

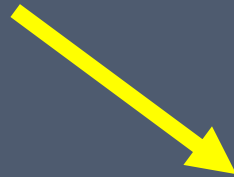
HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

*LESSON 11 – THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH
(FROM TYNDALE)*

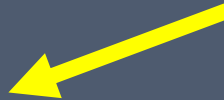
Dan Leiphart

FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION



CANONIZATION



TRANSMISSION

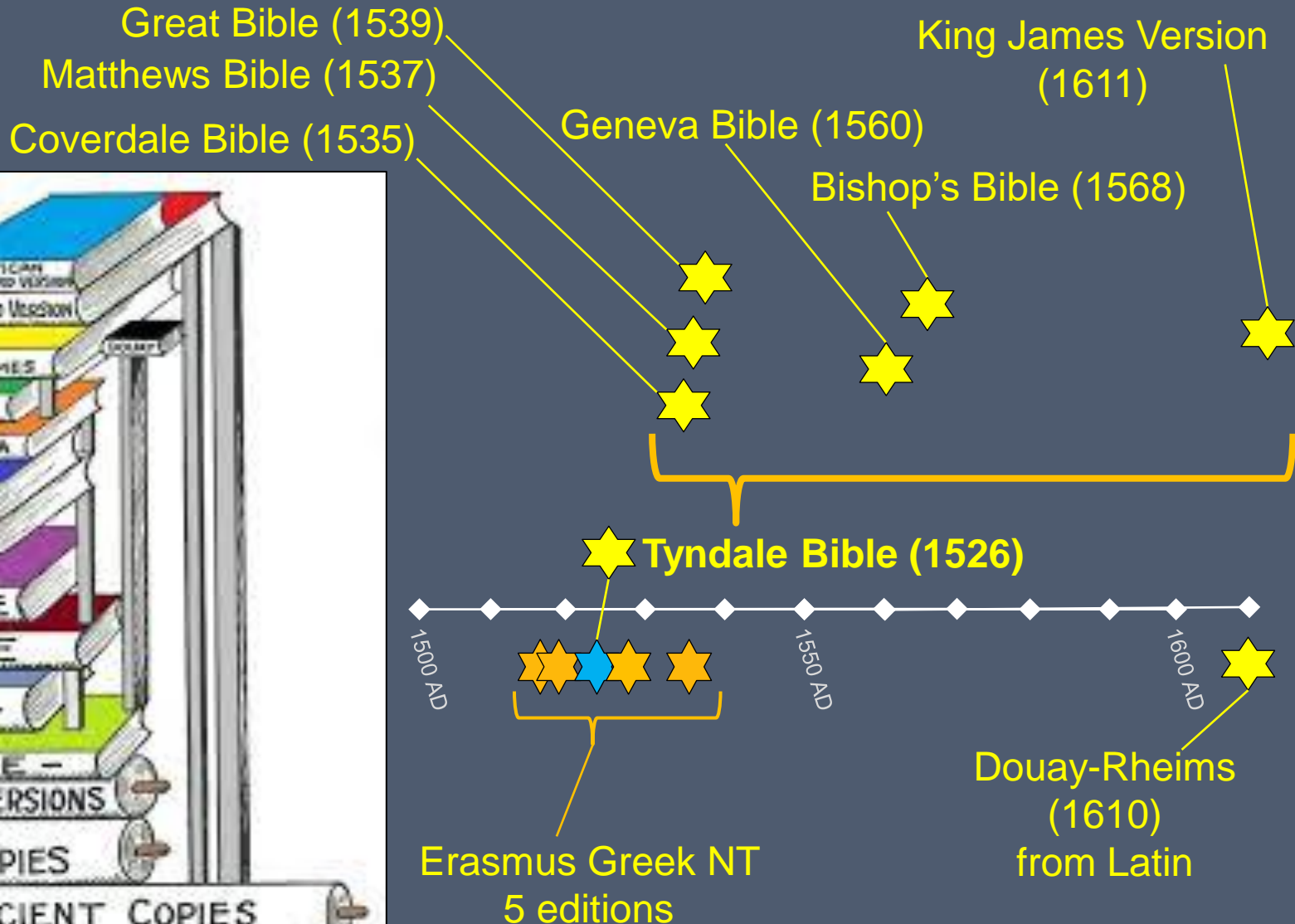


TRANSLATION

Translation of the Bible

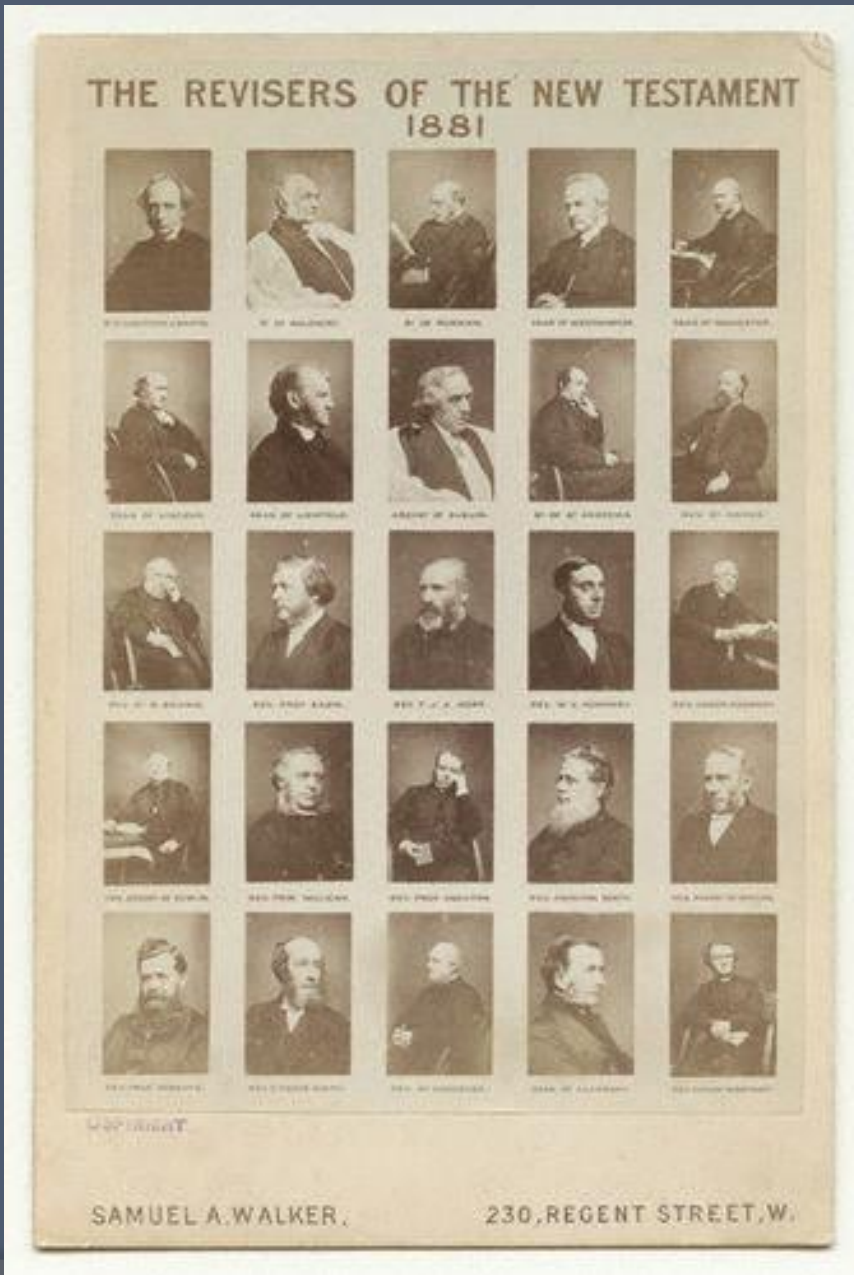
The Bible in English

Early English Printed Bibles

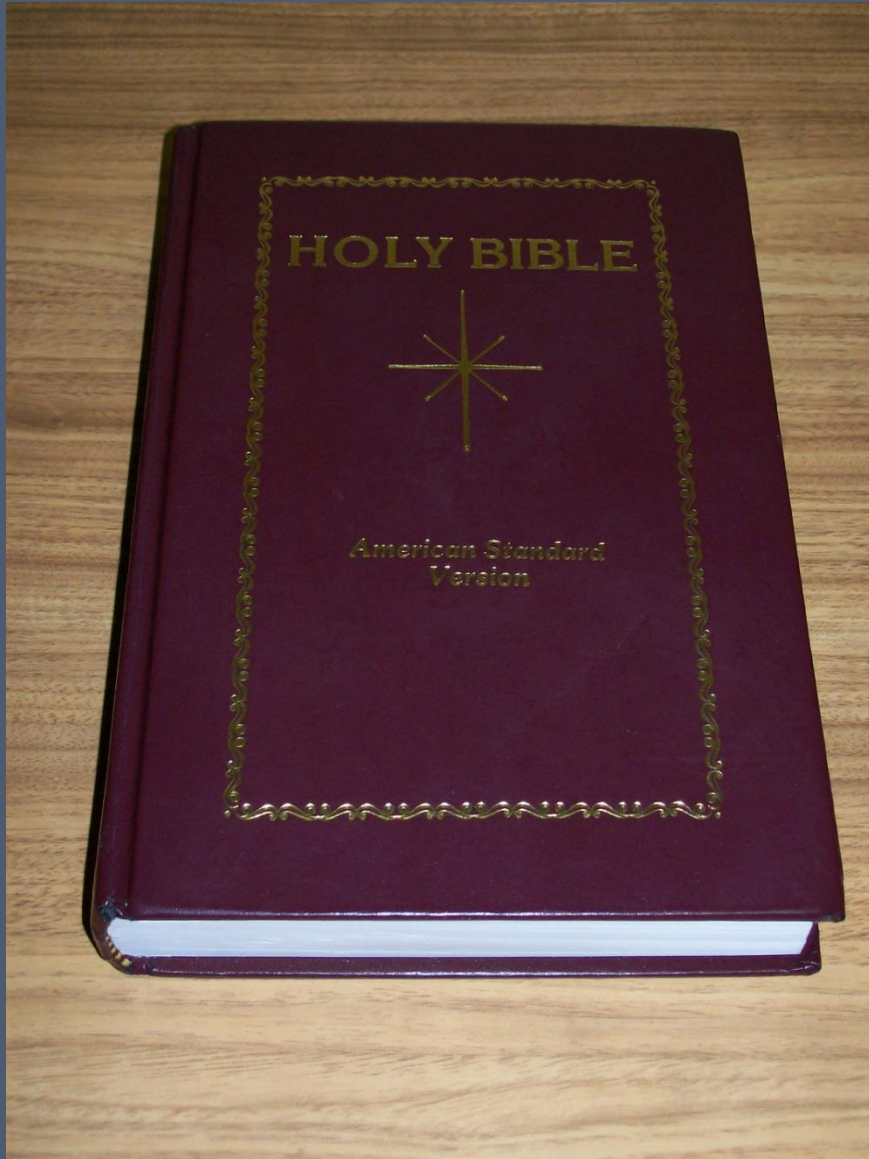


Revised Version (1885)

- The only authorized and recognized revision of the King James Version in Britain
- British work with cooperation from some American scholars
- New Testament published in 1881, Old Testament in 1885, Apocrypha in 1894
- Most famous among the translation committee were Westcott & Hort
- Goal was to update the KJV to “adapt it to the present standard of biblical scholarship”
- Greek text basis was thought to be higher quality than the *textus receptus* and NT had 30,000 changes from KJV



American Standard Version (1901)



- An American revision of the KJV
- The American scholars on the RSV committee agreed not to publish for 14 years
- Incorporates many revisions rejected by the RV committee (mostly for a more American vs. English usage)
- Uses “*Jehovah*” for the Hebrew *Tetragrammaton* instead of “LORD”
- Uses “Holy Spirit” rather than “Holy Ghost”
- Basis for the RSV, NRSV, ESV, NASB & the Living Bible

English Version Comparisons

Who to believe in?

John 6:47

KJV – 1611

⁴⁷ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth **on me** hath everlasting life.

ASV - 1901

⁴⁷ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth hath eternal life.

ESV – 2001

⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

The modern English translations of the 20th century have come under attack for “removing” the words “on me,” saying this is a heretical attempt to remove faith in the person of Jesus Christ as necessary for salvation. However...

John 6:40 (ASV 1901)

⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Just seven verses before, all modern versions contain the exact phrase that is missing in verse 47. This indicates that there is no theological tampering with the verse, but rather the phrase “on me” was added in the later manuscripts to harmonize with verse 40.

English Version Comparisons

How is salvation possible?

Colossians 1:14

KJV – 1611

¹⁴ In whom we have redemption **through his blood**, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

ASV - 1901

¹⁴in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins:

ESV – 2001

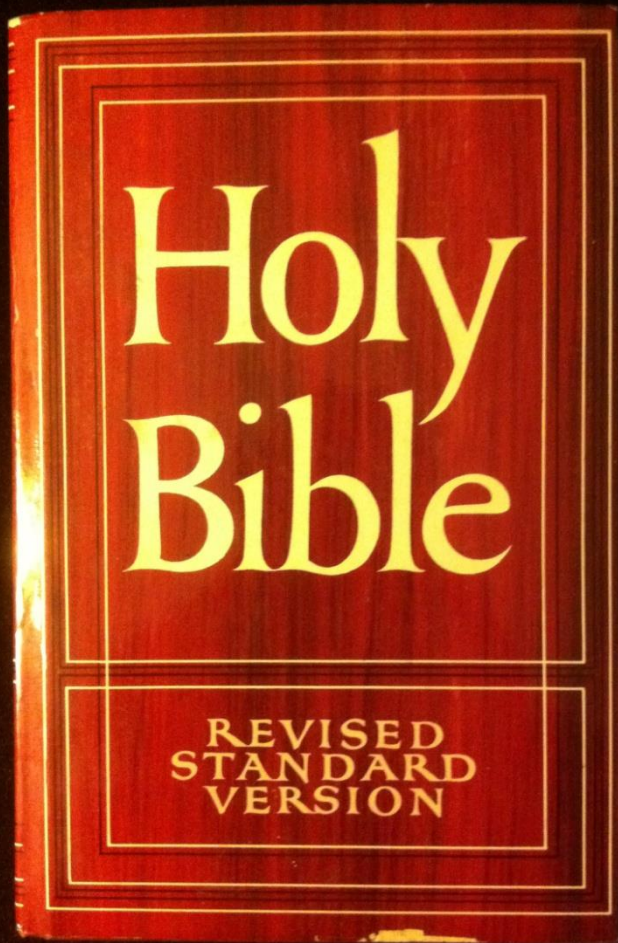
¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The modern English translations of the 20th century have come under attack for “removing” the words “through his blood,” saying this is a heretical attempt to remove the blood of Christ as our atoning sacrifice. However...

⁷in whom we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [Ephesians 1:7 (ASV 1901)]

In Ephesians (a very similar book to Colossians), all modern versions contain the exact phrase that is missing in Colossians. This indicates that there is no theological tampering with the verse, but rather the phrase was added in Colossians in the later manuscripts to harmonize with the verse in Ephesians.

Revised Standard Version (1952)



- Revision of the ASV
- Considered by some to be a theologically liberal translation
- Used the NA17 Greek text, newly discovered DSS for Isaiah
- Disconnects OT prophecies from NT fulfilments
- Reverted back to “LORD” rather than the ASV’s “*Jehovah*”
- One of the least popular versions in America (<5% of market share by 1990 and the NRSV)
- Basis for the NRSV & ESV

RSV Disconnecting OT Prophecy

Isaiah 7:14

ASV – 1901

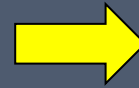
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, a **virgin** shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

RSV – 1952

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a **young woman** shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el.

RSV – 1952 (Matt. 1:23)

“Behold, a **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel”
(which means, God with us).



“The RSV Old Testament was not well received outside of liberal circles, chiefly because the translators often deliberately rendered Old Testament passages in such a way that they were contrary to the interpretations given in the New Testament. This was done on the principle that the Old Testament ought to be interpreted only in reference to its own historical (Jewish) context. Christian interpretations, including those of the New Testament writers, are therefore deliberately excluded as “anachronistic.” But this, as conservative critics perceived, practically amounted to a denial of the truth of the New Testament.” (www.bible-researcher.com)

New World Translation

(1961)

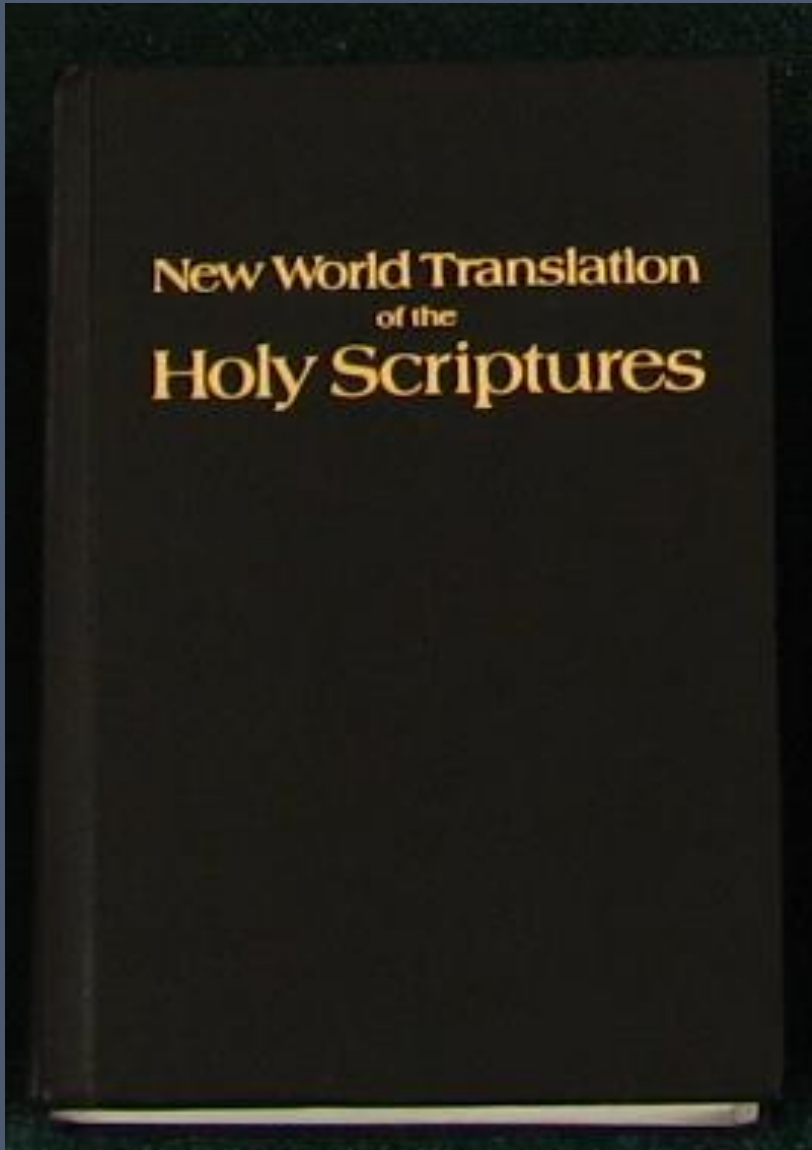


Image from Wikipedia

- Published by the Watch Tower Society (Jehovah's Witness)
- An original translation from the Greek and Hebrew
- The translating team members requested their names not be made known saying they did not want to, "advertise themselves but let all the glory go to the Author of the Scriptures, God."
- Only one member, Frederick Franz, was later found to have any sufficient knowledge of the original languages
- **A heretical translation that diminishes the person of Jesus Christ**

English Version Comparisons

Who is Jesus Christ?

John 1:1

KJV – 1611

In the beginning
was the Word, and
the Word was with
God, and the Word
was God.

ESV - 2001

In the beginning
was the Word, and
the Word was with
God, and the Word
was God.

New Jerusalem Bible (Catholic)

In the beginning
was the Word:
the Word was
with God and
the Word was
God.

New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness)

In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word
was with God,
and the Word
was **a** god.

The presence of an indefinite article in the Jehovah's Witness translation reduces Jesus from 100% God in the flesh to just "a god."

English Version Comparisons

Who is Jesus Christ?

Colossians 1:15-17

ESV - 2001

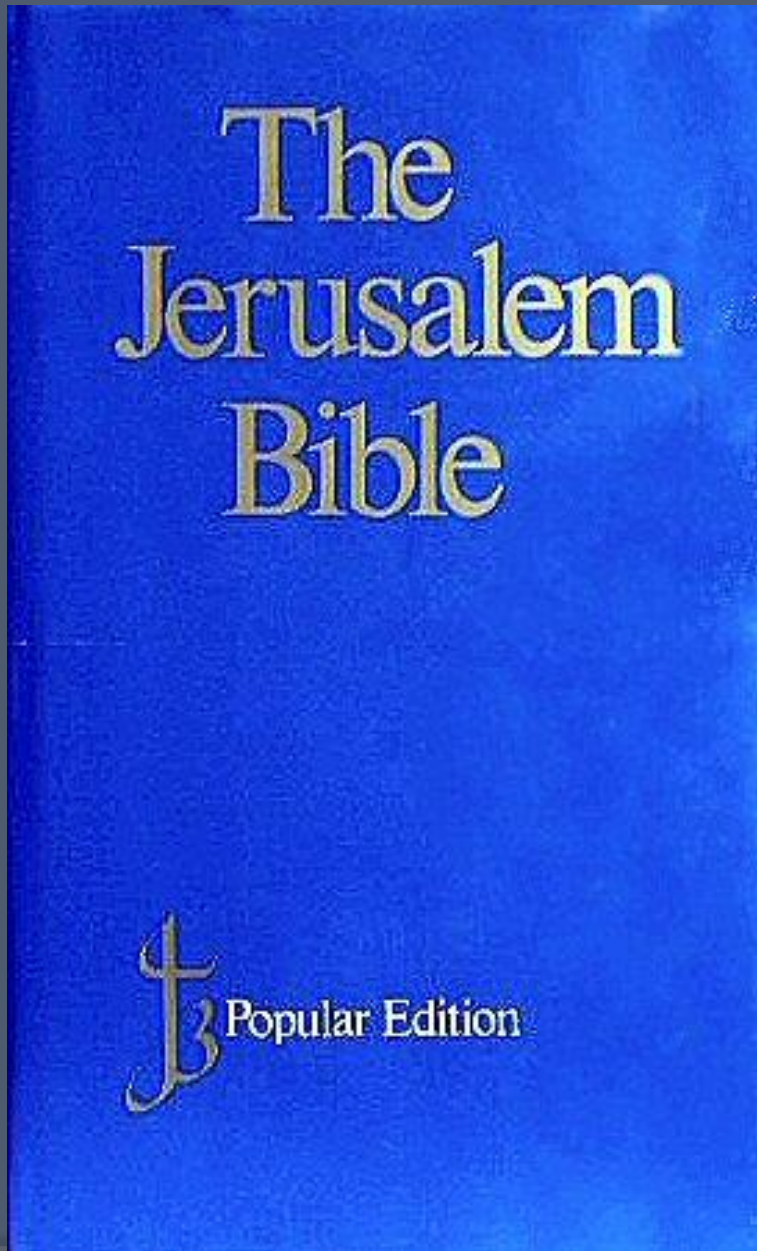
¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ because by means of him all **other** things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All **other** things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ Also, he is before all **other** things, and by means of him all **other** things were made to exist.

The Jehovah's Witness translation adds the word "other" which is not found in any Greek manuscript in order to reduce Jesus to a created being.

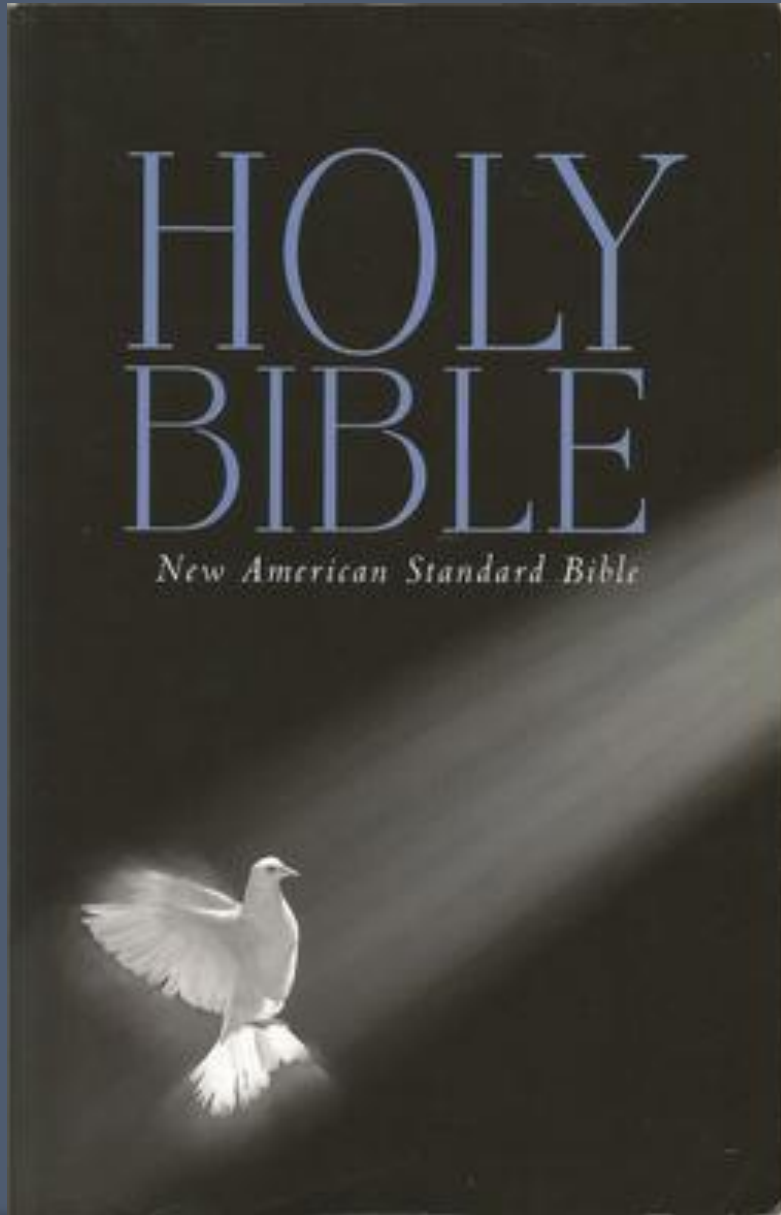


The Jerusalem Bible

(1966)

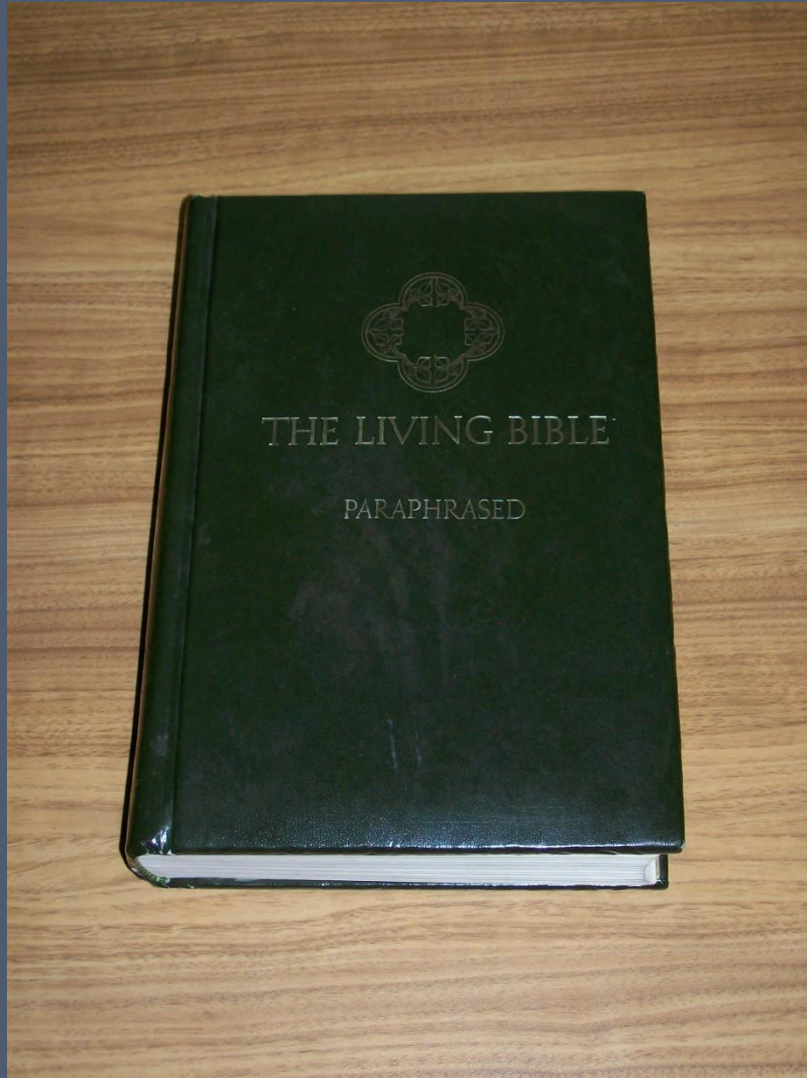
- First Catholic translation from the original biblical languages (follows the *divino afflante spiritu* by Pope Pius XII in 1943 which allowed this for the first time)
- J. R. R. Tolkien translated the book of Jonah
- First widely-accepted English version for Catholics since the Douay-Rheims in 1610
- Translates the Hebrew tetragrammaton as *Yahweh*
- New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) published in 1985

New American Standard Bible (1971)



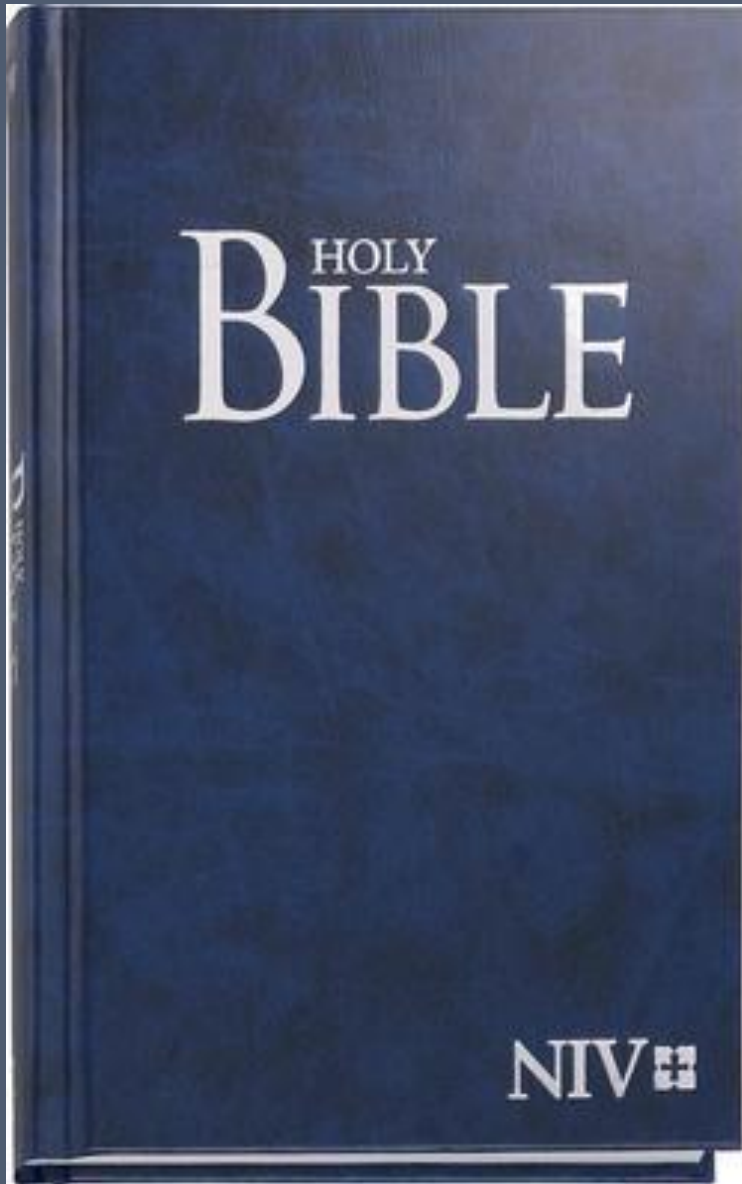
- A new translation from the original languages in the style of the ASV
- Produced to be a conservative alternative to the RSV
- Considered the most literal of all major 20th century translations
- Well known for its fidelity to original languages
- Uses the NA23 Greek text and the *Biblia Hebraica* text as well as the DSS
- Significant revision in 1995 to modernize

The Living Bible (1971)



- A paraphrase based on the ASV
- Created by Kenneth Taylor, who's children were the inspiration for the Living Bible as he would paraphrase the KJV during their devotions so they would understand
- Taylor founded Tyndale Publishing for the purpose of publishing this text

New International Version (1978)



- Began in 1956 to produce a Bible in the common language of the American people; revised 1984
- Translators were from diverse backgrounds and denominations
- Uses an eclectic Greek text for NT
- Dynamic equivalency - balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought
- Most popular translation in any language in history
- Gender-neutral translation guidelines accepted by NIV committee in 1992. Subsequent revisions reflect these guidelines (1996 [UK], 2005 [TNIV] and 2011).

NIV Move Toward Gender-Neutral Language

Psalm 1:1-3

NIV – 1984

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

TNIV – 2005

Blessed are those who do not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but who delight in the law of the LORD and meditate on his law day and night. They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

NIV – 2011

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

NIV Gender-Neutral Guidelines

C. Authors of Biblical books, even while writing Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit, unconsciously reflected in many ways, the particular cultures in which they wrote. Hence in the manner in which they articulate the Word of God, they sometimes offend modern sensibilities. At such times, translators can and may use non-offending renderings so as not to hinder the message of the Spirit.

D. The patriarchalism (like other social patterns) of the ancient cultures in which the Biblical books were composed is pervasively reflected in forms of expression that appear, in the modern context, to deny the common human dignity of all hearers and readers. For these forms, alternative modes of expression can and may be used, though care must be taken not to distort the intent of the original text.

- *Policy on Gender-Inclusive Language (1992)*

New King James Version (1982)

- Conceived by Arthur Farstad with the aim to update the language and grammar of the King James Version.
- Replaces 2nd person pronouns such “thee” and “thine”, and corresponding verb forms such as “speakest” with modern equivalents
- Uses the Leningrad Codex for OT text, which was not used by KJV
- Uses the *textus receptus* for the NT, just as the KJV, but acknowledges different readings of the modern critical texts in the center column.
- One of the most literal of the modern translations with the NASB and ESV

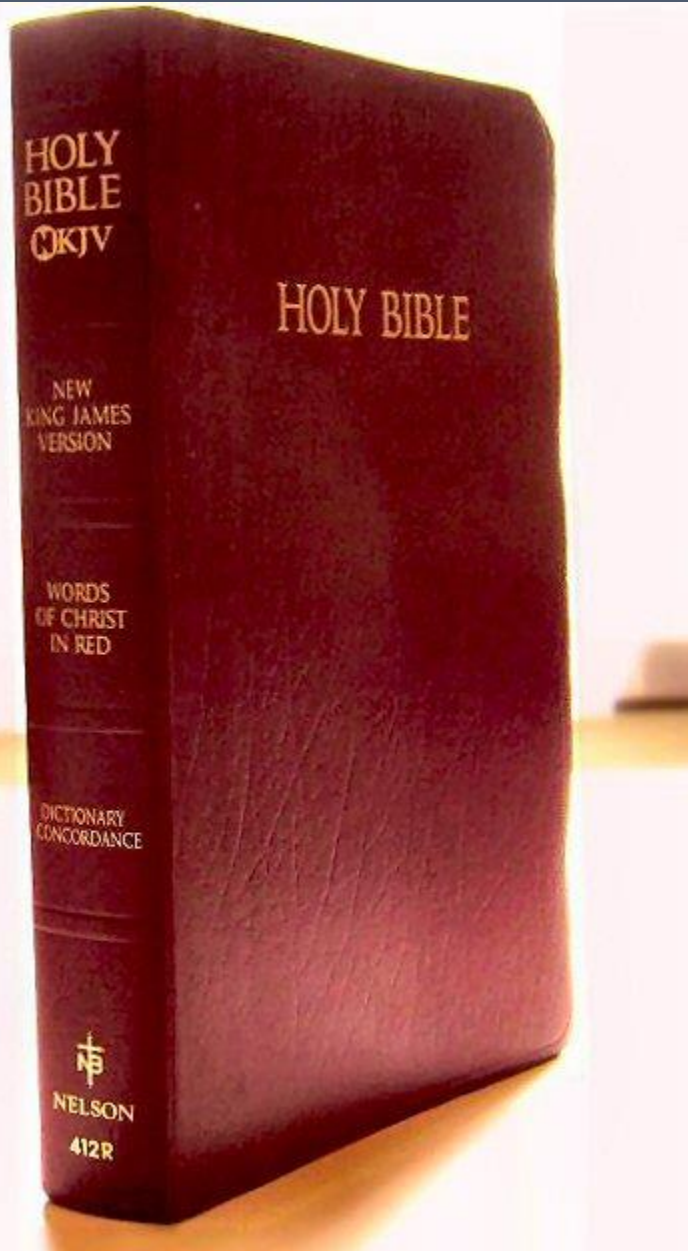
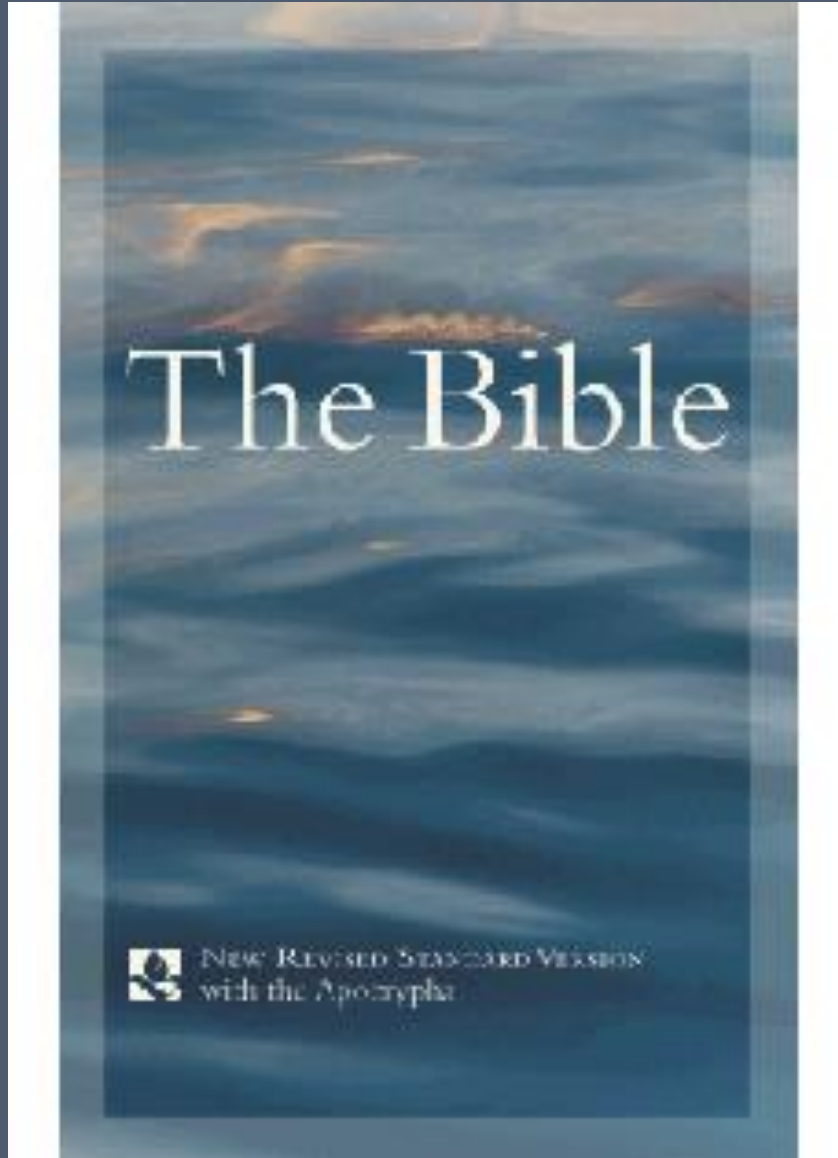


Image from Wikipedia

New Revised Standard Version (1989)



- A revision of the RSV
- Intended to serve as a translation for devotional, liturgical, scholarly needs of the broadest number of religious adherents
- The version most popular among liberal scholars and in scholarly publications
- Continues the non-Christian interpretation of the OT as in the RSV
- Introduces gender-inclusive language

NRSV Scholarly(?) Readings

Genesis 1:2

RSV - 1952

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and **the Spirit of God** was moving over the face of the waters.

NRSV - 1990

the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while **a wind from God** swept over the face of the waters.

Matthew 18:15

RSV - 1952

If your **brother** sins against you, go and tell **him** his fault, between you and **him** alone. If **he** listens to you, you have gained your **brother**.

NRSV - 1990

If **another member** of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the **member** listens to you, you have regained **that one**.

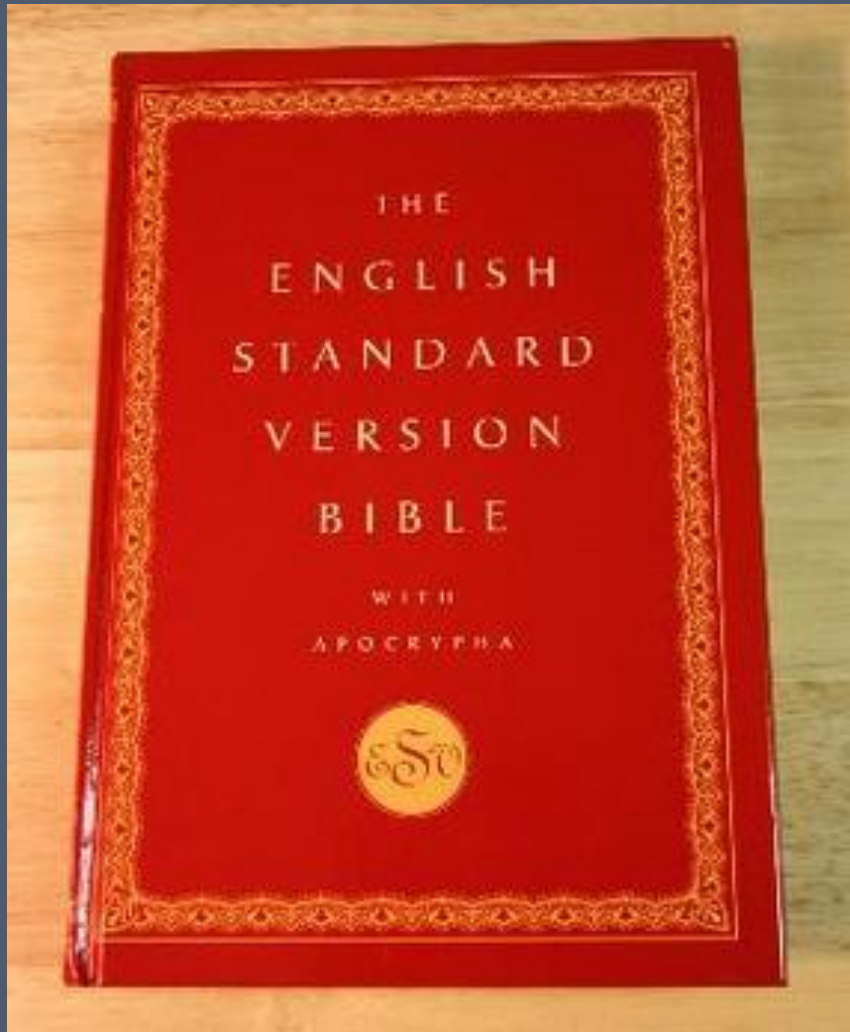
New Living Translation

(1996)

- Started as a revision of the Living Bible, but became a new translation from the original languages
- 2nd most popular English Bible currently based on unit sales
- A thought-for-thought paraphrase in simple English
- Continues the modern trend of gender-neutral language



English Standard Version (2001)



- A revision of the 1971 RSV text (6% change)
- To fill a stated need for a new literal translation for scholars and pastors
- Translates the NA27 Greek text in the NT and the BHS for the OT
- Becoming more and more popular, catching up to the NIV
- Now used by the Gideons (but with ~50 changes back towards the *textus receptus*)

ESV Reformed/Calvinist Bias

1 John 3:8-9; 5:18

RSV - 1952

⁸ He who **commits sin** is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God **commits sin**; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God.

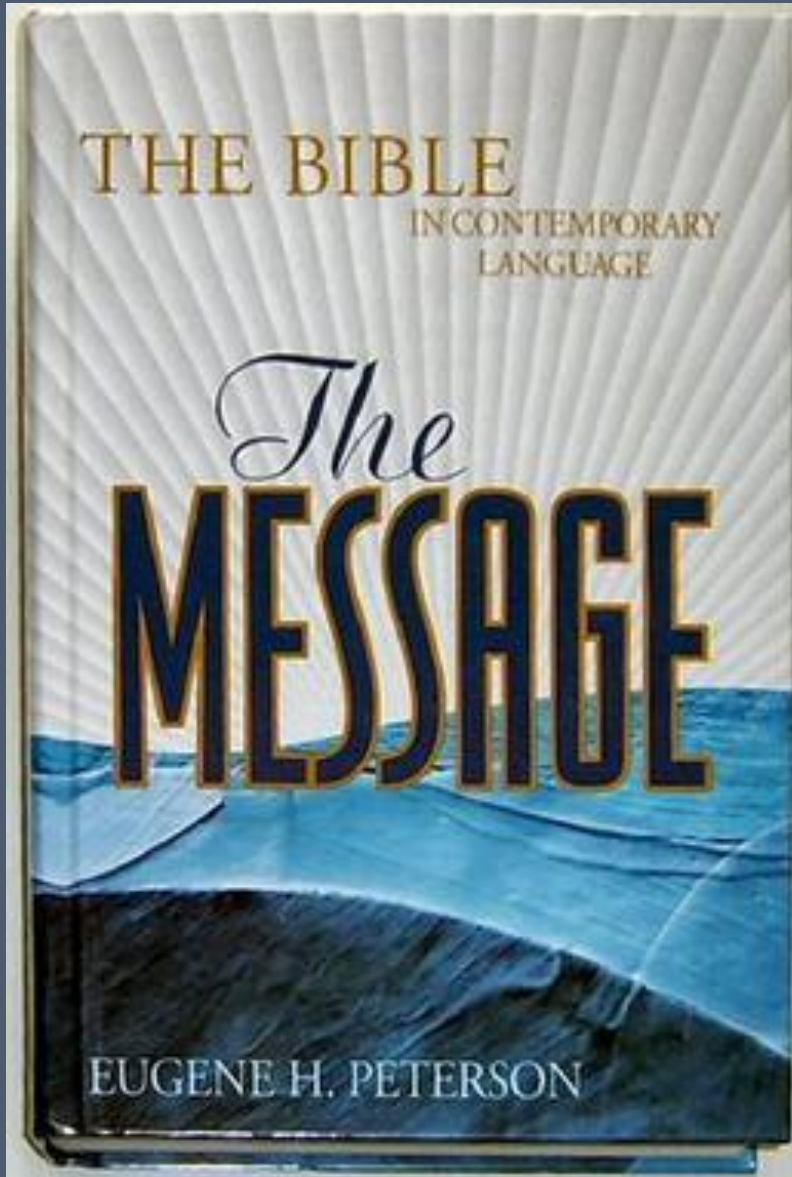
¹⁸ We know that any one born of God **does not sin**, but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

ESV - 2001

⁸ Whoever **makes a practice of sinning** is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God **makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God **does not keep on sinning**, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

The Message (2002)



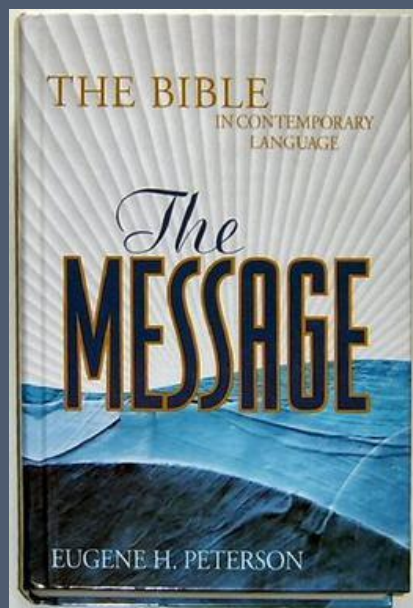
- Created and translated by Eugene Peterson to stimulate his congregation who was getting bored with the biblical text as they knew it
- A highly idiomatic paraphrase from the original languages using contemporary slang rather than neutral international English
- Not a study Bible, rather it reads like a pastor preaching a sermon on the Bible. It is a devotional.
It is not the Word of God

The Lord's Prayer from The Message

Matthew 6:9–13 (The Message)

With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best—
as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.



Misleading Passages in the Message?

John 3:5 (The Message)

5–6 Jesus said, “You’re not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the ‘wind-hovering-over-the-water’ creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom.

James 4:7 (The Message)

7–10 So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud *no* to the Devil and watch him scamper.

The NET Bible

(2005)



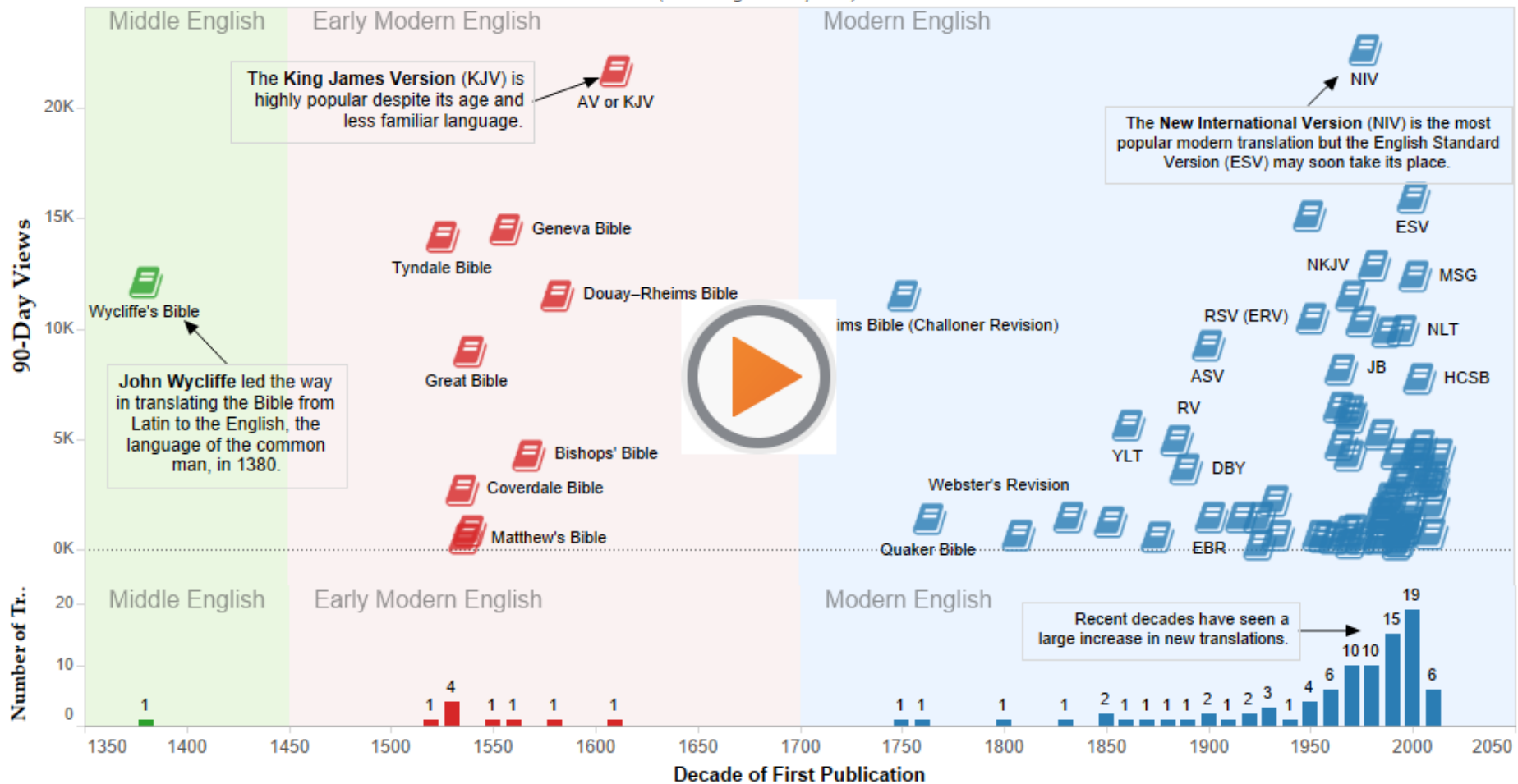
Image from Amazon

- The name has a dual meaning between “New English Bible” and the “net” as it was intended for free public use on the internet
- Majority of translators affiliated with Dallas Theological Seminary
- A dynamic-equivalent translation known for its 60,000 scholarly notes around the biblical text (see image)
- Continues the scholarly trends of detaching OT prophecies from their NT interpreted fulfillments (RSV, NRSV) and gender-neutral language (although more reserved than other modern versions)

The History and Popularity of English Bible Translations

(according to Wikipedia)

click for details



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_Bible_translations | complete bibles only | 90-day views collected on March 8, 2015 using Wikipedia page view statistics.

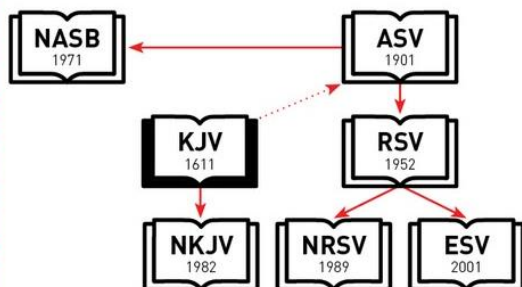
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English Bible Translation Comparison

By Mark Barry © 2010 AFES www.afes.org.au [Adapted from *How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee & Mark L. Strauss] Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE WORD FOR WORD

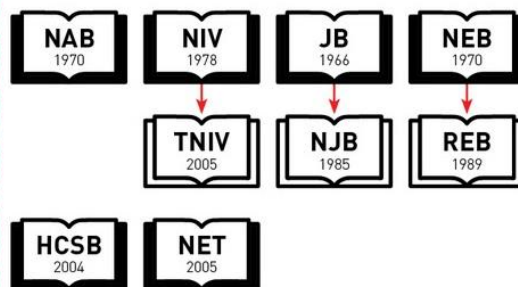
- **theory:** 'literal' or *word-for-word*
- **aim:** to retain the *form*, i.e. the words and structure, of the original text as much as possible
- **result:** an English translation that is primarily accurate, yet also comprehensible



ASV	= American Standard Version
ESV	= English Standard Version
KJV	= King James Version
NASB	= New American Standard Bible
NKJV	= New King James Version
NRSV	= New Revised Standard Version
RSV	= Revised Standard Version

INTERMEDIATE

- **theory:** mediating between 'literal' and 'idiomatic'
- **aim:** to retain the *form* of the original text where possible, without compromising its *function*, i.e. to convey meaning
- **result:** an English translation that is both accurate and clear.

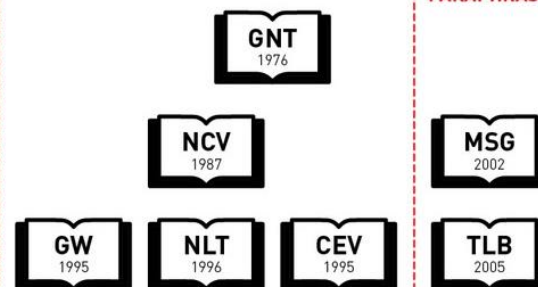


HCSB	= Holman Christian Standard Bible
JB	= Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)
NAB	= New American Bible (Roman Catholic)
NEB	= New English Bible
NET	= New English Translation (online translation)
NIV	= New International Version
NJB	= New Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)
TNIV	= Today's New International Version
REB	= Revised English Bible

FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE MEANING FOR MEANING

- **theory:** 'idiomatic' or *meaning-for-meaning*
- **aim:** to retain the *function* of the original text, i.e. to convey meaning, as much as possible
- **result:** to produce an English translation that is primarily natural and easy to understand

Paraphrase = re-wording a text in the *same* language, rather than translating it from one language to *another*.



CEV	= Contemporary English Version
GNT	= Good News Translation (Good News Bible)
GW	= God's Word
MSG	= The Message
NCV	= New Century Version
NLT	= New Living Translation
TLB	= The Living Bible

Bible Translations - Quick Reference Sheet

[illegible]

Notes on Reading this Chart:

I've created this chart for my own personal reference, and as a teaching tool. All variations are described in reference to the King James Version. This is not to imply that the reading of the KJV is superior to the others, but only to make comparison easier. Please understand that there are many, many variations among the translations. For this chart, I've chosen only a few verses for comparison, to show the preferences of the translators and the variation between the different manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments.

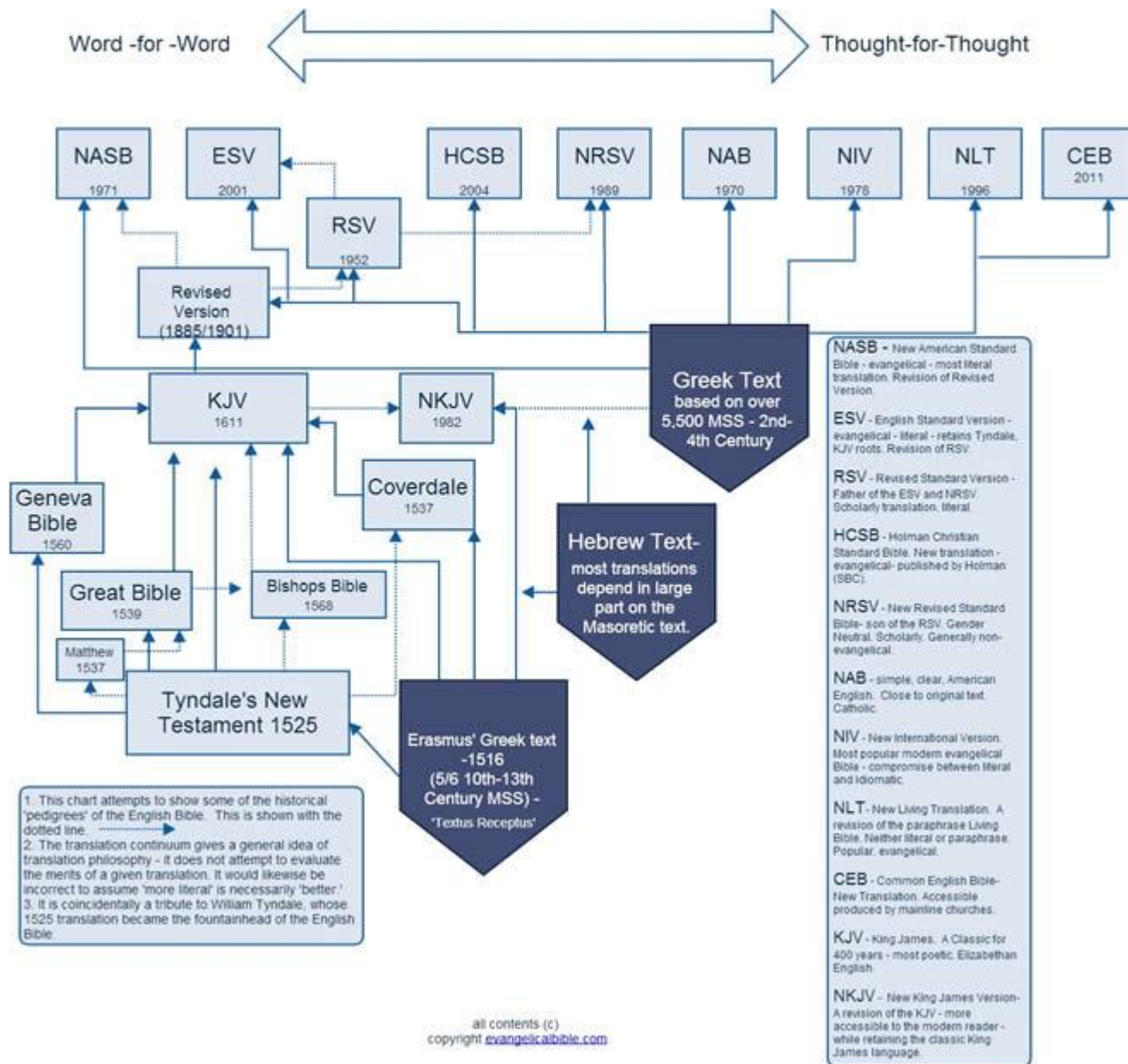
The translations I chose to compare are by no means an exhaustive list. I chose a sampling of old English translations that are freely available, as well as some of the most popular recent translations that people are reading today. For brevity, have omitted many mid-20th century which have been replaced by newer versions, such as the RSV and many older variants of the NIV.

On the inclusion of the Douay-Rheims: This purpose of this chart is not to show the differences between the Latin text and the texts generally accepted by protestant Christians—that would be a study for another time. However, I have included the DR in this comparison to show how the Latin text renders the selected verses in this comparison. Many people claim that the modern translations follow the "Latin Vulgate," but it can be seen from this chart that, in fact, the Vulgate and the TR agree in many places where both vary from the critical text.

I hope and pray you find this chart useful. If you have corrections or suggestions, please email me: fiforms@gmail.com.

English Bible Overview

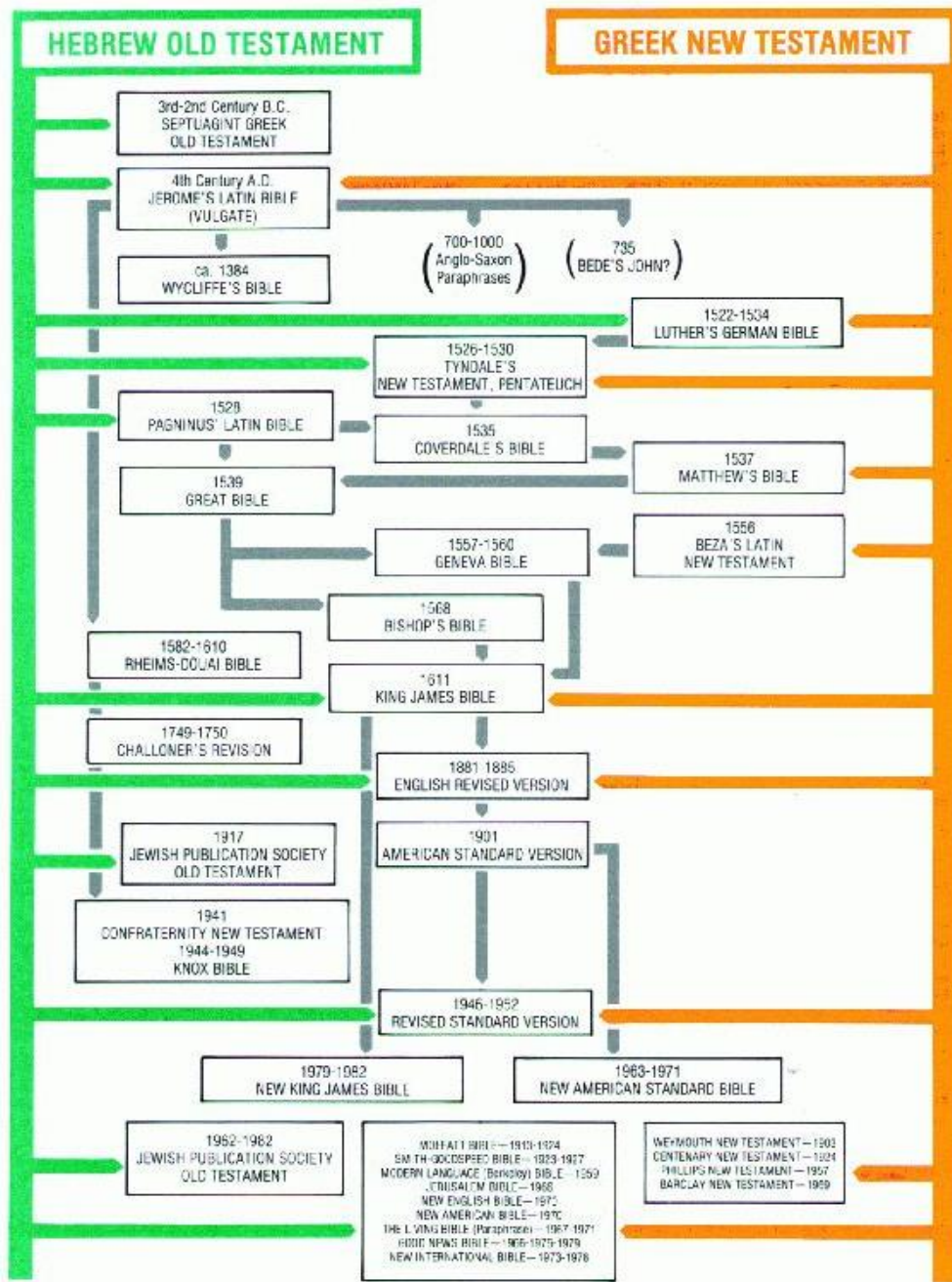
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English Bible Textual Basis Overview

Image from
<https://mrayton.wordpress.com/tag/bible-translations/>

CHART OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE



English Bible Translation Chart

Image from
<https://www.pinterest.com/kelseydyck/bible-history/>

So How to Choose Which One?

Solely the opinion of the author 😊

- **To study**, dig deep and grow in biblical/theological knowledge:
 - Word-for-word is best: NKJV, ESV, NASB
 - Dynamic-equivalency or paraphrases depart further from the original text: NIV, NLT
 - Text basis closest to original is best: ESV, NASB
 - Majority Text contains later additions: NKJV
 - Transparency is needed: NKJV, NASB note supplied words
 - Some versions hide supplied words and bias: ESV
 - Suggest using ESV, NASB & NKJV to study
- **To soak**, extended read and grow in knowledge of God's whole story
 - Readability and/or careful paraphrasing best: NLT
- **Both approaches are necessary and helpful in maturing the believer**