

HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

GREEK SEPTUAGINT

3rd Century B.C.

B. C.

A. D.

JEROME'S LATIN VULGATE

382-405

BEDE'S ST. JOHN

735

WYCLIF BIBLE

1384, 1395

RHEIMS-DUJAIN BIBLE

1582, 1609-10

CHALLONER'S REVISION

1749, 1750

CONFRATERNITY NEW TESTAMENT

1941

R. Knox's HOLY B., 1944
Jerusalem Bible, 1966
(French base)

New American B., 1970

JEWISH PUB. SOC. OLD TEST.

CONFRATERNITY OLD TESTAMENT

1952

THE TORAH

1962

TANAKH, 1985

Delitzsch's NT in Hebrew (1875)

R. Lindsey's A HEBREW TRANSLATION OF THE GOSPEL OF Mark (1969)

ORIGINAL TEXTS revised 24 Oct 91

TRANSLATIONS MADE DIRECTLY FROM THE GREEK AND HEBREW TEXTS

TRANSLATIONS FROM LATIN

REVISIONS OF EARLIER TRANSLATIONS

In all Revisions the Greek and Hebrew Texts are consulted.

GREEK NEW TESTAMENT - A.D. 100

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ON ENGLISH-BIBLE VERSIONS & TRANSLATIONS:

K.Sakae & W.Specht, SO MANY VERSIONS? (20th-c.) Zonderdan/75

J.P.Lewish, THE ENGLISH BIBLE FROM KJV TO NIV: A HISTORY & EVALUATION (Cambridge/91)

R.A.Henshaw, WHICH BIBLE? (assessment of 12, in 44pp., 90¢) (Foreward Movement/90)

INVENTION OF PRINTING - 1456

LUTHER'S GERMAN BIBLE - 1522, 1534

TYNDALE'S

1530-1531 Part of O.T.

New Testament 1525

COVERDALE'S BIBLE - 1535

MATTHEW'S BIBLE - 1537

GREAT BIBLE - 1539

BISHOPS' BIBLE - 1568

GENEVA BIBLE - 1557, 1560

KING JAMES BIBLE - 1611

Additional post-WWII Bibles:

THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE (1965)

THE PLAIN ENGLISH NT, 1952-- rather similar to THE BASIC BIBLE (1949)

THE READER'S DIGEST BIBLE (Bruce Metzger's condensation of the RSV; probable: NRSV)

CHILDRENS' BIBLE, 1990

BIBLE FOR TODAY'S FAMILY: NT, 1991

The International Q Project of The Jesus Seminar, 1991 & continuing (eg, JBL Fall/91, pp.494-8)

THE LIVING BIBLE, 1971 (Nath. Taylor)

THE COMPLETE BIBLE, 1939

ENGLISH REVISED VSN. - 1881, 1885

AMERICAN STANDARD REV. VSN. - 1901

NEW AM. STAND. B., 1960

REVISED STANDARD VSN. - 1946, 1952

NEW REV. STAND. V., 1989

REV. ENG. BIBLE, 1989

NEW INTERNATIONAL V., 1978

complete TEV, '76+

WEYMOUTH N.T. 1902

MOFFATT BIBLE 1913, 1924

GOODSPEED, ETC. BIBLE 1921, 1927

PHILLIPS N.T. 1958

"NEW ENG. BIBLE" N.T. 1961

PHILLIPS O.T. - AMOS, HOSEA, ISAIAH (1-35) AND MICAH - 1963

TODAY'S ENG. VERSION N.T. (TEV) - 1966

typed PRINT, By [signature]

NOTES FOR THE NOTEBOOK

GREEK SEPTUAGINT: The Old Testament was translated into Greek in the third century B. C. for those Jews who lived outside of Palestine. Called Septuagint (meaning "of the seventy") because it was said to have been translated by 70 elders in 70 sessions in Egypt, it was used constantly by the early Christians.

GREEK NEW TESTAMENT: Paul wrote his letters for early Christians in Greek. The sayings of Jesus were perhaps written in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke, but soon the whole New Testament was written in Greek and circulated throughout the Mediterranean world. By the fourth century the Old and New Testaments in Greek were used by the Church as one collection of writings.

VULGATE BIBLE: About 382 the Bishop of Rome asked Jerome to make a new translation of the Bible into Latin. He went to Palestine and worked for twenty-five years to make a Bible for the common people. It was therefore called the vulgar or Vulgate Bible and is still the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

BEDE: Bede, the great historian of Anglo-Saxon England, started to translate the Vulgate (Latin) Bible into the English of his day because only the scholars could understand Latin. Legend says he died as he finished the translation of the Gospel of John in 735. In the 10th and 11th centuries there were other translations of the Psalms and the Gospels.

WYCLIF: John Wyclif sent out poor priests, called Lollards, to preach to the people in their own language instead of in Latin, which was used in the churches. He realized that a Bible in English was needed, and, under his inspiration, the first translation of the entire Bible was made from Latin in 1384.

LUTHER: The Reformation needed a Bible in the language of the people, so Luther himself made a German translation, completed in the years 1522-1534. It was the first western European Bible based, not on the official Latin Vulgate Bible, but on the original Hebrew and Greek.

TYNDALE: Church authorities in England prohibited a new English translation, so Tyndale went to Germany and translated the New Testament from the original Greek. This was the first printed English New Testament, 1525. Copies were smuggled into England in shipments of grain and cloth, even though many of them were confiscated. He also translated parts of the Old Testament. Soon after, Tyndale was betrayed, strangled and burned near Brussels. But so excellent was his work that almost every English version since is indebted to it.

COVERDALE: Coverdale, like Tyndale, fled to Germany to complete the translation of the Bible. He used Latin and German versions and Tyndale's New Testament, Pentateuch, and Jonah. This was the first printed English Bible, 1535. Matthew's Bible, 1537, containing additional sections of Tyndale's work on the Old Testament, was revised by Coverdale. The result was known as the Great Bible, 1539. Its Psalms are still in the Book of Common Prayer. The Bishops' Bible, 1568, was a revision of the Great Bible and the King James (see below) was ordered as a revision of the Bishops' Bible. The Geneva Bible, 1560, also a revision of the Great Bible, was produced by English Puritans in Geneva and strongly influenced the King James Bible also.

ROMAN CATHOLIC VERSIONS: The New Testament published in Rheims in 1582, followed in 1609-1610 by the Old Testament at Douai, was a translation from the Latin Vulgate. This was revised by Bishop Challoner in 1749 and 1750. The Confraternity New Testament, 1941, although strongly influenced by contemporary Greek scholarship, was based on the Vulgate but the Confraternity Old Testament, 1952-, on the Hebrew text.

KING JAMES: The various versions of the Bible aroused so many arguments that James I, after the Hampton Court Conference, appointed fifty-four scholars to make a new version. It took about seven years, for all the known copies of oldest manuscripts and later translations were studied. Despite the great variety of men who worked on it, the book was harmonious in style and beauty. It was first published in 1611 and became the most popular English Bible.

LATER REVISIONS: For more than 250 years the King James Bible was supreme among English-speaking people. During the last one hundred years, the knowledge from newly-discovered manuscripts, archeological discoveries and recent scholarship has led to its revision. The first "Revised Version" was published in England, 1881-1885; a modification of this, the American Standard Revised Version, was issued in 1901. The most recent is the Revised Standard Version, 1946-1952. There also have been many translations by individual scholars and groups of scholars: Weymouth, Moffatt, Goodspeed, Phillips, etc. The "New English Bible," (New Testament, 1961), a group translation, is not a revision but an entirely new translation. A new edition of The Torah, in English, was published in 1962; the following Phillips Modern English Old Testament books: Amos, Hosea, Isaiah (1-35) and Micah, titled "Four Prophets" in 1963. Today's English Version New Testament (TEV) titled "Good News for Modern Man" is an American Bible Society publication (1966).