early 10th century.:

- **Old West Norse** (red)
- **Old East Norse** (orange)
- **Old Gutnish** (magenta)
- **Old English** (West Germanic) (yellow)
- Continental West Germanic languages (Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Old Dutch, Old High German) (green)
- **Crimean Gothic** (East Germanic) (blue)

Image from Wikipedia

English Language Timeline

The History of the English Language

Celt Migrations	Roman Occupation	Germanic Settlements	Viking Invasions	Norman Invasions	Renaissance Mixing	Empire Imports
?1000 BCE	43 - 410 CE	late 400s —	787 -1000s	1000s- 1154	1400s -1600s	1700s - present

French, Latin Greek, Italian

Hindi, Persian Arabic, Turkish, Malay, American English …

Anglo-Norman Old French

Old Norse

Anglo-Saxon

Latin

Celtic

| 200 BCE | 0 | 200 CE | 400 | 600 | 800 | 1000 | 1200 | 1400 | 1600 | 1800 | 2000 |

Augustine + missionaries 597

Celtic Remnants:
1. Continuous tense: "ing"
2. Do-periphasis- "did you write this?"
3. Place names

Norse (**North Germanic**) 1% English today

Anglo-Norman French >7,000 words today

1337-1453: **100 Year War** French devalued, English wins

1384 Wycliffe **Bible** in English

1476 **Printing Press** comes to England

"The Great Vowel Shift" 1350-1700

Old English 500 - 1100	Middle English 1100 - 1500	Early Modern English 1500 - 1800	Late Modern English 1800 - present

West Germanic languages become new language: Old English

Cædmon' Hymn 660s

Beowulf 700s

Chaucer *Canterbury Tales* 1343-1400

Shakespeare 1564-1616

Christianity in Roman Britain

"all the limits of the Spains, and the diverse nations of the Gauls, and the haunts of the Britons—inaccessible to the Romans, but subjugated to Christ"

- Tertullian, *De Adversus Judaeos, VII* [~200 AD]

- Julius Caesar first invaded Britain in 54 BC
- Claudius invaded and began occupying Britain in 43 AD
- First introduction of Christianity is uncertain

Province of Britannia within the Roman Empire
Image from Wikipedia

End of Roman Rule in Britain

End of Roman Rule in Britain 383 - 410

Based on Jones & Mattingly's *Atlas of Roman Britain*, Mattingly's *Imperial Possession*, Higham's *Rome, Britain, and the Anglo-Saxons*, Snyder's *Age of Tyrants*, and Frere's *Britannia*.

0 — km — 100
0 — mi — 50

Departure Dates

383 - final departure, the west & north
401 - final departure, Hadrian's Wall
407 - final departure, the southeast
409 - expulsion of Roman magistrates from cities
410 - *Rescript of Honorius*

- By the beginning of the 5th century, the Roman Empire could no longer defend itself against either internal rebellion or the external threat posed by the expanding Germanic tribes in Northern Europe
- This led to the departure of Roman troops and permanent detachment of Britain from the Empire

Image from Wikipedia

Anglo-Saxon Migration

English language begins with the West Germanic tribes of the Jutes, Angles and Saxons migrating into the present-day UK

This begins the Old English period (~450-1066 AD)

Anglo-Saxon Migration

☐ 550 ☐ 600 ■ 700

A history of the English Language:
1. Anglo-Saxon / Old English

- Three Germanic tribes from northwestern Europe pushed the Celts north and west, and established an Anglican kingdom around AD 410-500.

- Old English= the dialects spoken by these Germanic tribes in Great Britain at the time.

- AD 597: Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.

Old English Dialects

Image from https://giselamusgrove.com/category/old-english/

Old English dialects

The language spoken by the Anglo-Saxons at the time of their migration to Britain was probably more or less uniform. Over time, however, Old English developed into four major dialects:

1. **Northumbrian**, spoken north of the river Humber

2. **Mercian**, spoken in the midlands

3. **Kentish**, spoken in Kent (in the far southeastern part of the island);

4. West Saxon, spoken in the southwest.

Invasions of England

5th–11th centuries

Fig. 5-2: The groups that brought what became English to England included Jutes, Angles, Saxons, and Vikings. The Normans later brought French vocabulary to English.
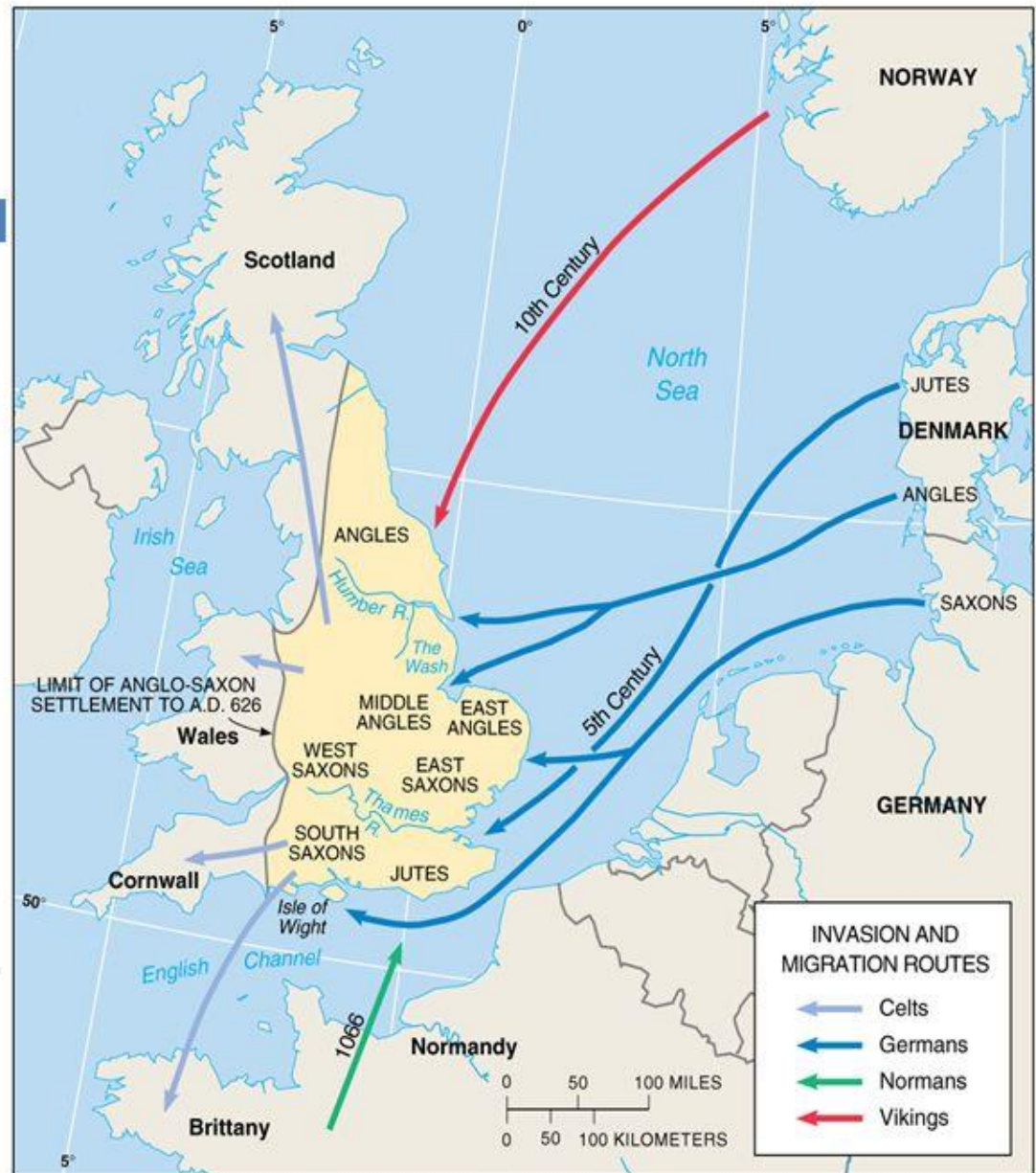
2. The Viking Age (AD 793-1066)

- AD 793: The monastery at Lindisfarne raided and plundered by Vikings.
- Vikings from Denmark and Norway raided and settled down in various areas of Europe, including the British Isles, in the 700s, 800s and 900s.
- Most of the Vikings lived peacefully with the Englishmen (the Anglo-Saxons).

Territories and voyages of the Vikings

2. The Viking Age (continued)

- They introduced, among other things, new technology and architecture.

- Old English changed by taking in new words and place names from Old Norse (e.g. *they/them, bag, husband, Grimsby, York).*

Caedmon's Call *(657-684)*

**Image from
http://www.bookofdaystales.com/caedmon/**

- Early English poet
- Watched over the animals at Whitby Abbey
- Self conscious of his singing voice, would avoid when his turn
- One night in a dream, he was told to compose "the beginning of created things."
- His poems and songs are the first paraphrases of Scripture in the English language (Northumbrian dialect)
- Later became a zealous monk and Christian poet

"By his verse the minds of many were often excited to despise the world, and to aspire to heaven." - Bede

Venerable Bede (672-735)

Cropped portrait from *The Venerable [St.] Bede Translates [St.] John* by J. Doyle Penrose (c. 1902)

- English monk in Northumbria of the Angles
- Known as "the Father of English History", one of the greatest scholars of his time
- Wrote the famous "*Ecclesiastical History of the English People*."
- Skilled translator of early church fathers works from Greek and Latin
- Translated the Gospel of John from Latin into Anglo-Saxon (Old English) during the last 40 days of his life

Image from Wikipedia

Old English Dialects *(~450-1066)*
The Lord's Prayer Comparison

- Aldred's gloss of the gospels in Northumbrian dialect (~970)
    - *Suae ðonne iuih gie bidde fader urer ðu arð ðu bist in heofnum & in heofnas; sie gehalgad noma ðin; to-cymeð ric ðin. sie willo ðin suae is in heofne & in eorðo. hlaf userne oferwistlic sel us to dæg. & forgef us scylda usra suae uoe forgefon scyldgum usum. & ne inlæd usih in costunge ah gefrig usich from yfle*

- Wessex Gospels in West Saxon dialect (~990)
    - *Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum, si þin nama gehalgod. To becume þin rice, gewurþe ðin willa, on eorðan swa swa on heofonum. Urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg, and forgyf us ure gyltas, swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum. And ne gelæd þu us on costnunge, ac alys us of yfele. Soþlice.*

Old English Bible Translations *(~450-1066)*

- Caedmon (~657-684) – created poems and songs about Creation and the Exodus that were memorized and disseminated throughout the land
- Aldhelm (640-749) – translated the Psalter into Old English around 700
- Egbert – Translated the gospels into English for the first time ~705 ???
- Venerable Bede (672-735) – Translated the Gospel of John into Old English ~ 735
- Alfred the Great (849-901) – Translated the Ten Commandments, extracts from Exodus 21-23 & Acts 15:23-29, and the negative Golden Rule into Old English. Great scholar and King of England from 870 to 901
- Wessex Gospels (~990) – full and freestanding Old English translation of the four gospels
- Aelfric – translated portions of the first seven books of the OT into English ~1000
- ALL OLD ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS WERE MADE FROM THE LATIN VULGATE (not the original biblical languages)

3. The Norman Period (1066-1250)

- French became the language of ordinary intercourse / conversation among the ruling class and upper classes in England.

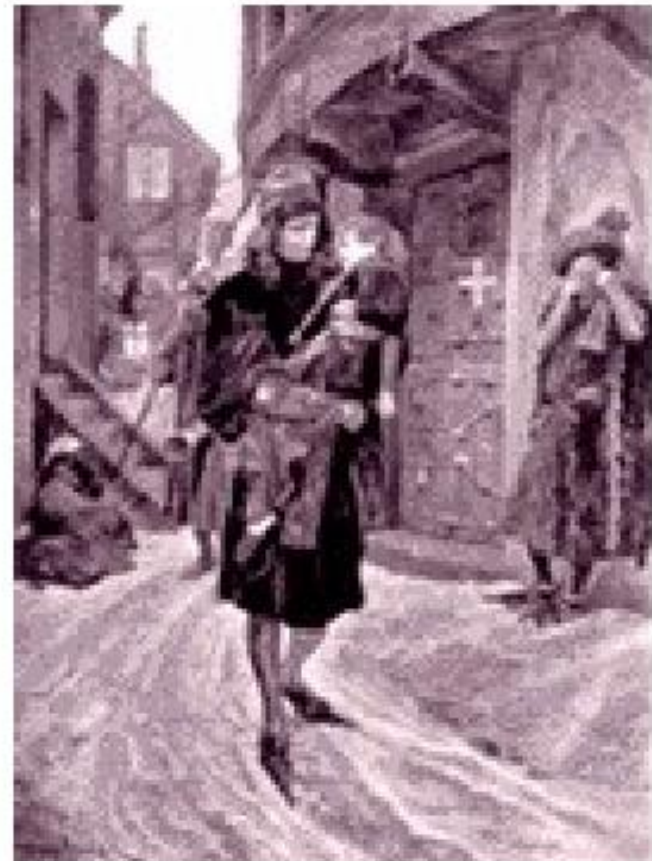- English remained the language of the masses.

3. The Norman Period (continued)

- An enormous number of French words introduced in the English language, along with a great number of buildings, like this cathedral.

- Most of these French loan words have to do with either politics, law, art, dress or food.
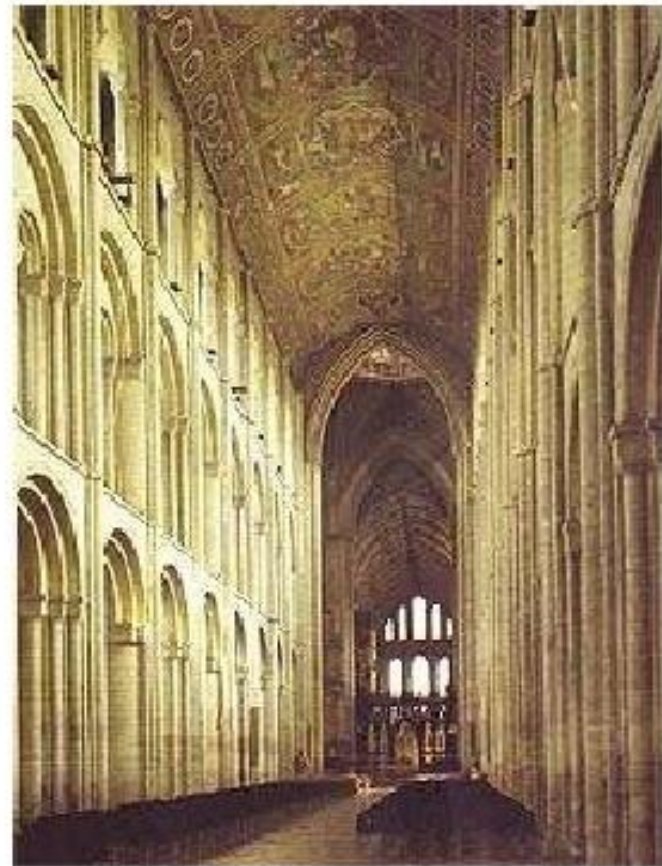
4. Reestablishment of English in Great Britain (1200 -1500)

- In Britain French loses gradually its position as official language and English makes steady progress .
- By 1450 English becomes the dominant language both in writing and when talking/speaking.
- French remains the «cultivated language».

Middle English Dialects

Legend:
- Language boundary (solid red)
- Indefinite language boundary (dashed red)
- Dialect boundary (solid black)

Regions shown: SCOTS GAELIC (Celtic), LOWLAND SCOTS, NORTHERN, WEST MIDLAND, EAST MIDLAND, WELSH (Celtic), SOUTH WESTERN, SOUTH EASTERN, CORNISH (Celtic)

Seas: North Sea, Irish Sea

Scale: 0 25 50 75 mi / 0 50 100 km

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Image from
http://englishchangesovertime.weebly.com/middle-english.html

John Wycliffe *(~1320-1384)*

IHON WICKLYF

Image from Wikipedia

- English philosopher, theologian, Bible translator, reformer and professor at Oxford.
- Called "The Morning Star of the Reformation"
- Outspokenly against leaders in the Church whom he considered incompetent and out for gain
- Considered the Pope basically the same as the Antichrist, saw no scriptural support for papacy, held the Bible as the sole authority
- Translated the entire NT into English from the Latin Vulgate for the first time in 1380
- He and his successors translated the entire OT into English for the first time in 1384

Wycliffe Bible *(1380-1384, rev 1388)*
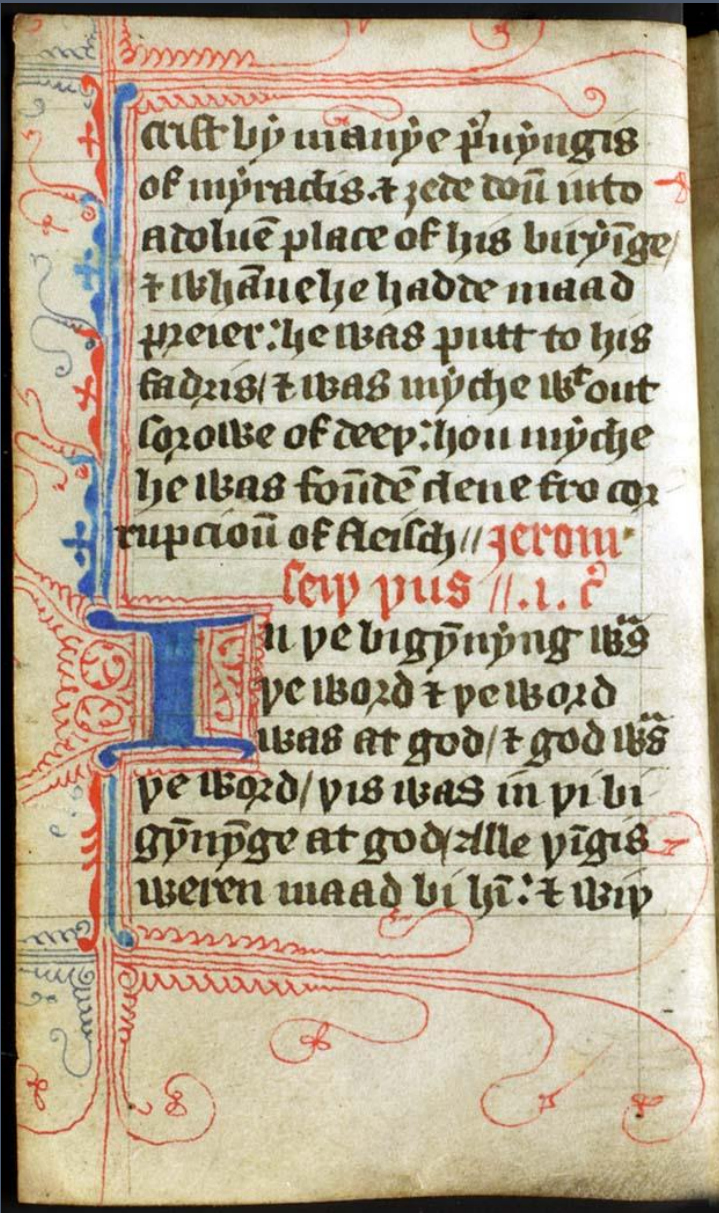
- First complete English Bible in history
- Written and copied before the printing press in 1445! Most people could not read nor afford a Bible. They just heard it preached
- Wycliffe believed the people should have the Scriptures in their own common language to read and study. It was not just for the clergy.
- Translated the NT in 1380. He and his successors (John Purvey, et al) translated the OT by 1384. Purvey made a second edition of the NT in 1388.
- Translated from the Latin Vulgate, not original languages of Greek and Hebrew
- Condemned by Council of Constance in 1415 and many copies were burned… but
- More than 250 manuscripts survive today (~20 complete), one sold in December, 2016 for ~$1.7MM

Beginning of John from the Wycliffe Bible   Image from Wikipedia

Wycliffe's Bones *(~1320-1384)*

Burning Wycliffe's bones from
Foxe's Book of Martyrs (1563)
Image from Wikipedia

- Wycliffe died in 1384
- Council of Constance declared Wycliffe a heretic in 1415
- In 1428 Pope Martin V ordered his bones to be dug up and burned. His ashes were spread into the River Swift, which flows through Lutterworth, England
- Thomas Fuller, a 17th century English church historian stated…

"They burnt his bones to ashes and cast them into the Swift, a neighboring brook running hard by. Thus the brook hath conveyed his ashes into Avon; Avon into Severn; Severn into the narrow seas; and they into the main ocean. And thus the ashes of Wycliffe are the emblem of his doctrine which now is dispersed the world over."

Wycliffe Bible Translators *(est. 1942)*

- Just as Wycliffe's ashes have travelled worldwide, so has his commitment to translating God's Word into the vernacular of common ordinary people been taken up by the organization which bears his name
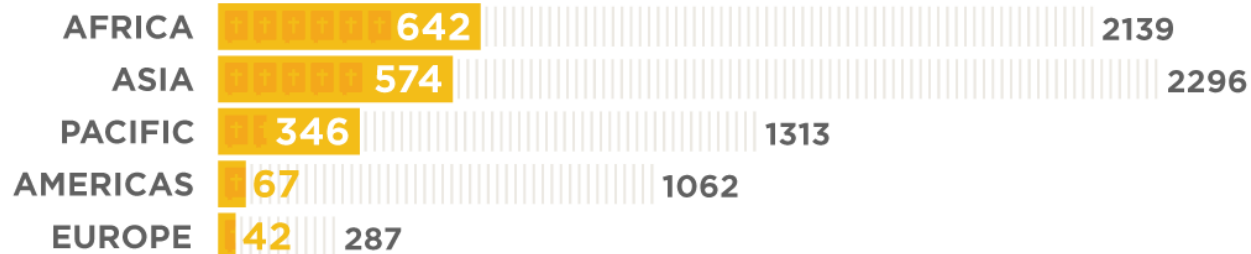

90% OF FAMILIES IN THE U.S. OWN AT LEAST ONE COPY OF THE BIBLE. THE AVERAGE IS 3.

7,000 LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN BY 7 BILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

160 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STILL WAITING FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION TO BEGIN IN THEIR LANGUAGE.

	# waiting	# living languages
AFRICA	642	2139
ASIA	574	2296
PACIFIC	346	1313
AMERICAS	67	1062
EUROPE	42	287

■ # of languages waiting for Bible translation ||| # of living languages

Middle English Bible Translations *(~1066-1500)*

- English literature was uncommon during this time because after the Norman invasion of 1066, French was the language of the elite and Latin was still the language of the Church
- <u>Orm</u> (~1150) – created a poetic paraphrase of the gospels and Acts in the East Midland dialect, shows some Norman influence
- <u>William of Shoreham</u> (1320) – produced a prose version of the Psalter in the Mercian dialect
- <u>Richard Rolle</u> (~1320-1340) – made a literal translation of the Psalter in the North English dialect
- <u>John Wycliffe</u> (1380-1382) – translated the entire Bible from Latin Vulgate into English for the first time
- ALL MIDDLE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS WERE MADE FROM THE LATIN VULGATE (not the original biblical languages)

5. The Renaissance (1500-1650)

- England becomes a military superpower.
- English language and culture is spreading and becoming more important outside Britain as well.
- The colonisation of Ireland (and North America).

5. The Renaissance (continued)

- The printing press invented.
- Spread of popular education.
- Improved means of communication.
→ The vocabulary grew, wheras the grammar stayed more or less the same: Modern English.

William Tyndale *(1494-1536)*

Image from Wikipedia

- English scholar and leading figure in the Reformation
- Studied theology at Oxford
- Fluent in Latin, Greek & Hebrew
- Known for translating the Bible into English from the Greek & Hebrew for the first time (he translated the entire NT, Pentateuch & Jonah, completed by successors)
- Betrayed to church authorities in 1536 and turned over to civil authorities to be strangled and burned to death
- Final words as he burned at the stake…

"Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"

And God did, even as he spoke!

William Tyndale & the Plow Boy

John Foxe records a conversation between William Tyndale and a learned clergyman…

The clergyman asserted to Tyndale, "We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's."

Tyndale responded: "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!"

The Gospell off Sancte Jhon.

The fyrst Chapter.

Beginning of John from the Tyndale Bible (1526)

Image from Wikipedia

Tyndale Bible *(1526-NT)*

- The first English translation from the Greek and Hebrew texts – used Erasmus' 3rd edition for NT (1522)
- The first English translation to use the printing press
- Condemned and banned in England by Church officials
- About 3,000 copies made, only 4 copies survive today because of its fierce opposition
- Influenced the King James Version (1611) [perhaps up to 83% of NT] – God answered Tyndale's final prayer!

Tyndale's Objectionable Words - Congregation

The Catholic Church did not like Tyndale's use of "congregation" for the Greek word '*ekklesia*' (Latin *'ecclesiam')*, which is actually a more accurate word. The Church saw this as an attack on the structure of the Church by making lay people equal to the clergy

Matthew 16:18

Wycliffe – 1384	Tyndale – 1536	D-R – 1610	KJV - 1611
[18] And Y seie to thee, that thou art Petre, and on this stoon Y schal bilde my **chirche**, and the ȝatis of helle schulen not haue miȝt aȝens it.	And I saye also unto the that thou art Peter/& upon this rocke I will bylde my **congregacion**. And the gates of hell shall not prevayle agaynst it.	18 And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my **church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.	[18] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

All English Bibles between Tyndale and the Catholic Douay-Rheims translate as "congregation." King James gave the instruction to revert back to the word "church."

Tyndale's Objectionable Words - Elder

The Catholic Church did not like Tyndale's use of "elder" (instead of "priest") for the Greek word '*presbuteros,'* which is actually a more accurate word. The Church saw this as an attack on the structure of the Church as elders could be selected from the congregation

Acts 14:23

Wycliffe – 1384
22 And whanne thei hadden ordeined **prestis** to hem bi alle citees, and hadden preied with fastyngis, thei bitoken hem to the Lord, in whom thei bileueden.

Tyndale – 1536
And they ordeyned them **elders** by eleccion in every cōgregacion/and prayde& fasted/and cōmended them to God on whom they beleved.

D-R – 1610
22 And when they had ordained to them **priests** in every church and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, in whom they believed.

KJV - 1611
23 And when they had ordained them **elders** in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

All English Bibles between Tyndale and the Catholic Douay-Rheims translate as "elder." The KJV kept this word to show a break from the Catholic Church.

Tyndale's Objectionable Words - Repentance

The Catholic Church did not like Tyndale's use of "repent" instead of "do penance" for the Greek word '*metanoeo.*' The reformers believed that salvation was by faith alone and not works or penance, one of the sacraments of the Catholic Church

Acts 2:38

Wycliffe – 1384
38 And Petre seide to hem, **Do ȝe penaunce**, and eche of ȝou be baptisid in the name of Jhesu Crist, in to remissioun of ȝoure synnes; and ȝe schulen take the ȝifte of the Hooli Goost.

Tyndale – 1536
Peter sayd unto them: **repēt** and be baptysed every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ/for the remission of synnes/and ye shall receave the gyfte of the holy ghoost.

D-R – 1610
But Peter said to them: **Do penance**: and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins. And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

KJV - 1611
38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Tyndale's Impact on English Language

Words coined by Tyndale
- Passover
- Scapegoat
- Mercy seat (?)
- Atonement (?)

Phrases coined by Tyndale
- My brother's keeper
- Knock and it shall be opened
- Seek and ye shall find
- A moment in time
- Judge not that ye be not judged
- A law unto themselves
- Ask and it shall be given unto you
- No man can serve two masters
- Let there be light
- The powers that be
- The salt of the earth
- Fight the good fight
- It came to pass
- The signs of the times
- Eat, drink and be merry