





From Hebrew to Aramaic

- The Jewish Bible, the Old Testament, was originally written almost entirely in Hebrew, with a few short passages in Aramaic.



From Hebrew & Aramaic into Greek

- By the mid-3rd century BC, in the time of Alexander the Great, Greek became the common language and so again, the Jewish scholars translated the Jewish Bible into Greek.




The New Testament Text

- So by the time of Jesus the books of Moses had been translated from Hebrew into Aramaic and Greek.

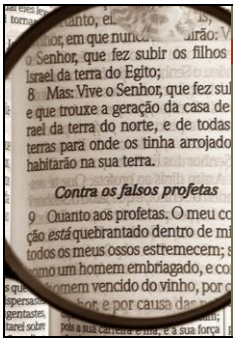
From the Church Father into the Dark Ages

- As Christianity spread into the wider world where the people spoke different languages the Old and New Testaments were translated into other languages such as Coptic, Ethiopian, Gothic, and, most important, Latin.



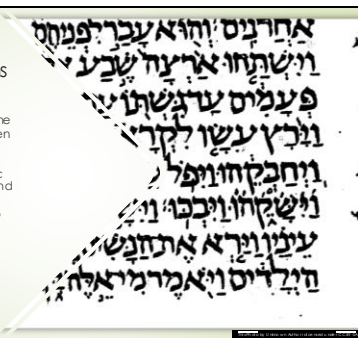
The Masoretic Text

- While the Christian church in Europe used the Latin Vulgate.




Summary of Old Testament Translations

- To this point we have learnt that the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, with a little bit of Aramaic; the five books of Moses were then translated into Aramaic while the Jews were in Babylon, and in the time of Alexander all of the Old Testament was translated into Greek.



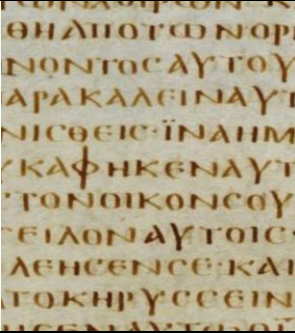
The New Testament

- However, when it comes to the New Testament things are a little more difficult.




New Testament


- Generally, these fall into three main categories.



The New Testament

- Second, there are Byzantine manuscripts, also known as the Majority Text.





The New Testament

- However, there is also a third group of Greek manuscripts of the New Testament.

New Testament

- So, the New Testament was written in Greek by the Apostles.



John Wycliffe & William Tyndale

- Let's now look at the earliest attempts to translate the Bible into English.




The Great Bible




- William Tyndale was executed by King Henry VIII.

The Geneva Bible

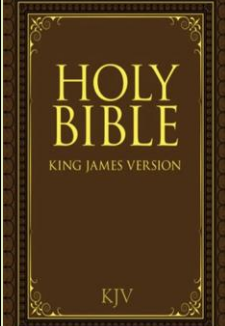


- However, at this point, it was still too expensive for the average person to own a book the size of the Great Bible.

The Bishops Bible



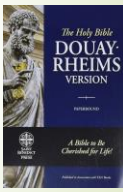
- However, the Anglican bishops at the time were not happy about the Geneva Bible, written by the Calvinists who believed in predestination, as they were worried that it might undermine their authority.



HOLY BIBLE
KING JAMES VERSION
KJV

The King James Bible


- This problem was solved in 1611 with the publication of the most famous English translation of all time: the King James Version.



The Holy Bible
DOUAY-RHEIMS
VERSION
*A Bible in Its
Original for Life!*

Douay-Rheims Bible

- Just before we move on, we need to note that another translation was created around the same time as the KJV.



HOLY BIBLE
Revised Version (RV)

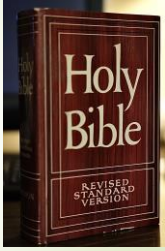
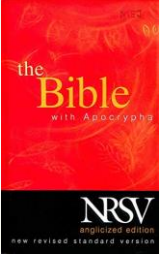
AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION

Modern Translations

- Now we need to look at modern translations.

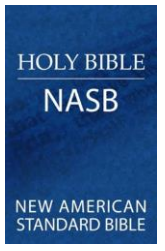

Translations Issues

- Out of the American Standard Version (ASV) came:
- The Revised Standard Version (RSV) 1952
- The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) 1989
- The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUP) 2021




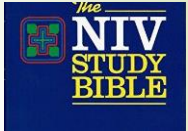
Translations Issues

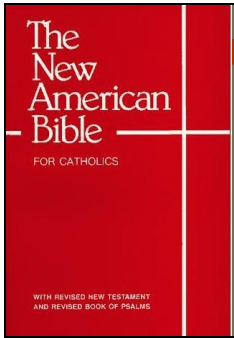
- The American Standard Version also gave birth to two other Bible versions.



The New International Version

- Now we come to the New International Version (NIV) 1978.






The New American Bible
FOR CATHOLICS

WITH REVISED NEW TESTAMENT AND REVISED BOOK OF PSALMS

Catholic Bibles

- So we mentioned earlier that around the same time that the King James Bible was published that the Catholic church published the Douay-Rheims Bible English translation, which was based on the Latin Vulgate.



The New King James Version

- Finally, we came to the New King James Version (NKJV) 1982

Holy Bible
New King James Version®

Bible Translations

- As of September 2023 all of the Bible has been translated into 736 languages. The New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,691 languages, and smaller portions of the Bible have been translated into 1,264 other languages.



The type of translation

There are essentially two types of Bible translations:

- The first is called formal equivalence or literal translation. These attempt to translate the bible text word for word as close as possible to the original.
- They include: The King James Version (KJV 1611), The Revised Version (RV 1885), The Revised Standard Version (RSV 1952), The New American Standard Bible (NASB 1971) or The English Standard Version (ESV 2001).

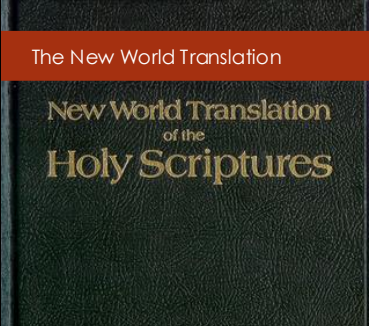
The Translator

- As we are considering which Bible translation is the best, we need to consider the humanity of the translator.

The Reader

- Likewise, what are the presuppositions of the reader?

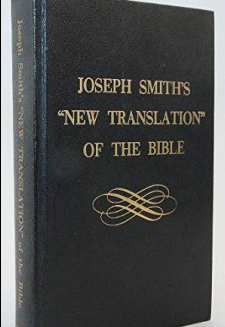
The New World Translation



New World Translation
of the
Holy Scriptures

- Such as the Jehovah Witness Bible, The New World Translation, which was written in 1961 and updated in 1984.

JOSEPH SMITH'S
"NEW TRANSLATION"
OF THE BIBLE



JOHN SMITH'S
Translation

- The Joseph Smith Translation (JST), also called the Inspired Version of the Holy Scriptures, is a revision of the Bible by Joseph Smith, the founder of the Latter Day Saint movement, who said that the JST was intended to restore what he described as "many important points touching the salvation of men, [that] had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled".

Textus Receptus and the Critical Text

John 5:3-4 - New King James Version -

³ In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, ⁴ paralyzed, ⁵ waiting for the moving of the water. ⁶ For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

c. John 5:3 NU omits the rest of v. 3 and all of v. 4.

15 Most Popular Bible Translations...by Reading Level

Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
3	4-5	5	6	7	7-8	10	11	12
NIV New International Reader's Version	MSG The Message	GW God's Word Translation	NLT New Living Translation	NKJV New King James Version	NIV New International Version	ESV English Standard Version	NASB New American Standard Bible	RSV Revised Standard Version
NCV New Century Version				CSB Christian Standard Bible			NRSV New Revised Standard Version	KJV King James Version
				CEB Common English Bible				

Mark 7:14-15 NASB NKJV ✓ KJV ASV

14 When He had called the multitude to Him, He said to them, "Hear in everyone, and understand."

15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let

Summary

There is no substitute to being able to read the Bible in the original languages.

However, when that is not possible, several translations should be compared with one another to make sure the text says the same in English as in the original languages.

Dr. Pastor Trev a Thomas

Bible Translations
