

The Doctrine of Scripture (2)

Lesson Ten: *Translation of Scripture* (part 1)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

A. Pre-reformation (16th century)

1. Dominance of the Latin Vulgate (1100 years!)
2. John Wycliffe (1324-1384) – “*Morning Star*”
 - 1382, 1388 – English translation from Latin
 - 1415 – Bible was condemned and burned
3. Invention of the printing press (1450)
4. Erasmus' Greek New Testament (1516, 1522)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

B. Tyndale Tradition (1526-1611)

1. William Tyndale (1494-1526)
 - translated New Testament in 1526 from Erasmus' Greek 3rd ed. (Germany); revised in 1534
 - translated portions of the Old Testament (not published until after his death)
 - strangled to death and burned in 1536 (Brussels)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

B. Tyndale Tradition (1526-1611)

2. Coverdale Bible (1535)
 - first complete printed English Bible; permitted by King Henry VIII
 - New Testament and Pentateuch was based on Tyndale's version; rest of OT based on Latin
 - separated the Apocrypha from the other OT books

English Translations

History of the English Bible

B. Tyndale Tradition (1526-1611)

3. Matthew's Bible (1537)
 - published by John Rogers; Tyndale's version with updated Old Testament (“W.T.”)
 - Rogers was burned at the stake in 1555

English Translations

History of the English Bible

B. Tyndale Tradition (1526-1611)

4. The Great Bible (1539)
 - first “authorized” Bible; order to be placed in all the churches in England by Henry VIII
 - revision of the Matthew's Bible by Coverdale; removed all outspoken Protestant notes

English Translations

History of the English Bible

B. Tyndale Tradition (1526-1611)

5. The Geneva Bible (1560)

- many Protestants fled to Geneva in 1553
- first English Bible translated completely from Greek and Hebrew (NT followed Tyndale)
- contained a large number of strongly protestant marginal notes (Bible of Shakespeare, Milton, Bunyan, the Pilgrims)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

B. Tyndale Tradition (1526-1611)

6. King James Bible (1611)

- under the direction of King James; translation committee of 48 scholars (3 OT groups; 2 NT groups; 1 Apocrypha)
- followed the Bishop's Bible (only changed were the original requires); no marginal notes (except textual)
- 85% of the New Testament is Tyndale (75% of his OT)
- no official "authorization" – the English Bible for almost 300 years (no significant new translations)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

C. Era of the critical text (Greek)

1. English Revised Version (1885)

- commissioned by the Church of England in 1870
- based on the critical Greek text of Westcott and Hort
- revision of the Authorized Version (KJV) – only change where necessary
- woodenly literal translation retaining many archaic words (*"strong in Greek, weak in English"* -- Spurgeon)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

C. Era of the critical text (Greek)

2. American Standard Version (1901)

- American counterpart to the ERV; the same Bible with over 600 variant American readings
- improved style and updated words ("Holy Spirit")
- used "Jehovah" for the Hebrew YHWH

English Translations

History of the English Bible

D. Era of Modern Versions

1. Revised Standard Version (RSV; 1952)

- a revision of the ASV and ERV
- 32 committee members; sponsored by the NCCC in the U.S. and Canada (less conservative)
- wide ecumenical appeal but strongly criticized by conservative evangelicals
- updated in 1990 (NRSV) – gender inclusive

English Translations

History of the English Bible

D. Era of Modern Versions

2. New American Standard Bible (1971)

- a revision and modernization of the ASV from a conservative perspective (68 unnamed committee members of the Lockman Foundation)
- very literal translation (updated version in 1995)

English Translations

History of the English Bible

D. Era of Modern Versions

3. New International Version (NIV) – 1978

- a new translation (not a revision); conservative scholars
- “balanced” approach to translation
- became the world’s most popular Bible! (outsold the KJV since 1988); 110 million copies in first 25 years; 45% of all Bibles sold in North America

English Translations

History of the English Bible

D. Era of Modern Versions

1. *Revised Standard Version* (1952)
2. New English Bible (1970)
3. *New American Standard Bible* (1971)
4. Today’s English Version (1976)
5. *New International Version* (1978)
6. New King James Version (1982)
7. English Standard Version (2001)

AW/KJV	Authorized (King James) Version (1611)
RV	Revised Version (1885)
ASV	American Standard Version (1901)
RSV	Revised Standard Version (1952)
JBP	J. B. Phillips’s New Testament in Modern English (1958; rev. 1972)
NWT	New World Translation (1961)
Amp.	Amplified Bible (1965)
JB	Jerusalem Bible (1966)
NEB	New English Bible (1970)
NAB	New American Bible (1970)
LB	Living Bible (1962-1971)
NASB	New American Standard Bible (1971)
TEV	Today’s English Version (1976)
NIV	New International Version (1978)
NKJV	New King James Version (1982)
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible (1985)
ICB	International Children’s Bible (1986)
CCB	Christian Community Bible (1988)
REB	Revised English Bible (1989)
RSV	New Revised Standard Version (1990)
NCV	New Century Version (1991)
GW	God’s Word (to the Nations) (1995)
CEV	Contemporary English Version (1995)
NASB ^u	New American Standard Bible update (1995)
NLT	New Living Translation (1996; rev. 2004)
NIJV	New International Readers Version (1994-1998)
NIV ⁱ	NIV inclusive-language edition (1997)
NET	New English Translation (2001)
NTH	New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version (1995)
ESV	English Standard Version (2001)
The Message	Eugene Peterson’s <i>The Message</i> (1993-2002)
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
TNV	Today’s New International Version (2005)