

# LOST TRANSLATIONS

## **2 Timothy 3:16** (NIV 1984)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

This booklet was presented by Cicero Christian Church for the *Lost in Translations* Sermon Series as a resource about the history of the Bible in order for individuals to select a personal Bible translation

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# Where Did the Bible Come From, and Why Does it Matter?

**2 Timothy 3:16** (NIV 1984) - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

## Where Did the Bible Come From?

This is a critical question that must be answered by every single Christian. As Christians we must come to a firm conviction and understanding that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Examine these facts about the Bible.

Facts About the Word of God	Biblical Reference
The Bible is the <b>Inspired Word of God</b>	2 Timothy 3:16
Hearing the Word of God increases Your Faith	Romans 10:17
Obedying the Word Brings Blessing to Your Life	Luke 11:28
The Word of God Brings You to Salvation through Christ alone	1 Peter 1:23
The Word of God is Alive and Active	Hebrews 4:12
The Word of God is the Sword of Truth	Ephesians 6:17
Jesus Christ is the Word of God	Revelation 19:12, John 1:14
The Origin of the Bible Comes from God not Man	2 Peter 1:20-21

The Bible has been given to us in order to bring each of us into a deeper relationship with the Living God. There are many religions that offer their version of a holy book but history and faith has proven that there is only one holy book that has been given to mankind and that is the "**Holy Bible.**" Throughout history, in our current times, and even in the future, skeptics, critics, and enemies will attack the reliability, authority, and authenticity of the Bible.

“ If we would destroy the Christian religion, we must first of all destroy man’s belief in the Bible. *Voltaire* ”

“ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. *As the Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 15:13-20* ”

As Christians, we know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and we understand this as a basic fundamental of our faith. The external evidence of the reliability and authenticity of the Bible does nothing more than encourage us in our walk with the Lord. Understand that the external evidence of the authority of the Bible does not determine whether the Bible is inspired by God, it only points

## Q U E S T I O N S

What observations do you make about these basic fundamental facts of the Bible?

Why is it important to understand and believe that the Bible is inspired by God, not just words written by men?

Why will mankind continue to attack the reliability and authenticity of the Bible?

## Q U E S T I O N S

What do you believe about the Bible?

What would you tell a non-believer about the Bible?

to the facts that God has already determined and shown us through His Word. Through this study will examine several facts about the Bible, how we got the Bible, and break it down into outline of the Old and New Testaments.

“ If you wish to know God you must know his word; if you wish to perceive his power you must see how he worketh by his word; if you wish to know his purpose before it is actually brought to pass you can only discover it by his word.

Charles Spurgeon ”

We often hear in our churches, pulpits, and Sunday school classes this statement: **“The Bible is the inspired Word of God.”** But can the average Christian explain what that means to another person who is seeking to know more about the Bible? The sections that we examine in this lesson will give you a deeper understanding about the Word of God in the areas of its origin, authority, and authenticity.

## The Origin of the Bible

The first section of our study deals with an examination of the origin of the Bible. Every Christian should be encouraged as well as inspired to share the Word of God with others because of the fact that it is God’s message to mankind about life, eternity, judgment, and salvation.

### Purpose and Terminology

I have always been interested in the meaning of names. When we look at the Word of God then we clearly see that God also is concerned about names and their meanings. The more you study the Word of God, the more you will fall in love with it due to the richness, imagery, and truth presented that is presented by God.

Many people throughout the world, even many Christians, may be confused as to the great purpose of the Word of God. Let us begin with considering this basic question: **What is the purpose of the Word of God?**

**2 Timothy 3:14-17** (NASB) – <sup>14</sup>You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

## Q U E S T I O N S

What does this Word of God declare about His purpose for giving it to us?

Why do we need to know this as Christians? Why does it matter?

Many times you will hear the Word of God referred to by a variety of different names. This can add to some confusion for people that are new to Christianity. Remind yourself that many other religions have their version of a holy book but only the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Consider terminology used to refer to the Word of God.

### Terminology

#### The Bible

Our English term bible is from the Greek word *biblion*, which means “book” or “roll.”

#### Scripture

Another term used for the Bible is the word, “Scripture,” from the Greek *graphē*, meaning “a writing, that which is written.” Remember our opening scripture from 2 Timothy 3:16.

## The Word of God

“The Word of God” is another title used of the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. This expression highlights the nature of the Bible as the revelation of God in written form as well as its source; it is the revelation from God. The Greek term used is *logos*, which means “a word as embodying a conception or idea, speech or discourse.” But it is also used of the “revelation of God, of God’s word, God’s command.

**Hebrews 4:12** (NASB) – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

## Oracles of God

Another term used of the Bible, especially of the Old Testament Scripture, is *logion*, a form of *logos* meaning, “an oracle, divine response or utterance.”

**Romans 3:2** (NASB) – Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

## The Gospel

Within the pages of the Bible, we examine the first four books of the New Testament that are called the Gospels. The Gospels share the “good news” that Jesus Christ the Savior of the World came to this earth and died on the cross in order to pay the penalty of our sin so that we could live for eternity with Him. The word for Gospel also has the same root for our English word *dynamite*.

## Testament of God

A less common term for Scripture is the word *testament*. The Greek word is *diathekhē*, “covenant, testament, will.” This term is used to distinguish between the Old and New Covenants, the Old Testament and the New Testament. In particular, the word is used in dealing with the specific, unique covenants of Scripture.

**Hebrews 9:20** (KJV) – Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

### QUESTIONS

- Why is it important for Christians to be familiar with this terminology?
- What other books falsely claim to be equal to the Bible or inspired by God?
- Did the Bible come from men or God?

## Inspiration of the Bible

There are many books from different religions that falsely claim to be equal to the Bible when it comes to being inspired by God. Throughout history many have tried to attack the credibility and authenticity of the Bible by striving to convince others that the Bible is merely a collection of thoughts, ideas, and religious philosophies and fairy tales of a collection of writers throughout the centuries.

“ The Bible is a book of God and a book of man. God’s part was to superintend the writing of the books, revealing His will; man’s part was to write this revelation using a human language and style so that God’s message was preserved for future generations.

*Erwin Lutzer: Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust The Bible, 23-24.*

“ Scripture comes from God. The only adequate view incorporates both divine and human factors; it is the prophet model. In this process, the human writer is seen as one who has received a revelation and actively participates in its writing, while God gives the revelation and oversees the writing. Hence, the message is wholly from God, but the humanity of the writer is included to enhance the message. Both the divine and human concur in the same words. The net result is that we have the word of God written by men of God, inspired not only in its concepts, but in the very words used to express those concepts. It is not simply a record of revelation, but a revelation itself. It is God’s message in written form.

*Norman Geisler and Ron Brooks: When Skeptics Ask, 146.*

Examine these passages of Scripture to understand the origin of the Bible from a Biblical perspective.

#### Q U E S T I O N S

What does the *Scripture* refer to in this text?

What is declared about the origin of the Bible?

**2 Timothy 3:16** (NASB) – <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

The Greek term for *inspired* means “breathed out by God, God-breathed.” Recall that the word “scripture” is from the Greek *graphē*, meaning “a writing, that which is written.”

**Jeremiah 1:9** (NASB) – Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.”

**2 Peter 1:20-21** (NASB) – <sup>20</sup>But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Greek term for *prophecy* means: a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God. The Greek term for *a matter of* means: comes into being, originates, or arises. The Greek understanding for the word *interpretation* does not mean “how you understand Scripture” but refers to the “origin of Scripture.”

We understand from the Word of God that the Bible was given to mankind from God. God inspired men to write the Word of God in a language that mankind could understand thus utilizing mankind as the instrument delivering the Word of God to the world.

## How We Got the Bible

The second section that we examine deals with the collection of the different books and letters of the Bible as well as the authenticity of the Bible. Many people have doubts as to the Bible being the inspired Word of God because they believe it was just a group of men that chose which letters or books they wanted in the Bible. The truth is that the Bible is handcrafted by an infallible God but He used fallible mankind as His instrument to deliver His message to a fallen world.

### Unity of the Bible

There are many people that will claim that the Bible cannot be trusted because of the fact that we do not have any original manuscripts of the Bible. While it is true that we have only translations of the Bible and no original manuscripts exist of the entire Bible. The Bible is still the most credible book known to mankind.

#### ***Critical Facts about the Bible***

- There are 66 books in the Bible.
- 27 books in the New Testament.
- 39 books in the Old Testament.
- The Bible was written over a 1,500 year time span.
- The Bible had 40 different human writers.
- The Bible was written on 3 Continents and in 3 different languages.
- The Bible is the number one selling book in history and the most criticized.
- There are over two million copies sold each year.
- The Bible is also translated in over 2,000 languages.

#### Q U E S T I O N S

Can a perfect God use imperfect people to deliver His perfect message?

How do you know that the Bible is not man’s opinions or agenda?

## Number of Languages

The Holy Bible has been translated into 2,018 languages, with countless more partial translations and audio translations (for unwritten languages). The works of William Shakespeare, considered by many to be the master writer of the English language, has been translated into 50 languages. By comparison, this is an enormous number of Biblical translations.

## Original Manuscripts

While it is true that we do not have the original manuscripts of the entire Bible it has been proven to be one of the most reliable literary resources known to mankind. Dr. D. James Kennedy writes on this subject in his book *Skeptics Answered*<sup>1</sup>. He makes the following observations.

- There are more than 5,300 known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, over 10,000 in Latin and over 9,300 other early versions totaling 24,000+ manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence today, ranking it first in manuscript evidence.
- Second place goes to *The Iliad*, by Homer, with 643 surviving manuscripts.
- The New Testament autographs date to between 40-100 AD. Until 1995, the earliest extant manuscripts dated to the fourth century (a 250-300 year difference). Norman Geisler states that the average gap between an original composition and the earliest available copy is over 1,000 years for other works of antiquity.

One of the oldest and most complete manuscripts of the Bible now in existence is the *Codex Vaticanus*, which dates from the first half of the fourth century. It is located in the library of the Vatican in Rome. There are older fragments of the Bible that are still preserved; the oldest being a small scrap of the Gospel of John which was found in Egypt and dates back to the beginning of the second century. It is currently in the Rayland's Library in Manchester, England.

## Reliability of the Bible

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Is the Bible reliable? The answer is Yes! It is inspired from God, which means that it is His perfect Word. Sometimes people are concerned about the credibility of the Bible due to the fact that we only have translations of the original texts. We can still be confident that the Bible translations that are more literal (Word-for-Word) translations are reliable by examining the criteria for putting the Bible together.

## Old Testament

It is accepted by scholars from all backgrounds that the Old Testament is the collected writings by men that were inspired by God. The Old Testament is considered to be divinely inspired by the religious Jewish culture and Christians. It has been considered to be reliable and authoritative for centuries.

### *The Old Testament Canon*

Throughout our study we will refer to the Old Testament and New Testament canons. A "canon" is a list of books that are considered to be authoritative, reliable, and accepted as scripture. The Old Testament and New Testament canons are considered to be closed canons which mean that reflecting a belief that public revelation has ended therefore the inspired texts may be gathered into a complete and authoritative collection.

#### Q U E S T I O N S

How does the idea of a "closed canon" point out the reliability of the Scriptures?

<sup>1</sup>Skeptics Answered. D.James Kennedy. Multnomah Books, 1997.

The Hebrew Bible makes up what we consider as our Old Testament. The original Hebrew Bible is divided into three sections. These twenty-four books correspond exactly to the 39 books of the Old Testament that we recognize today.

<b>The Law</b>	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
<b>The Prophets</b>	Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Twelve.
<b>The Writings</b>	Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles.

How could the 24 books of the Hebrew Bible be the same as the 39 books of the Christian Old Testament? Consider this: Some of the changes made from the Hebrew Bible to the Christian Old Testament deals with dividing "Chronicles" into "1 and 2 Chronicles," "Kings" into "1 and 2 Kings," "Samuel" into "1 and 2 Samuel."

### ***Formation of the Old Testament***

One of the most common questions asked when dealing with the collected writings of the Bible is: **How was it decided which books would be included?**

The answer to this question can be found by looking at how the New Testament and Old Testament were put together in order to form the content of the Bible. There were four basic criteria utilized in confirming that the books forming the Old Testament were the inspired writings from God.

#### **Four Criteria for Inclusion in Canon**

##### **Criteria 1 – Spiritual authority of the books themselves**

The spiritual authority of the Old Testament books had already been established through eyewitness accounts of events, oral tradition and teachings, as well as historical evidence that events and people that were recorded in the Old Testament actually took place and lived upon the earth.

##### **Criteria 2 – Recognition in the Temple as sacred**

The Jewish religious leaders only taught in the temple what was sacred, holy, and inspired by God. They understood and recognized that many of the books of the Old Testament came from Moses or one of the other acknowledged prophets thus declaring it to be inspired by God and sacred.

##### **Criteria 3 – Conviction of leaders and people**

The religious leaders and people of Israel had to be convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that a book was inspired by God before it would be considered for the Old Testament. The books had to be accepted as sacred and holy by both the religious leaders and the nation of Israel before they could be added to the Old Testament canon.

##### **Criteria 4 – Jesus and the Apostles**

Jesus and the apostles quoted and referred to many of the books of the Old Testament showing that they believed in the authority, authenticity, and reliability of these Old Testament books.

### **Span of Writing**

#### **What is the earliest book in the Old Testament?**

Many scholars agree that Job is the oldest book in the Bible, written by an unknown Israelite about 1500 BC. Others hold that the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, are the oldest books in the Bible, written between 1446 and 1406 BC.

#### **Q U E S T I O N S**

How would utilizing this criteria help ensure the inspiration of the Old Testament?

Why would some books be left out of the Old Testament?

## What is the most recent book of the Old Testament?

The book of Malachi, written about 400 BC, is believed to be the last book of the Old Testament to be written. It was more than 400 years of silence before the New Testament writings began.

## New Testament

The New Testament has been proven over the years to be inspired by God. It is a collection of 27 different books and is about half the size of the Old Testament. It includes four accounts of Jesus' life and ministry (the Gospels), and account of the Apostles' ministry after Jesus' death (the Acts of the Apostles, letters attributed to the Apostle Paul and other early church leaders (the Epistles), and a book of apocalyptic prophecy (Revelation). The books of the New Testament are ordered by type of writing, not chronologically.

### *Formation of the New Testament*

The formation of the New Testament came about in a similar fashion. It also utilized criteria to ensure that the collected books forming the New Testament were inspired by God. The New Testament, as we know it today, was gathered, evaluated, and proved to be inspired by God over several centuries. The church fathers confirmed the divine inspiration of the New Testament by using the following threefold criterion for evaluation.

### Three Criteria for Inclusion in Canon

#### Criteria 1 – Apostolicity

The first criteria established the initial standard for us to examine. Apostolicity is that standard that each New Testament book must have been written by an apostle or approved by one. The church fathers wanted insure that each book was written by an eyewitness account or teachings from eyewitnesses.

#### Criteria 2 – Conformity to the Rule of Faith

The second criteria that we examine points us to the standard of faith that is established through the Word of God. Each book of the New Testament had to have met two basic qualifications in this area.

- **Qualification 1** – Each New Testament book had to have teachings consistent with the Old Testament prophets, which were already considered to be inspired by God.
- **Qualification 2** – Each New Testament book had to have teachings consistent with the New Testament Apostles which were eyewitnesses of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### Criteria 3 – Widespread and Continuous Acceptance

The third criteria that we examine carefully determines the authenticity of each book. Each New Testament book had to be universally accepted by the practicing Christians and churches at the time. This would help determine if there was any hidden deception found in the books that were being circulated at the time.

### Span of Writing

#### What is the earliest book in the New Testament?

Probably the book of James, written as early as 45 AD.

#### What is the most recent book of the New Testament?

The book of Revelation is the youngest book of the New Testament, written about 95 AD.

#### QUESTION

Why are these standards critical for determining the authenticity of the Bible?

## QUESTION

Why would the “Gnostic Gospels” be rejected as New Testament books?

## The Gnostic Gospels = False Gospels

There are many people today that claim that the Bible is not reliable because there are hundreds of gospels and only a few were chosen. These proponents are speaking of the “Gnostic Gospels” which were considered **Heretical Writings**. This means that they were anti-Christian disguising themselves as being Christian.

- Gnostic Gospels – These are writings that use familiar names such as the *Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Mary, Gospel of Philip, or the Gospel of Judas*. It has been proven that these gospels were not firsthand eyewitness accounts written by these different Biblical figures. The Gnostics merely used the name of a familiar apostle or Biblical character to try to gain credibility.
- The earliest Gnostic writing is dates back to about 150 AD, which is about 150 years after the crucifixion of Christ. Therefore the Gnostic writings do not meet the criteria of authenticity in the area of being an eyewitness account of an apostle or approved by an apostle as already discussed.
- The Gnostic Gospels were very much anti-Christian in nature. They claim that the god of the Old Testament, the one that created the physical world was an evil god and that all matter was evil. They also claimed that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was not necessary because salvation could be obtained through a mystical force called *Gnosis* which is the secret knowledge that is found through self-enlightenment.

## The Books of the Bible

### The Old Testament (39 Books)

The third section of our study focuses upon the layout of the Old Testament. Many people believe that the Old Testament has no relevance for the average Christian today. The truth is that the Old Testament helps us understand that New Testament with greater clarity.

### Themes Found in the Old Testament

The Old Testament has several major themes that help Christians today understand the New Testament in greater detail. It also gives us great insight into the attributes and characteristics of our Heavenly Father who created us in His image.

- Creation of the World
- Wisdom Literature
- Atonement for Sin
- Fall of Mankind
- Prophecy
- Holiness and Righteousness
- The Old Covenant
- Reality of Evil
- Judgment

### Categories of Old Testament Books

#### The Pentateuch (5 books)

These books are commonly referred to as the “Books of Moses” or the “Torah.” Torah is translated most commonly as “Law.” This helps us understand a better picture of these first five books of the Bible. It is here where we are introduced to our God as the Creator of all things who also has established a law for His people to live by in order to be considered blameless and upright in His sight. They were written around 1400 BC.

#### History Books (12 books)

These books focus on giving an account of the history of the nation of Israel as God’s chosen people. It is in these books that we get a clear picture of the great power of God and His great love as He overcomes the enemies of His children for them. They were written approximately between 1400 and 450 BC.

## QUESTION

How do these themes relate to the New Testament?

<b>Pentateuch</b>	<b>History</b>
Genesis	Joshua
Exodus	Judges
Leviticus	Ruth
Numbers	1 Samuel
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel
	1 Kings
	2 Kings
	1 Chronicles
	2 Chronicles
	Ezra
	Nehemiah

## Poetry (5 Books)

These books account for some of the most beautiful lines of teaching in all of the world. We also are given the greatest wisdom in all of the world as we read these books and the rest of the Bible.

## Major Prophets (5 Books)

A prophet is someone who has been called by God to deliver His message to individuals, a group of people, a nation, or the entire world. The Major prophets are considered to be “Major” because of the fact that they are longer in length. The “Minor Prophets” are shorter in length. This is main difference. They were written approximately between 750 and 550 BC.

## Minor Prophets (12 Books)

These are the last twelve books in the Old Testament. They were written approximately between 840 and 400 BC.

## The New Testament (27 Books)

### Themes Found in the New Testament

- The Savior Arrives
- Grace Revealed
- The New Covenant
- Faith Abounds
- Salvation for All Mankind
- Gospel is Given
- Forgiveness for Sin
- Holiness and Righteousness
- Judgment

### Categories of New Testament Books

#### Gospels (4 Books)

The Gospels give the account of the life, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospels deliver the “Gospel” message for all mankind and introduce us to the Savior of the world.

#### Church History (1 Book)

The book of Acts is Church History 101. It is in this book that we see the beginning and rise of the first church as well as the initial obstacles that they encountered.

#### Pauline Epistles (13 Books)

The term “epistle” means “letter.” These are letters that have been written to individuals, groups of people, or to believers in general that instruct them in living for heavenly Father and learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. These letters were written by the Apostle Paul.

#### General Epistles (8 Books)

Once again, the term “epistle” means “letter.” These are also letters that have been written to individuals, groups of people, or to believers in general that instruct them in living for heavenly Father and learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

#### Prophecy (1 Book)

The book of Revelation (often erroneously dubbed “Revelations”) is a genre known as “apocalyptic” literature, marked by distinctive literary features, particularly predictions of future events and accounts of visionary experiences or journeys to heaven.

#### Poetry                      Major Prophets

Job	Isaiah
Psalms	Jeremiah
Proverbs	Lamentations
Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
Song of Solomon	Daniel

#### Minor Prophets

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

#### QUESTION

How do these themes impact your faith today?

#### Gospels                      History

Matthew	Acts
Mark	
Luke	
John	

#### Pauline Epistles                      General Epistles

Romans	Hebrews
1 Corinthians	James
2 Corinthians	1 Peter
Galatians	2 Peter
Ephesians	1 John
Philippians	2 John
Colossians	3 John
1 Thessalonians	Jude
2 Thessalonians	
1 Timothy	
2 Timothy	
Titus	
Philemon	

#### Prophecy

Revelation
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# Comparison of Translations

## QUESTIONS

What are some of the translations you own?

Which translation of the Bible do you utilize in your studies? Why?

## Many Translations, One Truth

There are almost 4,000 different translations of the Bible in circulation around the world today. The Bible has been translated or is in the process of being translated into each and every language in the world and with all of these different translations there has come much discussion on which translations are the most accurate to the original text of the Bible.

Observe a sample of some different translations of **Romans 3:25**.

KJV	NASB	ESV	NIV 2011	NLT	Message
Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;	Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;	whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.	God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished	For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,	God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured.

## QUESTION

What are some of the differences between these translations?

While it is true that there are many different translations of the Bible, it is important that we understand that there is still only **ONE TRUTH** and that truth is found only through the reliable and accurate translation of the Word of God. An accurate translation of the Word of God carefully preserves the integrity of the original language while translating it into a dialect we can understand today.

This study will help you determine the differences between the different translations and choose the most reliable translation for your own personal study of the Word of God.

## Comparing Translations

It is important that we begin examining the different approaches that each translator might utilize when seeking to translate the Word of God into a language for the people to understand. There are three basic approaches that are utilized in translating the Word of God. These three basic approaches are observed on the comparison chart below and defined in the following paragraphs.

### *Three Approaches of Translation*

#### **Word for Word (Literal)**

A literal or “word for word” translation seeks to represent the original Greek and Hebrew in a more word for word manner. This method assures that each English word is represented by a Greek or Hebrew word, not some expansion or interpretation by the translators. If a Hebrew or Greek word means to “run” then literal translators should render the word “run” in the target language instead of shuffle, amble, move, skip, prance, or stroll, because neither of these verbs

convey the most literal sense of running. **Examples:** *New American Standard Bible*, *King James Version*, *Revised Standard Bible*, and the *New King James Version*.

### Literal Translation Text: Revelation 3:20 (NASB)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

### Paraphrase

A paraphrase translation is not as concerned with original word order or sentence structure as it is the idea of the passage. This type of translation seeks to translate the ideas in the original text as accurately as possible in the target language. Paraphrases are more than just translation, for by definition, the author tries to place besides the correct translation, “other words” which contain similar meanings. This frequently employs the use of a commentary to help translate it and becomes a pocket commentary instead of a true translation. **Examples:** *The Living Bible* and *The Message*.

### Paraphrase Translation Text: Revelation 3:20 (The Message)

Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you.

### Thought for Thought (Dynamic)

A dynamic or “thought for thought” translation strives for a balance between the two mentioned above. The goal of this type of translation is to render the idea conveyed by the original language into that of the target language. **Examples:** *New International Version*, *New Revised Standard Version*, and *New American Bible*.

### Dynamic Translation Text: Revelation 3:20 (NIV 2011)

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

### Reflect and Respond

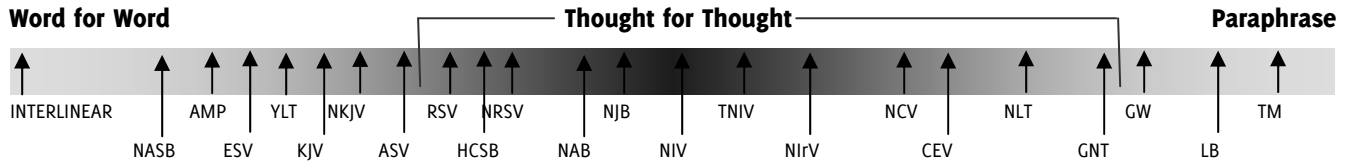
Take a moment and reflect on the following comparison and assessment charts (and the *Translation Timeline* Appendix) and answer the following questions.

- Why is it important to know the approach the translators have taken when translating different versions of the Bible?
- What category does your version of the Bible fall into by these standards?
- Does the current version of the Bible from which you are studying match up with your philosophy of Biblical study?
- What are your observations about these comparisons?
- Which of these translations would be good for your children? Grandchildren? New Christians? Mature Christians?
- What is the value of having more than one translation?

### QUESTIONS

- What are concerns and benefits of these approaches to translation?
- What are the differences that you observe in these different translations? Does it matter?

## English Bible Translation Comparison



- INTERLINEAR** Bible in two languages in line-by-line comparison
- NASB** New American Standard Bible (1971; update 1995)
- AMP** Amplified Bible (1965)
- ESV** English Standard Version (2001)
- YLT** Young's Literal Translation (1862)
- KJV** King James Version (1611; significantly revised 1769)
- NKJV** New King James Version (1982)
- ASV** American Standard Version (1901)
- RSV** Revised Standard Version (1952)
- HCSB** Holman Christian Standard Version (2004)
- NRSV** New Revised Standard Version (1989)
- NAB** New American Bible (Catholic, 1970, NT rev. 1986)

- NJB** New Jerusalem Bible (Catholic, 1986; revision of 1966 Jerusalem Bible)
- NIV** New International Version (1984)
- TNIV** Today's New International Version (NT 2001, OT 2005)
- NirV** New International reader's Version (1996)
- NCV** New Century Version (OT 1978, NT 1986)
- CEV** Contemporary English Version (OT 1991, NT 1995)
- NLT** New Living Translation (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1996; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2004)
- GNT** Good News (NT 1966; OT 1974, Revised 1993)
- GW** God's Word. Paraphrase by Beck (1995)
- LB** Living Bible (1950). Paraphrase by Ken Taylor
- TM** The Message by Eugene Peterson (1991-2002)

## Bible Version Assessment Chart

<http://www.allbibles.com/bibleversions.asp>

The following chart compares different translations. Each translation has a specific grade level for the reader that it targets. Some Bible versions are not included on this chart. This chart and more can be found at the above link.

Version	Abr.	Year	1 Peter 3:15	Grade	Type	NOTES
<b>American Standard Version</b>	ASV	1901	...but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord. [being] ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear...	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	This translation was the work of the American committee which had consulted on the English Revised Version (1885), which was itself a revision of the King James Version
<b>Amplified Bible</b>	AMP	NT 1958; OT 1964; Revised 1987	But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy [and acknowledge Him] as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	This translation is really a mini-commentary which features a system of verse-end alternate translations and comments on different shades of meaning in the original languages.
<b>Contemporary English Version</b>	CEV	NT 1991; OT 1995	Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Thought for Thought	This version seeks to be readable, yet faithful to the meaning of the original texts. Nouns describing God's actions are rendered in varying ways. This version avoids complicated language, obscure vocabulary and difficult sentence structure to produce a translation understandable to a wide variety of modern readers.
<b>English Standard Version</b>	ESV	Fall 2010	but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	The ESV uses the classic principles of word-for-word translation and literary excellence as exemplified by the KJV and RSV. Highly accurate, the ESV closely reflects the original meaning of the text in clear, readable English.
<b>God's Word</b>	GW	NT 1988; OT 1995	But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect.	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Paraphrase	This revision utilizes the process employed by global mission organizations for translating into new foreign languages. The goal is to express the meaning of the original biblical languages into those expressions with the same modern English meaning.

Version	Abr.	Year	1 Peter 3:15	Grade	Type	NOTES
<b>Good News Version</b>	GNT	NT 1966; OT 1974, rev. 1993	1 Peter 3:15: But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.	7th Grade	Thought for Thought	A thought-for-thought translation theory called dynamic equivalence was used for this version. It uses common English throughout, and modern idioms are sometimes substituted for ancient ones in the interest of clarity.
<b>Holman Christian Standard Bible</b>	HCSB	NT 2001	but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.	NT 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade. OT not yet released.	Thought for Thought	The HCSB is a combination of word-for-word and dynamic renderings that is both faithful to the words God inspired and user friendly to modern readers.
<b>King James Version</b>	KJV	1611; Revised 1768	But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	Commissioned by King James I of England, this translation is still recognized for the beauty of its language which dates from the time of William Shakespeare.
<b>Living Bible</b>	LB	NT 1962; OT 1971	Quietly trust yourself to Christ the Lord and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way.	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Paraphrase	This paraphrase of the American Standard Version was an attempt by Kenneth L. Taylor to put the Bible in language his children could understand. It is useful for introducing the Bible to people who are unfamiliar with it.
<b>The Message</b>	MES	NT 1993; Psalms 1994; Complete Bible, July 2002	Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Paraphrase	Pastor and biblical scholar Eugene H. Peterson's aim in developing this contemporary language version is to transfer the informal and earthy flavor of the Greek into the rhythms and idiom of everyday English.
<b>New American Bible</b>	NAB	1970; NT rev. 1986; Psalms rev. 1992	...But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Thought for Thought	This is the first complete American Catholic Bible translated from the original languages. Its style is more direct than that of the Jerusalem Bible.
<b>New American Standard</b>	NASB	NT 1963; Whole Bible 1971, rev. 1995	But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	Especially popular among Evangelicals and others who want a word-for-word translation of the original manuscripts, this translation was prepared as an update of the 1901 ASV.
<b>New Century Version</b>	NCV	NT 1978; OT 1986	But respect Christ as the holy Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope that you have.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Thought For Thought	From the translators of the International Children's Version, this conservative evangelical translation is in simple English, designed to be easy to read.
<b>New International Version</b>	NIV	NT 1973; OT 1978; rev. 1984, 2011.	But in your hearts set aside Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Thought for Thought	Called "international" because it is trans-denominational and contains the work of many scholars from many English-speaking nations, the NIV is a straightforward translation in contemporary English.

Version	Abr.	Year	1 Peter 3:15	Grade	Type	NOTES
<b>New International Readers' Version</b>	NIRV	1996	But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Thought-for Thought	The NIRV is a simplified of the NIV, developed by the same translation team as the NIV. Very easy reading, designed for children as a stepping stone to the NIV, as well as those for whom English is a second language.
<b>New Jerusalem Bible</b>	NJB	1985	Simply proclaim the Lord Christ holy in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have.	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Thought-for Thought	An update of the Jerusalem Bible, with revised footnotes and more dignified language.
<b>New King James Version</b>	NKJV	1982	But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	This translation updates the language of the King James Version, changing archaic inflections and obsolete words, while preserving its basic literary structure.
<b>New Living Translation</b>	NLT	1996	1 Peter 3:15: Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.	6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Thought-for Thought	Based on Kenneth Taylor's paraphrase, The Living Bible, a team of 90 Bible scholars worked for 7 years, carefully comparing each verse with the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures to produce a true translation that is accurate and easy to understand.
<b>New Revised Standard Version</b>	NRSV	1990.	...But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	An update of the Revised Standard Version (1952), this translation incorporates changes resulting from archaeological and textual discoveries in recent decades.
<b>Revised Standard Version</b>	RSV	NT 1946; OT 1952, rev. 1971	...but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence;	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Word for Word	A revision of the American Standard Version (1901), the RSV was intended to preserve the best of that version while incorporating modern English.
<b>Today's New International Version</b>	TNIV	2005	But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Thought for Thought	The TNIV is a revised version of the NIV that updates the language to reflect gender neutrality. Will not be published after the NIV 2011 update.
<b>Young's Literal Translation</b>	YLT	1862, rev 1887	...and the Lord God sanctify in your hearts. And [be] ready always for defence to every one who is asking of you in account concerning the hope that [is] in you, with meekness and fear;	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Word for Word	Robert Young sought to correct certain inaccuracies in the King James Version in this very literal translation.

## Choosing the Right Translation

Every translation is going to have its pros and cons. Take the information that you have gathered and begin to formulate your personal philosophy on studying the Word of God. As you develop your personal philosophy then you can begin to clearly answer the question: **Which translation is best for me?**

- What is your personal philosophy of Bible Study?
- Are you at a point in your faith that you want to study in a more literal way?
- Are you more concerned at this point in your faith about getting the general idea that the Bible presents or a more literal translation of the Word of God?

The Word of God has been given to each one of us to help us grow closer to the Lord in our relationship as well as our walk with Him. It is important that we understand God's desire for our lives in the clearest possible manner. Observe three basic criteria used in helping you choose the right translation for you.

### Criteria 1 - Accurate Translation of Hebrew and Greek Manuscripts

To clearly understand the Word of God and His commands for our life and relationship with Him, we must have an accurate translation of His inspired Word. The word "translate" means: bearing or transferring the meaning of one language to another language. Remind yourself of the 3 translation philosophies.

### Criteria 2 - Translation that reflects a high view of Scripture

This means that the translation supports the belief and promotes the fundamental fact that the Word of God is inspired by God not meant to be manipulated by man to serve their own purpose.

Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, in his *Cotton Patch Version of the Bible* has coined a new version of translation called: "thematic interpretation." It is another step beyond Paraphrase and allows the author's imagination to simply carry the theme of the passage. Jordan's theme is a laid back "southern walk through Georgia" which delivers *Zack Harris the preacher* for Zacharias the priest in the Gospel of Luke, and Paul's first missionary journey to the island of Crete by way of *Pensacola and Montgomery – riding on a bus!*

“ When Thanksgiving Day arrived, they were all gathered in one place. Then all of a sudden there came from the sky a rumbling like a tornado, and it filled the whole house where they were gathered. And they saw forked flames as from a fire, and it stayed in contact with each one of them. Everybody was bursting with Holy Spirit and started talking in whatever different languages the spirit directed. Now at that time there were a lot of delegates gathered in Atlanta, religious people from countries all over the world. So when they heard this great noise, they all came running together. And then they heard these folks talking to each one of them in their own native tongue, and were they excited! Amazed and astounded to no end, they said, "Look, aren't all these speakers Americans? Then how is it that each of us is hearing it in his own native tongue—French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Burmese, Hebrew, Swedish, Afrikaans, Hindi—in our own languages we are hearing them tell of God's mighty doings." Everybody was dumfounded and puzzled, saying one to another, "What's the meaning of this?" but others sneered, "They're tanked up on white lightning.”

from Acts Chapter 2 of the Cotton Patch Version of the Bible

#### QUESTIONS

Are there certain translations that are more accurate than others?

What ways might a translation carry a low view of Scripture?

Which translations meet all three criteria?

#### QUESTION

What are your observations about The Cotton Patch translation?

### Criteria 3 - Challenging but Understandable Translations

The final criterion to examine is extremely important. The *King James Version* of the Bible is a good word-for-word translation, but it utilizes words that might cause confusion for modern-day readers. Some Bible students love the KJV while others may get lost in some of the terminology. It is important that you ask yourself which Bible translation meets the previous two criteria and is still clearly understandable to foster deeper growth in your relationship with the Lord.

## Conclusion

There are many different translations of the Word of God but out of all those translations there is still only one truth found through His Word and His inspiration. Carefully pray about and choose the best translation for your own personal study and grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord.

# The Gender Neutral Conflict: Changing the Word of God Critique of NIV2011

## Updated Version of the NIV

To paraphrase Shakespeare, to change the Word or not, that is the question! We live in a changing world. The culture in which we live is radically different than it was 30 or even 50 years ago. We observe that churches are becoming more pragmatic in their theology and less Biblical in their daily living. Many churches have begun catering to be more like the culture in the name of becoming “seeker sensitive” otherwise their idea of reaching the lost is to become more like them in their theology and way of living in order to connect at a deeper level with the lost. In the midst of a culture that promotes homosexual marriage and the ordination of homosexual clergy, the people have sought a new improved version of the Bible in which it becomes more inclusive to the society around us.

The time has finally arrived with the publication of the updated New International Version in 2011 (sometimes referred to as 2010). The updated NIV will replace any older versions of the NIV as well as the older versions of the TNIV. The publisher has declared that it will only publish the new NIV, simply as the *New International Version* without a title update, from this point forward and no longer publish the TNIV, or the 1984 revised editions of the NIV.

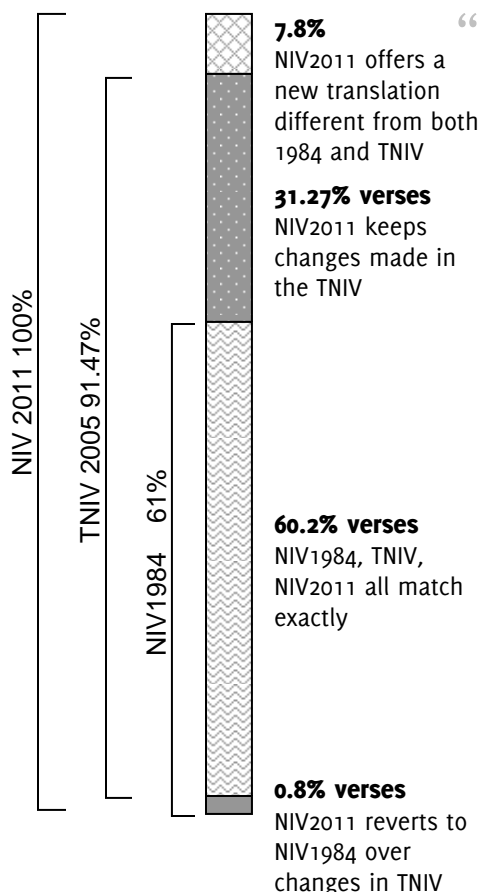
### QUESTION

Why is it pragmatic for the publisher to stop publishing previous editions of the NIV?

### QUESTION

Biblia, the publisher of the NIV 2011, on [www.Biblia.com](http://www.Biblia.com) states “it’s important to stress that about 95% of the text of the updated NIV® is exactly the same as the 1984 text it replaces.”

How does this statement compare to the chart by John Dyer and the quote by Marvin Olasky?



“

More than 7,000 different Bible editions now exist. People read eBibles on computers, Kindles, iPads, or whatever. For the record, blogger John Dyer found that 91 percent of the words in the new NIV, expected to hit bookstores in March, are unchanged from the old version. Most-removed words: “He,” “his,” or “him” 2,700 times, “man” or “men” 1,600 times, and “fathers,” “forefathers,” or “brothers” 500 times.

“Person,” “ancestor,” and “they” are three of the gap-fillers, but this translation sometimes doesn’t (Psalm 146:5). The most-criticized retranslated verse is 1 Timothy 2:12. The CMBW notes that virtually every translation, whether traditional or modern, has Paul writing that in church a woman is not to “have” or “exercise authority” over a man—but the new NIV has “assume authority.” Critics argue that readers may conclude women can be pastors as long as they don’t engage in a power grab.

*Another New NIV by Marvin Olasky  
World Magazine January 01, 2011*

”

Chart: Overview of Differences in NIV 2011, TNIV and NIV 1984 by John Dyer.  
For detailed of the comparison results, visit [www.biblewebapp.com/niv2011-changes](http://www.biblewebapp.com/niv2011-changes).

## **Warning: The Gender Neutral Bible**

The second section of our study helps us begin formulating our thoughts and theology with regard to the NIV2011 version of the Bible. I understand that there are many Christians that claim that this is a solid version of the Bible that helps us connect with our culture at a deeper level. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there are many Christians that will also flee from the NIV2011 because they will believe it to be a “man inspired” version of the Bible. One observation that must be made is simply this: The NIV2011 version of the Bible is a new improved version of the TNIV which was labeled as a gender neutral Bible. This only leads us to the fact that the NIV2011 is also gender neutral in its translating theology.

There are many translations that take this gender-neutral approach, which is sometimes referred to as “inclusive language”, including *The Good News Bible*, *New Century Version*, *Contemporary English Version*, *God’s Word*, and the *New Revised Standard Version*.

### **A gender neutral Bible could redefine marriage**

**Genesis 2:24** (NASB) – For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

### **A gender neutral Bible could redefine sexuality**

**Romans 1:26-27** (NASB) – <sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup>and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

### **A gender neutral Bible could redefine God’s divine plan for the family**

**1 Corinthians 11:3** (NASB) – But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

There are not just many problems that face a gender neutral Bible but there are also many Biblical objections to a gender neutral Bible.

### **The Bible becomes “man inspired” versus “God inspired...”**

**2 Timothy 3:16** (NASB) – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

### **The Bible becomes man centered versus God centered...**

**2 Timothy 4:3** (NASB) – For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires...

#### **Q U E S T I O N S**

What are problems with a gender neutral Bible?

What are the objections to a gender neutral Bible from conservative Christians?

How might a gender neutral Bible be considered “man-inspired” versus “God-inspired?”

How does a gender neutral Bible become more man-centered?

How does a gender neutral Bible conform to the pattern of the world?

## The Bible conforms to the pattern of the world versus transforming the world.

**Romans 12:1-2** (NASB) – <sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

No matter how you label a gender neutral Bible, we understand as conservative Christians that anytime the meaning of a text is changed due to a desire to be less offensive to the culture or to try to connect with a culture on their level then that version of the Bible has now become “man inspired” in order to fit into the culture around it. Beware of these versions of the Bible and pay careful attention to the details.

### Comparison of Selected Passages

The next question on the minds of many people is simply this: Do you have proof? The fact is that a quick read through of the NIV2011 might not raise any alarms for most people because the changes are subtle but many times small changes can make a big difference. This section compares the NIV2011 to the NASB version of the Bible. The NASB is a reliable word-for-word translation.

Reference	NIV 2011	NASB	What Are the Differences?
<b>Revelation 3:20</b>	Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that <b>person</b> , and <b>they</b> with me.	Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to <b>him</b> and will dine with him, and <b>he</b> with Me.	Notice the change from singular to plural language in the NIV. This is a seemingly innocent change but notice how it eliminates the gender from the Greek language. This is going to leave pastors and teachers with advising the flock: “that is a singular ‘they’” or “that is a singular ‘them.’”
<b>Luke 17:3</b>	If your <b>brother or sister</b> sins against you, rebuke <b>them</b> ; and if <b>they</b> repent, forgive <b>them</b> .	Be on your guard! If your <b>brother</b> sins, rebuke <b>him</b> ; and if <b>he</b> repents, forgive <b>him</b> .	The NIV inserts “or sister,” which Jesus did not say. Jesus is using a single male individual (“your brother”) as an example of a general truth. While it is true that this verse <i>applies</i> to sisters who sin, that is <i>application</i> , not <i>translation</i> .
<b>Hebrews 2:17</b>	For this reason he had to be made like <b>them</b> , fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.	Therefore, He had to be made like His <b>brethren</b> in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.	The NIV improves this translation from the TNIV but it again it takes away the gender associated with this text which might cause a misunderstanding among the readers. <b>Example:</b> The word <b>them</b> could be understood by some to refer to both brothers and sisters. Did Jesus have to become like his sisters “in every way” in order to become a “high priest in service to God”? All the Old Testament priests were men, and surely the high priest was a man. Meditate on that phrase “in every way.”

Singular to Plural Changes			
Reference	NIV 2011	NASB	What Are the Differences?
<b>1 John 4:16</b>	And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in <b>them</b> .	We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in <b>him</b> .	The new NIV opens the door to a corporate translation where God dwells in the group and not in the individual. This opens the door for a worldly form of salvation called Collective Salvation where the salvation of the people is based upon the people within that group not the individual response to the Lord.
<b>1 John 3:3</b>	All who have this hope in him purify <b>themselves</b> , just as he is pure.	And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies <b>himself</b> , just as He is pure.	
<b>Luke 9:26</b>	Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of <b>them</b> when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.	For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of <b>him</b> when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.	
<b>Hebrews 12:7</b>	Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his <b>children</b> . For what <b>children</b> are not disciplined by their father?	It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with <b>sons</b> ; for what <b>son</b> is there whom his father does not discipline?	The NIV mistranslates the Greek term <i>huios</i> ("son"), which in its singular form does not mean "children" or "child."
<b>John 19:12</b>	From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the <b>Jewish leaders</b> kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."	As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the <b>Jews</b> cried out saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar."	The NIV changes "Jews" to "Jewish leaders" with no justification in the Greek text. This obscures the corporate responsibility.
Small Changes, Big Difference in Meaning			
Reference	NIV 2011	NASB	What Are the Differences?
<b>Psalms 23:4</b>	Even though I walk through the <b>darkest valley</b> , I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.	Even though I walk through the valley of the <b>shadow of death</b> , I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	The NIV changes Psalm 23 to gain wider acceptance. The familiar phrase "valley of the shadow of death" is replaced by the words "darkest valley."
<b>Romans 16:1</b>	I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a <b>deacon</b> [a][b] of the church in Cenchreae. a). Or <i>servant</i> b). The word <i>deacon</i> refers here to a Christian designated to serve with the elders of the church in a variety of ways.	I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a <b>servant</b> of the church which is at Cenchrea;	The Greek translation of this word is "servant." The new translation gives a greater emphasis on women serving in a leadership fashion within the church and once again leading to the subtle change in God's original plan for the His body, the church. Is this a consistent theme found through the different letters written by the Apostle Paul?
<b>1 Timothy 3:2</b>	Now the overseer is to be above reproach, <b>faithful to his wife</b> , temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,	An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the <b>husband of one wife</b> , temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,	The NIV changes "husband of but one wife" to "faithful to his wife." Does this interpretation alter the historical context of the text?
<b>2 Peter 1:20</b>	Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own <b>interpretation of things</b> .	But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own <b>interpretation</b> ,	The NIV changes "no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation" to "no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things." This might cause the reader to misunderstand where the inspiration for the Scriptures came from...Was it from God or things in the world?

Small Changes, Big Difference in Meaning			
Reference	NIV 2011	NASB	What Are the Differences?
<b>1 Timothy 2:12</b>	I do not permit a woman to teach or to <b>assume</b> authority over a man; she must be quiet.	But I do not allow a woman to teach or <b>exercise</b> authority over a man, but to remain quiet.	The NIV says that this leaves the interpretation of the passage open, but it intentionally introduces a crucial ambiguity that is not found in the original NIV (which accurately translated <i>authenthein</i> “have authority”). The new NIV(2011)’s translation lends itself to a misinterpretation of this passage (i.e., Paul is only addressing the case of women <i>illegitimately</i> “assuming” authority, rather than prohibiting women from having/exercising authority as teacher/shepherds of the church). The use of the word “exercise” prohibits women from being in the state of having/holding/exercising authority over a man. Whereas “assume authority” could easily be misconstrued as pertaining only to the taking up of authority (whether legitimately or illegitimately) or the way in which one comes into the state of authority.

## Conclusion of Critique

**1 John 4:1** (NASB) – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Does it matter if America’s best-selling Bible is a gender-neutral? The answer to this question is: YES! We have been convinced that this is acceptable in order to connect in a less offensive way to the lost world. Jesus did not soften the message of the Gospel to reach the tax collectors and prostitutes. He plainly spoke the truth and in doing so let the Holy Spirit draw the people to the Lord not relying on programs or polished words. He simply spoke the truth inspired by God!

# How to Understand the Bible

“ Half of all adults firmly believe that the Bible is accurate in all the principles it teaches. That proportion includes the four-fifths of born again adults (79%) who concur.

*Changes in Worldview Among Christians over the Past 13 Years*  
Barna.org, March 06, 2009 ”

What if you had a manual on how to live life, would you use it? What if you had a guide that gave you all the knowledge and information that you would ever need in order to be successful in life, would you apply it? What if you had the greatest and most priceless treasure known to mankind in your house, would you cherish it? The Bible is the inspired Word of God and it is the answer to all of these questions and much more. I have come to this most basic understanding in my life upon this earth, the Bible is either absolute in my life or it will be obsolete. In the culture that we are living in, we have more Christians that are becoming consumed with busyness in their lives. They are slowly allowing the Word of God to become less of a priority in their individual lives, families, and churches.

## Q U E S T I O N S

Why do modern Christians not have enough time to read the Bible?

What problems will arise if we read the Bible less as: Individuals? Families? A Nation?

## The Importance of the Bible

One of the most essential steps in helping Christians grow deeper in their faith is helping them understand the great importance of reading and studying the Word of God. If this basic principle is not a priority in your life then you will never have a Biblical worldview and you will not be able to “*train yourself up in godliness*” as commanded by God. Read the following passages and respond.

### *Reasons for Reading the Word of God*

**2 Timothy 3:15-16** (NIV 1984) – ...<sup>15</sup>and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

**Romans 10:17** (NIV 1984) – Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**1 Peter 2:2** (NIV 1984) – Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...

**1 Timothy 4:7-8** (NIV 1984) – <sup>7</sup>Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. <sup>8</sup>For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

**Psalms 119:11** (NIV 1984) – I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

**Psalms 119:105** (NIV 1984) – Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

## Q U E S T I O N

What are different reasons according to these verses for reading the Word of God?

# Steps of Bible Study

Many Christians today would like to know more about the Bible but they may not know how to deepen their understanding of the Word of God. This section of our study will focus our attention on learning how to deepen your understanding of the Word of God by going through five basic steps of digging into the Word of God.

## ***Hear the Bible***

As Christians, we talk about the importance of growing in our faith but few understand what this really means. Many times we make spiritual growth about the pursuit of intellectual knowledge of the Word of God and we forget about the application of the Word. Consider what the Bible has to declare on this subject.

**1 John 2:6** (NIV 1984) – If we claim to live in Him then we must walk as Jesus did.

**James 1:22** (NASB) – But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

As Christians, we have been called to grow in our faith and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The first step in walking with Jesus is too clearly: **Hear the Word of God**. Let us understand the great importance of hearing the Word of God and tempering our hearing with application of the Word.

### **What does Romans 10:17 declare about the importance of hearing God’s Word?**

**Romans 10:17** (NIV 1984) – Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

### **What does it mean to “hear” the Word of God?**

The Greek word for *hearing* means “a sense of hearing an instruction.”

### **What does Luke 11:28 declare as a promise to those who hear and obey the Word of God?**

**Luke 11:28** (NIV 1984) – He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Christians have a great responsibility to make sure that they “hear” the Word of God which means that they need to be in steady weekly attendance of a Bible preaching & teaching church where they can grow in the knowledge of the Word of God. In doing so, the Christian will be blessed through the Word and by God as they hear the Word and apply it in their own lives.

## **Read the Bible**

**Psalms 1:1-2** (NIV 1984) – <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

The Hebrew word for *meditate* carries the idea of “groaning or intently wrestling with something.” It is not the same understanding as the eastern form of meditation in some religions today.

Business is one of the biggest enemies that the Word of God encounters today. Business numbs our hearts and minds to the understanding that we need a more solid foundation in our lives. The greatest investment that any Christian can ever make is to spend an extended period of time in the Word of God each day.

**Revelation 1:3** (NIV 1984) – Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

We read in the book of Revelation that those who read the word of God will also experience the blessing of the Lord in their lives. We notice that it directly ties the great importance of not only reading the Word of God but also hearing the Word of God.

## Study the Bible

Many Christians that fill the pews Sunday after Sunday tend to rely upon their Sunday attendance as the breadth and depth of their Bible reading and knowledge. The Apostle Paul addressed this in his teachings when he commended the Berean's in Acts 17 for going home after a lesson and searching the Scriptures for accuracy of his statements. Churches need more Berean's today.

**Acts 17:10-11** (NIV 1984) – Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Christians that have a great eagerness to learn about the Word of God and a desire to examine the Scriptures will also be considered men and women of noble character because this is a trait of an authentic Christian.

**Proverbs 4:5-7** (NIV 1984) – <sup>5</sup>Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. <sup>6</sup>Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. <sup>7</sup>Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

## Memorize the Bible

As we read through the life of Christ, we observe that even Jesus Christ was tempted by Satan. Upon reading the account of the temptation of Christ in Matthew 4, we observe that every time Jesus was tempted by Satan then He responded in one manner: He quoted the Word of God. The warfare that we face as Christians is not a physical warfare but a spiritual warfare of epic proportions. We need to know, understand, and memorize the Word of God in our lives so that we can defend ourselves against the attack of Satan.

**Psalms 119:11** (NIV 1984) – I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

**Psalms 119:105** (NIV 1984) – Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

## Apply the Bible

The final step that we examine comes to us as we examine the great need to become “doers” of the Word of God. Christianity is not a religion based on getting

### QUESTIONS

What does it mean for a Christian to meditate on the Word of God?  
How often are we to meditate on it?  
What kind of blessings come from reading the Word of God?

### QUESTIONS

What does this passage state about Bereans?  
How are we to imitate the Bereans today?

### QUESTIONS

What does Psalm 119 state about the importance of memorizing the Word of God?  
What does it mean to hide the Word of God in your heart?  
What does it mean for the Word of God to be map and light?

all the head knowledge you can get out of the Bible. God desires for us to have a thriving, intimate relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. This cannot happen until you learn to apply the Word of God. Examine the words of Jesus Christ at the end of the Sermon on the Mount and respond.

#### Q U E S T I O N S

What does this passage state about applying the Word of God in your life?

What does it mean to apply the Word of God in your life? Is this a command or a suggestion?

**Matthew 7:24-27** (NIV 1984) – <sup>24</sup>Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

## Quick Steps to Get the Most Out of Your Study

The final section of our study examines the basic fundamental steps in helping you get the most out of studying a passage of Scripture. It is important that we look into Scripture with a heart that desires to know more about the Word of God and seek a deeper understanding of His Word in order to develop a stronger foundation.

### *Step #1 – Prepare Yourself*

Always begin every Bible reading time with prayer. Ask God to open your heart and mind to His Word in order to gain wisdom and insight.

### *Step #2 – Read the Passage all the Way Through*

Always read the passage all the way through from beginning to end and write down anything questions that might arise during your reading. You need to also write down what the Holy Spirit is telling you about your initial reading of the passage.

### *Step #3 – Look for Key Words and Phrases*

Always look at the passage of Scripture and observe if there are any key words or phrases that stand out. You might look for repeated words or phrases, commands, or doctrines that might stand out as great importance.

### *Step #4 – Look at the Context*

Always look at the context of the passage. Read the verses that come before and after the passage. Ask yourself, if the text fits in with the context of the overall themes found in the rest of the book or letter.

### *Step #5 – Interpret the Text*

Always study a text with several questions in your mind. What did the text mean in the days that the author wrote it? What does the text mean today? A good Bible dictionary or study Bible will help you in this step.

### *Step #6 – Apply the Text*

Finally, always ask yourself how to apply this text in your own life.

Why do an adulterous king and a dead language play such a large role in the English Bibles we read today? This appendix is provided to give you a short-course in Western Civilization as it relates to the translation of the Bible throughout Ancient and Modern times. The following topics are covered:

- **Translation Timeline**
- **The Catholic Church**
- **Marking Time**
- **Hebrew Canon**
- **Apocrypha**
- **Languages of the Bible: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, Latin**
- **Appendix Sources**

## Translation Timeline

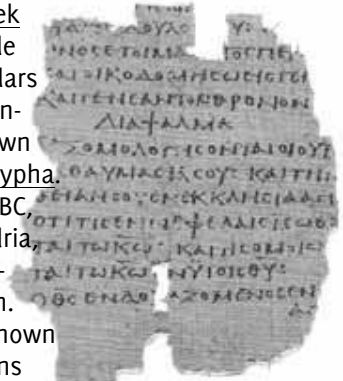
Elements in **bold** reflect specific Bible translation history. All other elements are for historical context. Elements underlined have additional information available.

### BC – Before Christ (see *Marking Time* section)

- 1400's** The Ten Commandments were delivered to Moses, and the earliest books of the **Old Testament** (OT) were written.
- 1000 Jewish conquest of Jerusalem
- 1050 First King of Israel
- 930 Israel Splits into Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judah) Kingdoms
- 721 Fall of Israel (Northern Kingdom) to Assyria
- 586 Fall of Judea (Southern Kingdom) to Babylon and destruction of First Temple
- 539 Fall of the Babylonian Empire. Jews allowed returning to Judea
- 516 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem is completed under Persian rule
- 400's **Hebrew Torah** (or *Hebrew Pentateuch*) and the **Samaritan Torah** (or *Samaritan Pentateuch*) completed. Both contain the first five books of the OT. The Jewish version is written in Hebrew and corresponds to the later Masoretic Text. The Samaritan version was written in the Samaritan alphabet, which differs from Hebrew but was in general used before the Babylonian captivity. There are significant differences in the two versions. Tradition holds that the Samaritan version was for the descendants of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) who were not exiled by the Assyrians; however, the Jews do not accept this and reject the documents. Scholars consult the *Samaritan Pentateuch* when trying to determine the meaning of text of the original *Pentateuch* and to trace the development of text families. The *Samaritan Pentateuch's* five books are the only sacred scriptures to them, while the Hebrew Pentateuch is just one section of the 39 book Hebrew Canon.
- 500's** Hebrew Manuscripts complete of 39 books of **Old Testament** Canon
- 486 King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) reigns in Persia (Esther becomes his Queen)
- 469 Socrates the Greek philosopher is born

- 460 Hippocrates the Greek physician is born
- 450 Nehemiah was allowed to return to Jerusalem from Persia and rebuild the city
- 384 Aristotle the Greek philosopher born
- 330's Alexander the Great, a Macedonian king, establishes Greek empire by defeating Persians, Babylonians

**250's** The **Septuagint**, Koine Greek version of the Hebrew Bible completed by Jewish scholars in Egypt before 132 BC, contains the 39 OT books known today, as well as 14 Apocrypha. Beginning as early as 250 BC, Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt comprised a translation team of about 70 men. This translation became known as *Septuagint*, which means "70." It was during this process that the order of the books was changed to the order we today.



Although the Jewish Scriptures were copied by hand, they were extremely accurate copy to copy. The Jews had a phenomenal system of scribes, who developed intricate and ritualistic methods for counting letters, words and paragraphs to insure that no copying errors were made. These scribes dedicated their entire lives to preserving the accuracy of the holy books. A single copy error would require the immediate destruction of the entire scroll. In fact, Jewish scribal tradition was maintained until the invention of the printing press in the mid-1400's AD. As far as manuscript accuracy, the discovery of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* confirmed the remarkable reliability of this scribal system over thousands of years.

- 69 Cleopatra born in Egypt
- 63 Palestine conquered by Roman general Pompey, Judea now under Roman rule
- 27 First Roman Emperor Octavian (Caesar Augustus)
- 4-6 Birth of Christ

# AD - Anno Domini

- 31-33 Death of Christ
- 40's Starting in about 40 AD, and continuing to about 90 AD, the eye-witnesses to the life of Jesus, wrote in the Greek language the Gospels, letters and books that became the Bible's **New Testament (NT)**. These authors quote from 31 books of the OT, and widely circulate their material so that by about 150 AD, early Christians were referring to the entire set of writings as the "New Covenant."
- 44-46 Paul's First Missionary Journey
- 64 Rome Burns, Christians blamed by Emperor Nero
- 63-70 First Jewish revolt against Rome
- 68 Paul in Prison again in Rome, writes to Timothy, beheaded by Nero
- 70 Destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple during reign of Roman Emperor Vespasian
- 90's Jewish survivors of the Roman annihilation of Jerusalem met at Jamnia and canonized a Hebrew scripture, rejecting the Greek OT and the Apocrypha.
- 1<sup>st</sup> c. Aramaic is firmly established in Palestine as the spoken language of the Jews, displacing Hebrew. Hebrew still remained the learned and sacred tongue. It is reasonable to infer that the adoption of Aramaic occurred as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.
- 100's In the Late First/Early Second Century, the **Old Syriac Bible (Peshitta)** Old and New Testaments were created by translating Hebrew into the Syriac language (a dialect of Aramaic). The translator is unknown, but content is similar to the Hebrew canon of the Palestine Jews, containing the same books but in a different order (plus most of the Apocryphal books).
- 135 Second Jewish revolt crushed. Judea renamed Palestine. Jews are banned from Jerusalem.
- 130-220's **Greek Old Testament** translations made by **Aquila of Sinope, Symmachus the Ebionite, and Theodotion**. Each had its own characteristics and variations from the *Septuagint* and each claimed to be superior.
- 196 Latin introduced as a liturgical language in the Roman Catholic Church. The change from Greek to Latin came about naturally as Greek ceased to be the usual language of the Roman Christians. The transition from Greek to Latin took place through the second through fifth centuries.
- late 2<sup>nd</sup> c. The **Egyptian Coptic Version New Testament** was earliest to use Alexandrian Text-type as Greek base.
- 200's Originals were translated from Greek into Latin, Coptic (Egypt) and Syriac (Syria), and widely spread as inspired scripture through the Roman Empire.
- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> c. "**Old Latin**" (**Vetus Latina**) is a collective name given to the Biblical manuscript texts that bear witness to Latin translations of Biblical before Jerome's *Vulgate Bible*. Although called "Old," it

is written in Late Latin, not the early version of the Latin language known as Old (Early, Archaic) Latin (before 75 BC). The NT of this version conforms to the Western Text-type as a Greek base.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> c. **Origen's Hexapla**, an addition of the OT prepared by Origen containing 6 different versions of the scriptures, including Hebrew (probably the *Masoretic Text*), 4 different Greek versions (a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew text, and versions by *Aquila, Symmachus* and *Theodotion*, and the *Septuagint*)
- 367 **New Testament Canon of Scripture** recognized as 27 books by the Synod of Carthage (Alexandria)
- 382 Jerome's **Latin Vulgate** (OT, NT, Apocrypha) was commissioned by Roman Catholic Pope Damasus I as a revision of the *Old Latin* translations. During this time the official liturgical language of the Roman Catholic Church changes from Greek to Latin.
- 385 Roman Empire permanently divided into Western and Eastern
- 4<sup>th</sup> c. Dated by the ancient style of writing (suggesting Western Text-type or Latin influence) are both the **Codex Vaticanus** (in Vatican library since the 15<sup>th</sup> century) and the **Codex Sinaiticus** (parts are scattered, most at British Library) both of which are two of the oldest Greek manuscripts of the OT and NT and some Apocryphal books based on *Alexandria Text-type*. Both are believed to be derived from a common original from the early part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century or earlier. The *Codex Vaticanus* is believed to be older than *Sinaiticus*.
- 5<sup>th</sup> c. **Aramaic Targums** are Aramaic translations (paraphrases) of the OT, which in their earliest *oral* form date from the time when Aramaic superseded Hebrew as the spoken language of the Jews (by 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD). Official recognition of a final *written Targum* belongs no earlier than the 5<sup>th</sup> century.
- 500 Scriptures translated in over 500 languages.
- 570 Birth of Muhammad, regarded by Muslims as a messenger and prophet of God who restored an uncorrupted original monotheistic faith (Islam). Muslims believe that the *Qur'an*, the religious text of Islam, was revealed from Allah to Muhammad the final revelation of God.
- 614 Persians conquer Judea
- 622 First year of Islamic calendar
- 638 Arab conquest of Jerusalem
- 691 Dome of the Rock, oldest existing Islamic monument, is completed on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the site of the destroyed Jewish Temple.
- 920's **Aleppo Codex** is a bound manuscript of the *Hebrew Bible*, viewed as the most authoritative representative in Hebrew. Jewish scholars developed the system of vowel pointing which was to become the standard Masoretic system of vocalization.
- 995 **Anglo-Saxon New Testament** translation (early roots of English language)



Egyptian Coptic

- 1008 **Leningrad Codex** is the oldest complete manuscript of the *Hebrew Bible* in Hebrew with Masoretic notes in the margins, and includes pronunciation guidelines. A *codex* is written on parchment pages and bound in leather, as opposed to a rolled scroll.
- 1099 Crusaders conquer Jerusalem, slaughter most Jewish and Moslem inhabitants, and expel Jews.
- 1187 Muslims reconquer Jerusalem
- 1200's Chapter and verse divisions are not found in the oldest manuscripts of the Bible, and there is evidence that the early Hebrew writers did not even separate the words of the text. The division into chapters was a gradual process that began in the Middle Ages. The **chapter divisions** now used were introduced in the **Biblia Parisiensis**, used at the University of Paris as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. (Numbered verses come later.)
- 1384 **John Wycliffe Bible Manuscript**, an early Reformationist, was the first person to translate the Bible from Latin (not Hebrew and Greek) into the English language in a handwritten bound manuscript which took 10 months to complete one Bible.
- 1453 The ultimate fall of Constantinople, Turkey (the seat of the **Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church**) to the Ottoman Turks prompted Biblical scholars to flee the eastern Byzantine Empire, taking their Biblical manuscripts with them, which are now known as *Byzantine Text-type*. This text was noticeably different from the *Alexandrian Text-type* of the Western Roman Catholic Church. Most of the protestant reformers in the coming century used this new text, especially Luther and Tyndale.
- 1455 **Gutenberg Bible**, an edition of the Vulgate in Latin (also called the *Mazarin Bible*), was created on the newly-invented printing press. The Bible could now be reproduced and disseminated quickly, cheaply, in large quantities, even if it was not encouraged by the religious leaders.
- 1490's English Professors Linacre and Colet both learned Greek and compared the gospels to the *Latin Vulgate* then commented on how corrupt the Latin versions had become. Colet translated the NT into Greek for his students and, against better judgment, it was read in public at a Cathedral in London.
- 1492 Columbus lands in the Americas

Gutenberg Bible



The Renaissance, a humanistic movement which originated in Italy in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, spread to France, Germany, the Low Countries, and England. A transitional period between the medieval world and the modern secular world, the Renaissance introduced profound changes which affected literature and the other arts, culture, politics and religion.

- 1516 **Novum Testamentum Graece**, (Novum Instrumentum omne) first edition was produced by Erasmus, who was moved by the experiences of Linacre and Colet, and sought to correct the corrupt Latin Vulgate. He produces a **Greek / Latin Parallel New Testament**, not from the Latin Vulgate but his own fresh rendering from half-dozen partial Greek New Testament manuscripts from no earlier than the 12<sup>th</sup> century and only one which was not of the *Byzantine Text-type*. This became the **Textus Receptus** (received text), and is one of the most famous attempts at restoring the original text of the New Testament to Greek. Erasmus was a Humanist, a Catholic priest and a theologian who was sympathetic to the Reformation. Today, *Novum Testamentum Graece* normally refers to the *Nestle-Aland* editions, starting in 1952. Erasmus' version was in competition with the *Complutensian* version of the NT, which was printed but not yet published; however, Erasmus' version became the preferred for future translations into English by reformers and Catholics. It was rushed into print to beat *Complutensian*, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition corrected many errors.
- 1516 Ottoman Turkish (Muslim) conquest of Palestine and incorporation into the Ottoman Empire. The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in 1537. Palestine remained under Turkish rule until World War II.
- 1517 Martin Luther signaled the beginning of the Reformation by posting 95 theses opposing Catholicism on the door of a German church (he was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1521).
- 1520 **Complutensian Polyglot Bible** is the name given to the first printed polyglot (side-by-side version of the same text in several different languages) of the entire Bible financed by the Roman Catholic Church. The NT was printed in 1514, but publishing was delayed until 1520 waiting for the OT portion.
- 1522 **Martin Luther New Testament** in German based on Greek/Latin NT of Erasmus was published, followed in 1530's by entire bible in German.
- 1525 The **Mikra'ot Gedolot**, (*Rabbinic Bible*), is the 24 books of the *Hebrew Canon* based on varied manuscripts by scholar Ben Hayyim. Though hailed as an extraordinary achievement, it was riddled with technical errors. It served as the textual model for nearly all later editions until modern times, including the *KJV*.
- 1526 **Tyndale's New Testament** was the first printed English NT, and it was based on the *Byzantine Text-type*. The Pentateuch was completed in 1530.
- 1533 **King Henry VIII** decreed the *Act of Supremacy*, making the king the head of the Church in England and defied the wishes of Rome by funding the printing of the scriptures in English.

- 1535** Coverdale and Rogers, disciples of Tyndale who carried his project forward as the **Coverdale Bible**, the first complete Bible in the English language making use of the *Luther New Testament* and the Latin as sources. This was the first Bible to separate the Apocrypha books from the text of the OT.
- 1536 John Calvin, leader of the Reformation in Switzerland, issued the first edition of *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which became the classical text of Reformed (non-Lutheran) theology.
- 1537** **Matthew-Tyndale Bible** was the second complete Bible in English (with the Old and NT and the Apocrypha), but the first English Bible translated from the original Biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek (based considerably on Tyndale's translation).
- 1539** The "**Great Bible**" was the first English language Bible printed and authorized for public use by King Henry VIII to be read aloud in the services of the Church of England. It was prepared by Coverdale who was hired by archbishop Cranmer and was based on the *Tyndale Bible* (changing objectionable parts), *Latin Vulgate* and German translations instead of from the original Greek and Hebrew texts. Also known as the *Myles Coverdale Bible* and the *Cromwell Bible*, it also contained the Apocrypha.
- 1545 The *Council of Trent* (several sessions through 1563) was a Catholic assembly of dignitaries and theologians convened to discuss and regulate matters of church doctrine and discipline, mainly the definitive determination of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church in answer to the "heresies" of the Protestant Reformers. It was declared that in matters of faith and morals the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church is, together with the Bible, the standard of supernatural revelation. In 1546 the *Latin Vulgate Bible* was declared to be the only authentic and official version of the Scriptures, and the Apocrypha was declared to be canonical and authoritative. Nothing was decided in regard to the translation of the Bible in the languages of the people.
- 1546** Four editions of the Greek New Testament **Novum Testamentum Graece** (Erasmus) were printed by Estienne. The 1550/1551 edition contains the Latin translation of Erasmus and the *Vulgate*, and the division of the NT into verses was first introduced.
- 1553 Start of the 5-year reign of Queen Mary I of England, a staunch Catholic who tried to counteract actions of her father, Henry VIII, against the Roman Catholic Church. Mary executed Rogers and Cranmer.
- 1555 *Peace of Augsburg*, an arrangement of religious territorialism rather than toleration, recognized the existence of Catholicism and Lutheranism in the German Empire and provided that citizens should adopt the religion of their respective rulers.
- 1558 Beginning of the reign (to 1603) of English Queen Elizabeth I, who kept a tolerable peace between the Catholics and the Reformers, during which the Church of England took on its definitive form.
- 1560** The **Geneva Bible** was printed in English and adds numbered verses to each chapter. This Bible contained the OT and NT but the Apocrypha was separated from the OT as in the *Coverdale Bible*. Over 90% of Tyndale's English translation was retained, and this version was extremely popular with English-speaking people, maintaining popularity even after the *King James Version*. This was the first Bible taken to America and was quoted hundreds of times by Shakespeare. It was known for its excellent scholarship, accuracy, and commentary, but also included controversial anti-Catholic notes.
- 1562 The *Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion* established the doctrinal position of the Church of England and denied the doctrinal authority of the Apocrypha.
- 1568** **Bishop's Bible** was an English translation produced and printed under the authority of the Church of England under Queen Elizabeth I and the OT, NT and Apocrypha. It is called "the Rough Draft of the *King James Version*" and was the Bible of which the *King James* was a revision. The *Bishop's Bible* was a version of the *Geneva Bible* with a less inflammatory tone toward the institutional Church.
- 1570 Queen Elizabeth I was excommunicated by the Catholic Church. Penal measures against Catholics subsequently became more severe.
- 1582 The Gregorian Calendar, named for Pope Gregory XIII, was put into effect and was eventually adopted in most countries: England delayed until 1752.
- 1582 The Roman Catholic Church surrendered their fight for "Latin only" and decided that if the Bible was to be available in English, they would at least have an official Roman Catholic English translation...
- 1609** The **Douay-Rheims Bible** was created when the *Douay Old Testament* is added to the *Rheims New Testament* (of 1582) to make the first complete English Catholic Bible; translated solely as a faithful, word-for-word rendition of the *Latin Vulgate* (which Erasmus had warned was distorted and corrupt).
- 1611** **Authorized King James Version Bible** (KJV) was a response by King James I of England to a petition of grievances by clergy with Puritan convictions. King James I found the petition worthy of a retranslation of the Bible and assigned over 50 of the greatest Biblical scholars in Great Britain to the project. The KJV was originally printed with the OT, NT and Apocrypha. It was a revision of the *Bishop's Bible* of 1568 which took into consideration the *Tyndale New Testament*, *Coverdale Bible*, *Matthews Bible*, *Great Bible*, *Geneva Bible* and even the *Rheims New Testament*. The huge pulpit-size *King James Version* Bibles were printed and chained in every church in England, followed by copies for individuals. The Anglican Church's (Church of England) *King James Version* took decades to overcome the more popular Protestant Church's *Geneva Bible*.

- 1646 *Westminster Confession of Faith* (England) stated: "The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the Canon of Scripture; and therefore are of no authority in the Church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved, or made use of, than other human writings."
- 1752 **Douay-Rheims Bible, Calloner Revision** Translator Calloner borrowing heavily from the *KJV*. Originally published in 1750, a significant version change was printed in 1752. Challoner addressed the odd prose and much of the Latinisms, but produced a version which, while still called the *Douay-Rheims*, was much different. He aimed for improved readability and comprehensibility, rephrasing obscure and obsolete terms; and in the process, consistently removing ambiguities of meaning that the original *Douay-Rheims* version had striven to retain. Officially approved by the Roman Catholic Church, this version remained the Bible of the majority of English-speaking Catholics well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1769 Baskerville spelling and wording revision to the 1611 *King James Version* was a significant revision.
- 1782 Robert Aitken's 1782 Bible was the *KJV* authorized by the US Congress and printed in the US.
- 1789 Religious freedom in the US was guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution.
- 1833 **Noah Webster's Bible** was produced after his dictionary, and was his own revision of the *KJV*.
- 1841 **English Hexapla New Testament**; Textual Comparison showing the Greek and 6 Famous English translations in parallel columns.
- 1862 **Young's Literal Translation**. Young was self-taught and became proficient in several ancient languages, then produced an exceeding literal translation. The NT is based on the text of *Textus Receptus* (Estienne 1550). In the pursuit of accuracy, the English is highly unnatural. Revised in 1863, 1887, 1898.
- Until the 1880's every Protestant Bible (not just Catholic Bibles) had 80 books, not 66. The *inter-testamental* or *Deuterocanon* books generally called *Apocrypha* were part of virtually every printing of the *Tyndale-Matthews Bible*, *Great Bible*, *Bishop's Bible*, *Geneva Bible*, and *King James Bible* until their removal in the 1880's. King James threatened anyone who dared to print the Bible without the Apocrypha with jail. The Orthodox and Roman Catholics both still consider the Apocrypha as part of their Canon.
- 1881 **Westcott and Hort New Testament in the Original Greek** was a critical Greek text of the NT heavily influenced by the similar Samuel Tregelles's **Greek New Testament** of 1879, and was one of the two most famous attempts at restoring the original text of the NT to Greek, the other being the *Textus Receptus* from the reformation era. Favored manuscripts included the *Vaticanus* and *Sinaiticus* with support from the *Old Latin* and the *Old Syriac*.
- 1881 **English Revised Version** (ERV) was the first major modern-English revision of the *King James Bible* without the Apocrypha.

- 1901 **American Standard Version** (ASV) was the first major American revision of the *King James Bible*, based on the *English Revised Version*. Translation sources also include *Masoretic Text*, *Westcott and Hort*.
- 1902 Joseph Bryant **Rotherham's Emphasized Bible** was first published as a NT in 1878 as a translation designed to set forth the exact meaning, the proper terminology, and the graphic style of the original language. For the OT the *Masoretic Text* was used; for the NT, *Westcott and Hort*.
- 1906 **Biblica Hebraica** is the Latin phrase meaning "Hebrew Bible," and was edited by Rudolf Kittel. The first two editions (1906, 1913) are based on the Hebrew text found in the *Mikra'ot Gedolot* (1524) and the main feature was extensive footnotes. The third edition (1937) reproduced the text of the *Leningrad Codex* for the first time. Later reprints incorporated updates based on the *Dead Sea Scrolls* discovery, and included the *Masoretic* notes (not included in the first two editions). The third edition was superseded by *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*
- 1914 Start of World War I, which lasted until 1918.
- 1933 Emergence of Adolf Hitler to power in Germany. By 1935 two of his aims were clear: the elimination of the Jews, and control of a single national church.
- 1939 Start of World War II, which lasted until 1945.
- 1943 *Divino afflante Spiritu* – Roman Catholic Pope Pius XII issued a letter in which he encouraged Roman Catholic scholars to make translations of the Bible from the original languages rather than from the *Latin Vulgate*, which previously had been the basic text used by Catholic translators. Pope Pius XII stated the *Vulgate* is "free from any error whatsoever in matters of faith and morals."
- 1947 **Dead Sea Scrolls** discovered
- 1948 Nation of Israel reestablished
- 1952 Erwin Nestle and Kurt Aland produced several editions known as the **Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece**, an update of the original produced by Erasmus in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Nestle and Aland first worked together on the 21<sup>st</sup> edition printed in 1952. The 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, published in 1979, under the supervision of Aland, was very nearly a new book which incorporated many great manuscript discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (were also incorporated into the *United Bible Societies Greek New Testament 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*.) It is a strongly eclectic text, with no clear textual theory behind it. In general, it follows the *Alexandrian Text-type* and is closer to *Westcott and*



Dead Sea Scroll fragment in Hebrew

Hort than most modern editions. The current version is NA27, published in 1993, which is used as the basis of most contemporary NT translations and the standard for academic work.

**1952 Revised Standard Version (RSV)** is a comprehensive revision of the *King James Bible*, the *English Revised Version*, and the *American Standard Version*. The traditional Protestant interpretation of text is absent from the RSV. Translators used the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Nestle-Aland* for the NT and amended traditional Hebrew *Masoretic Text* for the OT. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition was published in 1971. The *Revised Standard Version – Catholic Edition* is one of the three translations approved for liturgical use in America.

1960's The Catholic Church decides that Latin is no longer the obligatory language of Catholic liturgies. But it is still encouraged. The current Pope, Benedict XVI, states: "I ask that future priests, from their time in the seminary, receive the preparation needed to understand and to celebrate Mass in Latin, and also to use Latin texts and execute Gregorian chant; nor should we forget that the faithful can be taught to recite the more common prayers in Latin, and also to sing parts of the liturgy to Gregorian chant."

**1965 Amplified Bible (AMP)** was an attempt to go beyond the traditional "word-for-word" concept of translation to bring out the richness of the Hebrew and Greek Languages; helping the reader comprehend what the Hebrew and Greek listener instinctively understood. It is based on the *American Standard Version*, *Kittel's Biblia Hebraica*, the Greek text of *Westcott and Hort*, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Nestle-Aland* as well as the best Hebrew and Greek lexicons available. The AMP was revised in 1987.

**1966 United Bible Societies Greek New Testament (UBS GNT)** The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was compiled by a committee which included Kurt Aland (of *Nestle-Aland*) and Bruce M. Metzger, and it shares the text of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Editions of the *Nestle-Aland*. The differences between UBS GNT and the *Nestle-Aland* 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Editions are not with textual criticism, but accents, punctuation, and paragraph arrangements. The *Nestle-Aland* offers a fuller list of supporting citations from original manuscripts. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition was released in 1993.

**1966 The Jerusalem Bible (JB)** is a heavily annotated version by Roman Catholic scholars in Great Britain on the basis of the Greek and Hebrew texts rather than the *Latin Vulgate*, as interpreted through a 1956 French *La Bible de Jerusalem*, and is notable for its excellent literary quality. This approved departure from Roman Catholic tradition is largely void of Catholic interpretation. Revised as the *New Jerusalem Bible* in 1985. This is 1 of the 3 Bibles approved by the Catholic Church for the liturgy in America.

**1968 Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)** is an edition of the *Masoretic Text* of the Hebrew Bible as recorded in the *Leningrad Codex* and a revision of *Kittel's Bib-*

*lia Hebraica*. This edition of the Hebrew Bible is the most widely referred to by scholars and Bible translators. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition was revised in 1997. Work is currently under way to produce a completely reworked and expanded edition in 20 volumes, known as the *Biblia Hebraica Quinta*, scheduled to be completed by 2015.

**1970 New American Bible (NAB)** The history of this version is complicated. In 1943 Catholic letter *Divino afflante Spiritu* prompted this translation, and volumes of completed passages of the OT from the Hebrew were released 1951-1969. The Greek NT translation was based on *Nestle-Aland* 25<sup>th</sup> Edition. The completed Bible, as published in 1970, had substantial revisions from earlier publishings. American Bishops deemed the NT to be too paraphrased, and a more literal NT and a similarly revised Psalms were published in 1991. Vatican officials were not happy with this version, mainly because of the gender-neutral language, but the American Bishops still count the NAB as the official US translation. NAB was updated by American Bishops to the *Revised New American Bible RNAB* and then Rome required a further update called the *Amended Revised New American Bible (ARNAB)*.

**1970 The New English Bible (NEB)** with the Apocrypha was sponsored by several denominations in Great Britain and translators used great freedom in their aim to use colloquial and modern English style. Although the NEB was highly rated and aroused popular interest for a time, it never gained an enduring popularity and the style made it unsuitable for use in Roman Catholic services. The unusual translation prompted many questions from scholars about the text upon which it was based. In 1989 an extensive revision of the NEB, called the *Revised English Bible*, eliminated many of the NEB's renderings in favor of a more literal and dignified approach, and the NEB passed from the scene.

**1971 New American Standard Bible (NASB)** is published as a "Modern and Accurate Word for Word English Translation." The NASB is a revision of the ASV of 1901 as a base, but translators revised the ASV as literally as possible, and incorporated recent discoveries of Hebrew and Greek textual sources. Hebrew text were from the latest edition of *Kittel's Biblia Hebraica*, lexicography, cognate languages, and the *Dead Sea Scrolls*. For the Greek, the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of *Nestle-Aland* was used. This popular Bible is considered by evangelical Christian scholars and translators today to be the most accurate, word-for-word translation of the original Greek and Hebrew scriptures into the modern English language ever produced. Because it is so direct and literal a translation (focused on accuracy), it at times does not flow as easily in conversational English. The 1995 revision intended to improve its English style by allowing a somewhat less literal approach.

- 1971 The Living Bible (LB)** is Kenneth Taylor's interpretive paraphrase. Taylor was not proficient in Hebrew or Greek and used English versions as the basis for his paraphrase, mainly the 1901 ASV. Tyndale House Publishers was founded by Taylor for the purpose of publishing of his paraphrase. Billy Graham offered Taylor's paraphrase as a television premium on broadcasts of his popular "Crusades," and this brought the book into prominence.
- 1978 New International Version (NIV)** was offered as a "dynamic equivalent" translation into modern English – phrase-for-phrase with the ease of reading at a Junior High School level – and has become one of the most popular modern translations in history. The New York Bible Society (now Biblica) was selected to translate, and the NT was released in 1973 followed by the full bible in 1978. The OT base was *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and *Masoretic Text*. *Dead Sea Scrolls*, *Samaritan Pentateuch*, *Aquila*, *Symmachus* and *Theodotion*, *Latin Vulgate*, *Syriac Peshitta* and the *Aramaic Targum* were also consulted. The NT base was *UBS GNT* and *Nestle-Aland*. A revision was made in 1984. Gender-neutral language was introduced as *Today's New International Version (TNIV)* in 2005 while the 1984 revision remained in print. A significant revision was made in 2010/2011 by the Committee on Bible Translation which expanded the gender-neutral language and eliminated the TNIV version.
- 1976 The Good News Bible: The Bible in Today's English Version (GNT)**; the official name is *Today's English Version*. The *Good News for Modern Man New Testament* was first published in 1966. A committee appointed by the American Bible Society (ABS) translated using a theory of "Dynamic Equivalence" that employs a "common language" (language of uneducated people and children). ABS heavily promoted this version, offering copies for 25 cents for the first year. A 1993 revision introduced gender-neutral language. In 2001 another name was introduced by a new publisher as *The Good News Translation*. The OT is the *Masoretic Text* printed in *Kittel's Biblia Hebraica 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. The NT is based on *The UBS Greek New Testament 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*.
- 1982 New King James Version (NKJV)** This intent of this revision of the *King James Version* was to keep the basic wording of the King James to appeal to KJV loyalists, while only changing the most obscure words and the Elizabethan "thee, thou, thy" pronouns. More significant revisions had to be made to be able to legally copyright the result, superseding their original intent.
- 1985 New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)** was a revision of 1966 *Jerusalem Bible* "avoiding the postmodern tendency toward inclusive language." This is 1 of the 3 translations approved for Roman Catholic liturgical use.
- 1987 The Holy Bible: New Century Version (NCV)** This dynamic equivalence version has many names. The initial purpose was to produce a version specially adapted to the needs of deaf people who were unfamiliar with many spoken idioms of the English language, called the *International Children's Bible, the English version for the Deaf, Easy-to-Read Version*. It was perhaps the simplest English version ever published, with a third-grade vocabulary and very short sentences. The translation team was composed of from Word Bible Translation Center and additional people experienced on versions such as the NIV, NASB, and the NKJV. In 1980 the original publisher tried to market this version to a wider readership as **A New Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)**. By 1983 the NT was revised and again issued by a new publisher as the *International Children's Version New Testament*. In 1984 the same publisher issued the same version as *The Word: New Century Version*. The complete Bible (with slightly revised NT) was then published as **The Holy Bible, International Children's Version** in 1986, and in 1987 the complete Bible was also published as **New Century Version**. After a publishing merger, a special edition called **The Everyday Bible**, with an endorsement by Billy Graham, was issued. In 1988 the publisher was acquired, which resulted in another revision in 1991. This 1991 revision was more extensive, and it was designed to make the version more suitable for an older readership, with longer sentences and more fluent style. In 1992, yet another publisher transfer resulted in the 1991 revision printed again as *New Century Version*. This translation, based on *UBS Greek New Testament 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, *Biblia Hebraica*, and the *Septuagint*, employs gender-neutral language, and often sacrifices accuracy for simplicity resulting in a far from ideal tool for serious study.
- 1989 Revised English Bible with Apocrypha (REB)** is an extensive revision of the *New English Bible* officially commissioned by the majority of the British Churches which eliminated many of the NEB's incautious renderings in favor of a more literal approach, but less liberal than the RSV revision of 1952. The REB introduces gender-neutral language, but much less so than the NRSV revision of 1990.
- 1990 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**, a revision of the RSV on the basis of the *USB GNT 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. It modernizes and simplifies the language of the RSV, and gender-neutral language alterations are very thorough, following a policy imposed by the National Council of Churches to erase the generic masculine pronouns and other usages offensive to feminists. In general, the translation is less literal than the RSV. The revisers aimed to make the English more idiomatic and easier to understand, but their changes often degrade the accuracy of the translation. The NRSV was quickly adopted as a replacement for the RSV in the liberal denominations and older "mainline" Protestant recommend it to members. The NRSV is approved by the Roman Catholic Church and can be "profitably used by Catholics in study and devotional reading".

- 1994** **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century King James Version** is neither a new translation nor a revision, but an updating of the KJV of 1611 (not the NKJV) which replaced obsolete or archaic words with current equivalents, updated spelling, capitalization, and punctuation based on Webster's Dictionary, but proclaimed "no gender-neutral" language. It was also released with the Apocrypha as the **Third Millennium Bible**.
- 1995** **Contemporary English Version** (CEV) The American Bible Society is responsible for this simplified version designed for children and uneducated adults (fourth grade reading level). It is similar to the *Good News Bible*, previously published by ABS, though at a lower reading level. This simplification inevitably leads to a great deal of interpretation being worked into the text and some problems of inaccuracy. Besides the regular use of the new gender-neutral language, it features many renderings that obscure the teachings of the Bible in an overall tendency to avoid offending non-Christians. NT translated from the *UBS Greek New Testament*; OT from the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.
- 1995** **God's Word** (GW) started out as a revision of an earlier *An American Translation* by William Beck (BECK, 1976, not to be confused with Smith/Goodspeed), by one man, Phillip Giessler, but discontinued in 1992. A team was then employed to complete the "closest natural equivalence" which concentrates on accurately translating the meaning of the original language into readable, natural, everyday English and introduces gender-neutral language. The style is informal, theological terms familiar to mature Christians are avoided, grammar is simplified, and sentences are broken up so as to make them less complicated. Translation team used *Stuttgartensia* for the OT and *Nestle-Aland* 26<sup>th</sup> Edition for the NT.
- 1996** **New International Reader's Version** (NIRV) is a simplification of the NIV developed to enable early readers to understand God's message (fourth grade level, or those with English as a second language).
- 1996** **New Living Translation** (NLT) translates entire thoughts rather than individual words into everyday English. OT based on *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and *Kittel's Biblia Hebraica, Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint*, Greek manuscripts, *Samaritan Pentateuch*, *Syriac Peshitta*, and *Latin Vulgate*. NT based on *UBS GNT* 4<sup>th</sup> Edition and *Nestle-Aland* 27<sup>th</sup> Edition. The NLT was revised in 2004.
- 2002** **English Standard Version** (ESV) with Apocrypha. Using the RSV 1971 edition as a base, this translation was a major attempt to bridge the gap between the simple readability of the NIV and the extremely precise accuracy of the NASB. OT based on *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* with *Septuagint* influence; NT corresponds to *Nestle-Aland*. Revised 2010.
- 2002** **The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language** (TM) by Eugene Peterson is a free paraphrase, often very eccentric, with many unlikely renderings, lengthy insertions and omissions, and other problems; but to criticize this work for its many inaccuracies would be to miss the whole purpose of its author. Peterson's philosophy of translation is called contextualization, in which contemporary ideas and ways of thinking are substituted for the concepts of the original text, and he admits that he does take considerable liberties with the text. He indicates that it is for "first-time readers, and that these readers should quickly "get weaned from it." It was unclear what source materials were used.
- 2004** **Holman Christian Standard Bible** (HCSB) was produced by a publishing division of the Southern Baptist Convention. The NT was published in 2001 as *Experiencing the Word New Testament*. The Greek primary source was based on *Nestle-Aland* and for the OT the *Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. The HCSB is slightly more literal than the NIV but less so than the NASB or ESV and stylistically simpler than the NKJV, RSV and ESV. This version has a conservative approach to translation of gender specific and neutral text.
- 2005** **Today's New International Version** (TNIV) is based on the NIV, but uses gender-neutral language. This version was not well-accepted, and will no longer be printed after the 2011 revision of the NIV.
- 2011** Although this is not a new version, the **New International Version** (NIV) revision of 2011 is noteworthy on its own, and was the stimulus for this sermon series and booklet. This revision from the Committee on Bible Translation was released online in 2010 and in print is due in March 2011. The revised edition will not be identified in any way other than the copyright date. The publisher claims only 5% of the text is changed from the 1984 revision; they fail to mention that an additional 30% or more of the text changed from the 2005 TNIV, so in all nearly 40% changes from the 1984 version. After the update is published, the 1984 version and the TNIV will no longer be printed.

Example of Koine Greek from John



# The Catholic Church

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The early Christian Church in the first century AD quickly broke into two churches, **Eastern (Orthodox Catholic)** and **Western (Roman Catholic)**.

Both adopted the Greek Old Testament. The Roman Catholic Church had reservations on this adoption due to the nature of some of the material and questions raised at Jamnia, and early Catholic scholars assigned some of those questionable Greek-written books (Apocrypha) into a middle category. However; in the Middle Ages the Roman Catholic Church officially moved a certain group of the apocryphal books back to the regular (or recognized) scriptures, where they remain today.

Both divisions refer to "Church Fathers," who are the early and influential theologians and writers, particularly in first five centuries, but excluding the actual New Testament writers. The earliest Church Fathers are called the **Apostolic Fathers** (first two generations after the Apostles of Christ). Those who wrote in Greek are called the **Greek Fathers**. Those who wrote in Latin are called the **Latin Fathers**.

The majority of the history of the English translations of the Bible deal with the Western branch of the church. There are four main distinctions between the two:

- **Geography:** The Eastern Orthodox churches (such as Greek and Russian) consider Constantinople (modern Istanbul, Turkey; also known as Byzantium and thus the term *Byzantine*) the spiritual and earthly seat. The Western church looks to the Vatican in Rome, Italy (Latin is their official language).
- **Authority:** Eastern consider the Greek Fathers to be the source of their theology and culture and look to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople as the "first among equals" as the elected delegate of the Eastern Orthodox bishops and the spiritual leader of the Orthodox church since the sixth century. The Roman Catholic Church is steeped in the Latin culture and theological traditions of the Latin Fathers and recognizes the Pope of Rome as the head of the Roman Catholic Church.
- **Traditions:** The various churches look to councils for definitions of beliefs. The Eastern churches do not recognize any council held by the Western church after the Second Council of Nicaea in 787 AD. The Eastern churches do not recognize the Gregorian calendar instituted by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 for Lent, Easter and all holy days related to Easter.
- **Practice:** Unlike the Church of Rome, Eastern Christian churches perform baptism by immersion. Some Eastern churches only practice communion a few times a year. Most of the Eastern churches hold services in the language of the people. The Catholic Church only began to do this after the 1960s. Orthodox services are sung (or chanted) nearly in their entirety and incense is used during all services.

Per the Catholic faith, Jesus founded the church to administer the sacraments, rituals that contain the mystery of grace and the promise of salvation. Salvation comes only through the church; individuals cannot find salvation outside the institution.

## Reformation

For centuries, the Roman Catholic Church straddled the world of medieval Europe. The church and the state were closely linked. It was the duty of every political authority and peasant to support, sustain, and nurture the church. The church was not simply a religion and an institution; it was a category of thinking and a way of life. With notable exceptions, the church reinforced the political authority of the states, and the states reinforced the authority of the church.

It wasn't until the Reformation in 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe that there was true and lasting opposition to the Catholic Church. These early reformers like Martin Luther in Germany, John Calvin in France, and Ulrich Zwingli in Switzerland, publicly argued that the root of corruptions to be doctrinal rather than personal moral weakness.

In England, unlike other countries, the reformation began with royal influence. Henry VIII considered himself a thoroughly Catholic king. He defended the papacy

against Luther and was rewarded by the Pope. However, the king defied Rome and declared himself the head of the Church of England when the Pope refused to annul his marriage to his first wife, who had failed to produce a male heir (he had a replacement ready in Anne Boleyn). What emerged through the bloody swings of conflict between monarchs who were reformation-minded (Edward VI), staunch Catholic (Mary I) and tolerant of both (Elizabeth I) was a state church that considered itself both “Reformed” and “Catholic” but not “Roman.” This conflict, coupled with the new printing press, allowed for the broad spread of the reformed Scriptures.

## Marking Time

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### Ancient History Historical Eras

#### Bronze Age (3300-1200BC)

- **Early Bronze Age** - 3300-2200 BC; Hieroglyphs used; Cuneiform script developed; Pyramids built
- **Middle Bronze Age** - 2200-1500 BC; First legal code recorded, Alphabetical writing emerges
- **Late Bronze Age** - 1550-1200 BC; Sack of Babylon; Hittite Empire; fall of Troy

#### Iron Age (1200-323 BC)

- **Early Iron Age** - 1200-800 BC; ends with the rise of the Greek city-states
- **Ancient Greece** - 800-146 BC
  - **Archaic Greek** - 800-500BC; beginning of Greek Literature; highly advanced Greek culture influenced the developing Roman Empire; First recorded Olympic games; rise of Persian Empire; destruction of First Temple in Jerusalem
  - **Classical Greek** - 500- 323 BC; also called Hellenic, ends with the death of Alexander the Great and the time of Homer, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.
  - **Hellenistic** - 323-146 BC; Alexander’s settlement of Greek colonists resulted in a new Hellenistic culture which. Greece is declining from the brilliance of the Classical Era as Roman Empire emerges.

**Roman Era** - 146 BC to 330 AD; Rome conquered Greece piece by piece until; Rome becomes an Empire in 27 AD. Period ends with the Empire’s crisis in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD.

**Late Antiquity** - 200-700 AD; Capital of Rome moved to Constantinople and empire divides 395AD; Muslim conquests of the mid 7<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Middle Ages / Medieval** - 5<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries; Western Roman empire collapses in 476AD and is replaced by barbarian kingdoms followed by a general decline in population, technological knowledge and standards of living. *Simultaneous with Byzantine Age* - 306-1453 AD; Eastern Roman Empire; ends with fall to Muslim Ottoman Empire

- **Early Middle/Dark Ages** - 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries; cultural and economic deterioration and disruption in Europe following the decline of the Roman Empire
- **High Middle Ages** - 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- **Late Middle Ages** - 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries

### Modern History Historical Eras

#### Early Modern Era - 1500-1815

#### The Renaissance - 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries

- Reformation / Counter Reformation - 16<sup>th</sup> century
- Age of Discovery/Exploration - 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries

#### Late Modern - 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries

- **Age of Reason / Enlightenment** - 18<sup>th</sup> century; critical questioning of traditional institutions, customs and morals and strong belief in rationality and science
- **Age of Revolution** - 1775-1848; number of significant revolutionary movements
- **Industrial Revolution** - 1799-1815; major changes in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transportation and technology
- **Romantic Era** - 1800s; artistic literary and intellectual movement in reaction to the Industrial revolution
- **Victorian Era** - 1837-1901; new middle class emerges; globe connected by telegraph and railway; orderly commerce and economic growth; includes the **Civil War** in the US and the **Gilded Age** of post-Reconstruction
- **Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**; Enlightenment philosophy challenged; modern physics arose; theory of Natural Selection; advances in Medical Theory
- **World War Era** - 1905-1945;
  - World War I (1914-1918)
  - Russian Revolution (1917);
  - Interwar period - 1928-1935; Jazz Age, Depression
  - World War II - 1939-1945
- **Cold War** - 195-1989
- **Space Age** - after 1957
- **Information/Silicon Age** - after 1971
- **Post-communist (USSR) period** - after 1991

## DATE SYSTEM

**BC** “before Christ;”

**AD** “anno domini” which is Latin for “in the year of our Lord.”

**BCE** “Before Common Era”

**CE** “Common Era” (or “Christian Era”, or “Current Era”). CE is interchangeable with AD.

BCE and CE are used in an effort to promote non-theological references.

There is **no year zero** in BC or AD.

The **BC/AD Dating System** was developed to make the birth of Jesus Christ the dividing point of world history. This dating system was not fully implemented and accepted until several centuries after Jesus’ death. It was developed to make the birth of Jesus Christ the dividing point of world history, however when the system was being calculated, and error was made in pinpointing Jesus birth. Scholars later calculated that Jesus was actually born around 4-6BC, not 1 AD.

The **Julian Calendar** began in 45 BC by Julius Caesar, based on a tropical (or solar) year which marks the length of time it takes the sun to return to the same position in the cycle of seasons as it is seen from the earth). It introduced the regular year as 365 days with 12 months and a leap day added every four years, or 365.25 days per year. Sometimes referred to as *Old Style* (OS).

The **Gregorian Calendar** superseded (by most but not all) the Julian calendar. Because the solar year is actually shorter by 11 minutes than a Julian calendar year, about 3 days was gained every four centuries. The Gregorian calendar was first proposed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and drops three leap year days every four hundred years. Sometimes referred to as *New Style* (NS).

Although the Romans started their year on January 1, that date was not routinely recognized as the first day of the year by religious and local/provincial until the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Holy Roman Empire adopted 1544, British Empire 1752, Russia 1918, Greece 1924). And even though most countries adopted the Gregorian calendar by 1927, many national churches (such as the Greek Orthodox Catholic Church) did not in order to maintain a fixed cycle of feasts.

## Hebrew Bible (Hebrew Canon, or Tanak)

About 60 years after the crucifixion of Christ, a group of Jewish survivors of the Roman annihilation of Jerusalem met at Jamnia and canonized a Hebrew scripture specifically devoid of Greek writings. Any work of scripture not originally written in Hebrew as unclean. This included the popular Greek Old Testament, which been in use for 300 years as an authorized publication by the Jewish Sanhedrin for displaced Jews whose language was primarily Greek. The Apocryphal books and the New Testament (all originally written in Greek) were relegated to pagan classification and permanently discarded.

The early Christians stuck to the Greek Old Testament. Not only did the entire pagan world speak Greek, but at the time Jesus preached, Hebrew and Greek scrolls hung side by side in the Temple. The New Testament books were composed in the same Greek language, allowing the world at large to read them.

The Hebrew Canon contains:

**Pentateuch** (or *Torah*) - teachings – 5 books of Moses – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

**Prophets** (or *Nevi'im*) - prophets - 19 Hebrew books / 21 Christian Books

- **Former Prophets** (4) Joshua, Judges, Samuel (counted as one book), Kings (counted as one book)
- **Latter Prophets** (3) Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
- **Minor Prophets** (12) Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**Ketuvim** (or *K'thubhim*) – writings –

- **Poetic** – Psalms, Proverbs, Job
- **The Five Scrolls** – Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

**Other books** – Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah (one book), Chronicles (one book)

# Apocrypha

## A P O C R Y P H A

### Roman Catholic Church

recognized as canonical the following Apocryphal books:

- **Wisdom** (or *Wisdom of Solomon*)
- **Ecclesiasticus** (also called *Wisdom of Sirach* or *Ben Sira*; not to be confused with *Ecclesiastes*)
- **Tobit**
- **I Maccabees**
- **II Maccabees**
- **Judith**
- **Baruch**
- **Epistle of Jeremiah** (or *Letter of Jeremiah*)
- additions to **Esther**
- three additions to **Daniel**
  - **Prayer of Azariah** (or *Song of the Three Hebrew Children*) following Daniel 3:23
  - **Suzanna** (Daniel 13)
  - **Bel and the Dragon** (Daniel 14)

### Eastern Orthodox Church

includes the same list as the Roman Catholic Church plus:

- **I Esdras**
- **II Esdras**
- **III Maccabees**
- **IV Maccabees**
- **Prayer of Manasseh** (addition to II Chronicles)
- **Psalms 151**
- **Odes**

Apocrypha is a group of various religious writings in the Greek language of uncertain origin and regarded by some as inspired, but rejected by other authorities. They are often referred to as a group of 14 books, but the accepted and/or published number varies based on the Church doctrines and translation. It is thought they were written between 200 BC and 100 AD. They were originally attached to the Greek Old Testament but they were not in the Hebrew-written Bible. Apocrypha is derived from the Greek and means “hidden” or “secret.” Neither the Jews nor the early Christians accepted them as inspired scripture, and the books themselves do not claim inspiration. Although the New Testament has hundreds of direct quotes and allusions to the Old Testament, there is not a single reference to the books of the Apocrypha.

In the early manuscripts (*Septuagint*, *Codex Vaticanus*, *Codex Sinaiticus*) that contain Apocryphal books, the books selected vary.

Many of the early English versions contained the Apocrypha for two basic reasons: because of the general acceptance of the Apocrypha during the Dark Ages, and/or for Scriptural analysis. In each case, the Apocrypha were delineated either in an appendix and/or with an explanation showing them to be non-canonical. The Apocrypha began to be omitted from the *King James Version* in 1629, and by 1827 were excluded permanently.

## Languages of the Bible

Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic and Latin all play a part in the formation of the Old and New Testament. It is debatable which language(s) Jesus spoke. Aramaic? Hebrew? Greek? Maybe even Latin? He would have certainly been exposed to all four on a regular basis – either in formal writing or in common speech – simply by living in and traveling around 1<sup>st</sup> Century Palestine. Aramaic seems to have been the language of the common people (vernacular), but Hebrew was used in synagogues and worship. It was a Roman-governed, Greek influenced, Hebrew society, some of whom descended held captive by Aramaic speakers.

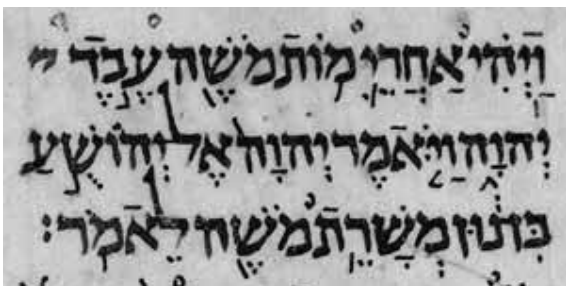
However, the Old Testament is with little exception written in Hebrew, and the New Testament in Greek. But given that the original scriptures no longer exist in anything other than small pieces, even those conclusions are difficult to state emphatically.

## Hebrew

The first written evidence of distinctive Hebrew, the Gezer calendar, dates to the 10<sup>th</sup> Century BC, the traditional time of the reign of David and Solomon. The archaic form of the Hebrew language in which the Hebrew Bible was written was called **Classical Hebrew** or **Biblical Hebrew**.

Hebrew was influenced by the Aramaic spoken and written language. Hebrew shares numerous words and expressions, and also borrowed the writing system, although the Hebrew and Aramaic characters were both derived from an earlier Phoenician alphabet. The “square” Hebrew characters that are familiar today were solidified around the first century AD. Hebrew and Aramaic are both written from right-to-left.

vocalized Biblical Hebrew manuscript



Speaking Hebrew quickly fell into disuse when the Jews were taken into captivity by the Assyrians (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC) and Babylonians (8<sup>th</sup> c. BC) and was not used as a commonly spoken language for roughly 2,300 years. However, much effort was made to maintain high standards of literacy to be able to read and copy sacred manuscripts. Written Hebrew was also used as a language of communication among Jews from different countries, particularly for international trade.

The “master” copies of the Hebrew Bible were kept in the Temple in Jerusalem and were copied by professional scribes. However, very few manuscripts are said to have survived the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. This drastically reduced not only the number of copies, but the variants in the copies and gave a new urgency that the text must be preserved. An emphasis on minute details, which was already in use among the Pharisees, became the rule.

The Biblical Hebrew language evolved into **Mishnaic**, or Roman Era, Hebrew, which was influenced by Greek, Persian and Aramaic, and was a spoken language until the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD.

**Medieval Hebrew** has many features that distinguish it from older forms. These features affect grammar, syntax, sentence structure and include a wide variety of new lexical items.

The authoritative Hebrew text of the Old Testament (Jewish Bible) is called the **Masoretic Text** because in its present form it is based upon the Masora – the Hebrew, textual tradition of the Jewish scholars known as the Masoretes. During the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, the Masoretes made it their special work to correct the faults that had crept into the text of the Old Testament during the Babylonian captivity, and to prevent, for the future, its being corrupted by any alteration. They first separated the apocryphal from the canonical books, and divided the latter into twenty-two books, being the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Then they divided each book into sections and verses. The Masoretic text use precise letter-text as well as vocalization and accentuation.

The **Dead Sea Scrolls** discovered at Qumran in 1947, dating from 150 BC to 75 AD show that the scrupulous uniformity of text that was so stressed in later centuries was not as developed. Fragments of every book of the Hebrew canon have been discovered except the book of Esther. The scrolls are, for the most part, written in Hebrew, but there are many written in Aramaic and a few in Greek

The **revival of Hebrew** as a spoken language occurred in the 1880s as Jews joined the national movement and immigrated to Palestine. Modern Hebrew was based on Biblical Hebrew and incorporating new foreign words, systematization of the grammar, and punctuation standards.

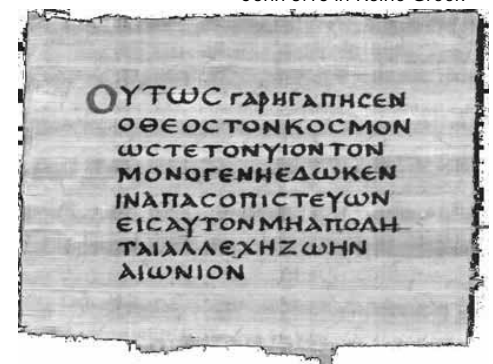
## Greek

The history of the Greek language begins, as far as the surviving texts are concerned, with the Mycenaean civilization as least as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century BC. The earliest texts are written in a script called *Linear B*. After the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization about 1200 BC, writing disappeared from Greece. In the late 9<sup>th</sup> to early 8<sup>th</sup> century BC a script based on Phoenician syllabary (symbols that represented syllables) was introduced. There are examples of inscriptions surviving from the late eighth century BC. Early Greek was written right-to-left. Eventually its direction changed to “ox-turning” where the direction of writing changes every line. But by the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC, left-to right became the norm.

## Koine Greek

Greek existed in several major dialects; however, the differences were not significant and communication was not difficult from one Greek town to another. After the conquest of Alexander the Great (336-323 BC), a common language developed and spread outside Greece to the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East to the point it became the international language of that era. Greek was adopted as a second language by the native people of those regions and was transformed into what is called *koinē*, (or *Alexandrian, common, Attic-Ionic, or Hellenistic Greek*) and it lasted throughout the Roman period (300 AD).

John 3:16 in Koine Greek



## Atticism

During this period some purists reacted strongly against the koinē and developed a movement called Atticism, which treated the classical Attic as the only acceptable standard for prose writing. This movement influenced writing well into the modern era by requiring a more formal language than the actual daily speech. Atticism dominated literature for the entire Byzantine era (330-1453 AD) until the Turks invaded. As Greece entered a 400 year period of bondage, the demands of this formal Atticism drastically reduced literary production, and since the popular spoken language was not fit for literature, little is known about the development of actual speech during this time.

## Modern Greek

When Greece finally won its freedom in 1830, the Attic koinē became the standard for the spoken language, called *dēmōtikē*, which incorporated more foreign words than the formal written form, *katharevousa*, which was used by the government, schools and media until the mid-1970s. In 1976, *dēmōtikē* was accepted as the official written Greek language.

## Text-types

The object of Biblical textual criticism is to restore as nearly as possible the original text of a work where the autograph (original document in the handwriting of the author) has been lost. There are several “Text-types” used in textual criticism to describe the textual character, specifically of the Greek New Testament manuscripts.

**Byzantine Text-type** (also called *Majority*, *Traditional*, *Ecclesiastical*, *Constantinopolitan*, *Antiocheian*, or *Syrian*) is the form found in the largest number of surviving manuscripts, though not in the oldest. The Byzantine text is also found in modern Greek Orthodox New Testament Editions (such as *Constantinople Patriarchate* edition of 1904), as the Byzantine textual tradition has continued in the Eastern Orthodox Church into the present time. Byzantine Text-types also underly the *Textus Receptus* Greek text used for most Reformation-era translations of the New Testament into commonly-spoken languages. Modern translations mainly use best of the various editions, and those are more often to the Alexandrian Text-type.

**Alexandrian Text-type** (also called *Neutral* or *Egyptian*) is the second largest group (but only a fraction of the size of the larger *Byzantine Text-types*) of Greek manuscripts of the New Testament originating in the Christian community of Alexandria, Egypt and predominates in the earliest surviving documents, as well as the text type used in Egyptian Coptic manuscripts. Bruce Metzger describes their “characteristics as austerity and brevity...not exhibiting the grammatical and stylistic polishing that is characteristic of the Byzantine...”

**Western Text-type** originates from the North African city of Carthage and its sister Rome, being farther “west” than the earliest missionary activities. According to Bruce Metzger, “the chief characteristic of Western readings is fondness for paraphrase.” Western Text-type are the predominant form of the New Testament text witnessed in the Old Latin translation from the Greek; and also in quotations from certain 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Christian writers, including Cyprian, Tertullian and Irenaeus. The Western text had a large number of characteristic features which appear in text of the Gospels, Book of Acts, and in Pauline epistles.

## Aramaic

Aramaic is the ancient language of the Semitic family group, which includes the Assyrians, Babylonians, Chaldeans, Arameans, Hebrews and Arabs. A large part of the Hebrew and Arabic languages is borrowed from Aramaic, including the Alphabet. For about a thousand years it served as the official written language of the



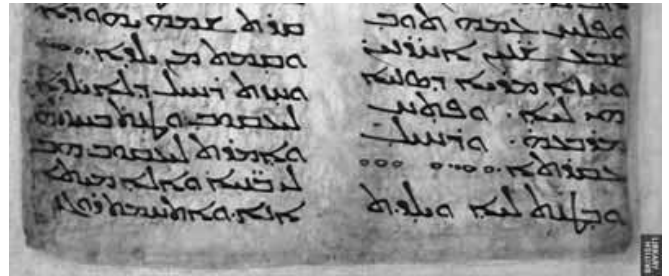
Codex Vaticanus 354,  
a Byzantine Text-type with a passage  
from the Gospel of John

Near East (but not necessarily the common spoken language), beginning with the conquests of the Assyrian Empire. During the later exile of Jews to Babylon, Aramaic became the language of necessity and the Aramaic square script replaced the similar Hebrew alphabet. When the Persian Empire captures Babylon, it became the language of culture and learning.

Despite Hellenistic influences that followed the conquests of Alexander the Great, Aramaic remained the spoken language of the conquered peoples of the Holy Land and adjacent countries until the ninth century when it was replaced with Arabic. The character set is based on the Phoenician, and it is written right-to-left.

Biblical Aramaic is used in about 250 verses in the Old Testament, including passages of Daniel and Ezra. The form that is used in passages of Daniel and Ezra. The *Peshitta* is the Syriac, or Aramaic, translation of the Bible.

The Bible in Syriac (Aramaic).  
From Genesis 29  
Copyright The British Library Board



## Latin

**Old Latin** (or *Early, Archaic, Prisca Latinitas*) is all Latin before about 100 BC and is the earliest known version of Latin in the early and middle Roman republic. An alphabet was introduced evolving from the Greek, so also from the Phoenician script; writing evolved from right-to-left to left-to-right.

**Classical Latin** - 100 BC-150 AD; followed Old Latin in the late Roman Republic and Roman Empire. It was introduced by literate men and taught in schools of grammar and rhetoric with rules and uniformity. Classical Latin is the literary and official language of the Roman world.

**Vulgar Latin** is the speech of the common people; the spoken language not under the control or encouragement of the schools of rhetoric, and many dialects are created throughout the vast Roman Empire. When the breakdown of the Roman world (300-700AD) removed the stabilizing influence, these localized dialects became separate languages (referred to as *Romance* languages) by the 9<sup>th</sup> Century when the earliest written forms of these oral languages appeared.

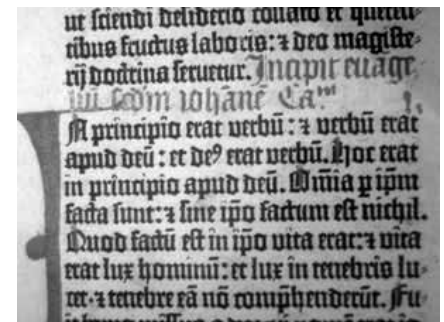
**Late Latin** - 200-550AD; Late Latin is the phrased used for the written language during the transition period from Classical Latin to Medieval Latin. The western half of the empire is falling to pieces, but the Greek-speaking east, which is still in good shape, keeps using Latin in official contexts until the end of this period.

**No Latin** - 650-750 AD; Latin has become a dead language. Few people in the west outside of monasteries can read. Monks, particularly in Ireland, read and write classical Latin and preserve ancient texts as well as church documents.

**Medieval Latin** is the written, but not the native, speech of the people. It is severed from the spoken base and the institutions of the vanished Roman Empire. It has lost the precision and uniform application of the words. Meanings of words change, and new vocabulary has been introduced from the spoken word. Where the written Latin was once rigid, it has now become flexible. Authors can be characterized by personal style of writing.

**Renaissance Latin** during the Renaissance, Latin was briefly reinforced as the spoken language, mostly by clergy, who recognized the rapid loss of historical Latin literature and strove to preserve what they could. The Medieval Latin was replaced by the 15<sup>th</sup> century with more formally correct versions which attempted to discover what the Classical language had been.

**Contemporary Latin** is primarily a written language used for religious decrees, science, medicine, academia and law. Terminology derived from Latin words and concepts is widely used as technical terms. The official language of the Roman Catholic Church is Latin, particularly the Vatican.



Latin Vulgate

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