



HOW DID WE  
GET OUR  
ENGLISH  
BIBLES AND  
HOW DO WE  
KNOW THEY  
ARE  
ACCURATE?

Summer Breakout Series

2 July 2023



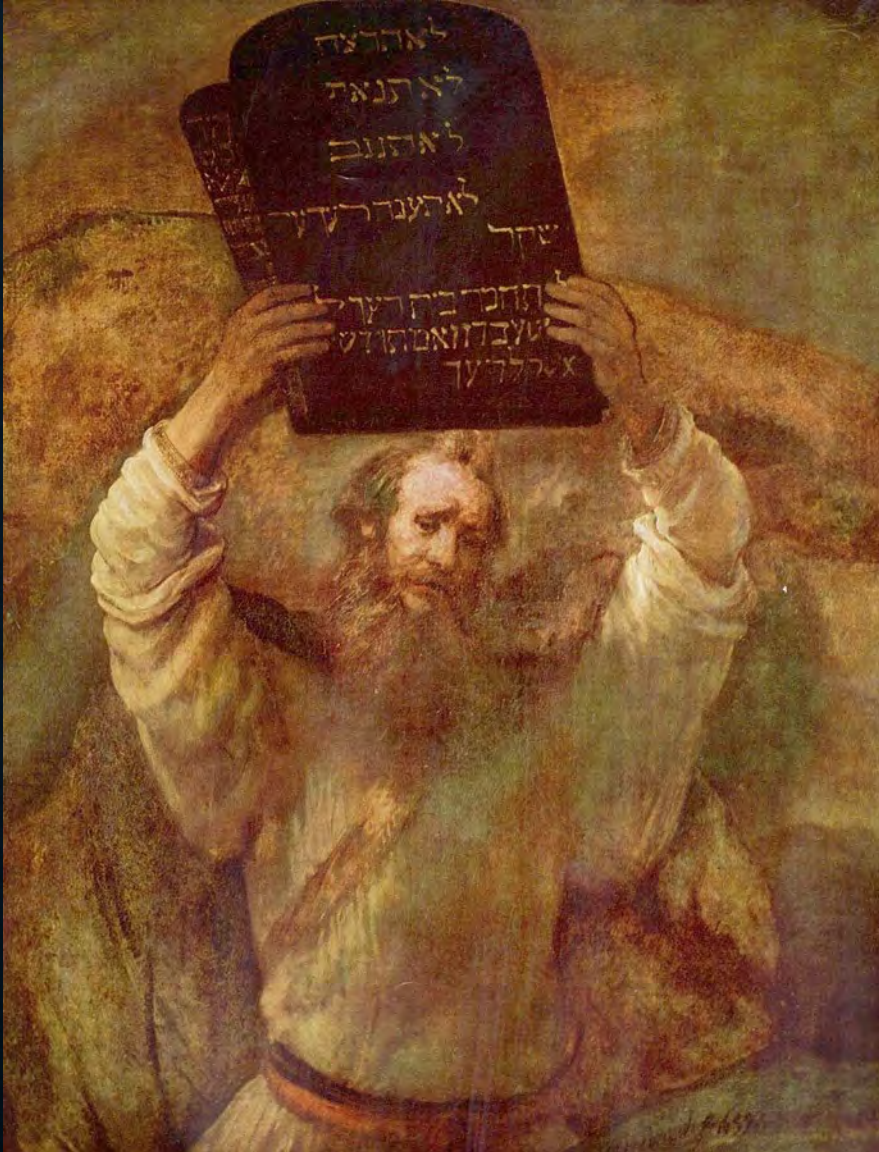
# Immanuel Bible Church

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“We believe the Scriptures - the 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament - provide God’s authoritative written revelation to mankind ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [Galatians 1:12](#)). God interacted with the human writers of those books so that every word of the original texts was exactly as He wanted ([2 Peter 1:20-21](#)) and without error ([John 17:17](#)). The Scriptures are the supreme and final authority ([Psalms 19:7-11](#); [Ps 119](#); [Romans 10:17](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#)).”



# History – Old Testament



- Written in Hebrew By about 200 BC, Hebrew was a dying language not spoken by very many Jews
- People Spoke Aramaic
- The first full translation - Septuagint (LXX)
- Other translations were made into nearly every language then spoken
- About 800 manuscripts or parts of manuscripts are available today
  - The Dead Sea scrolls are among the best and are more than 1,000 years older than those used for the King James Version
- Jesus and the Disciples hold the OT as truth.



# History – The Septuagint

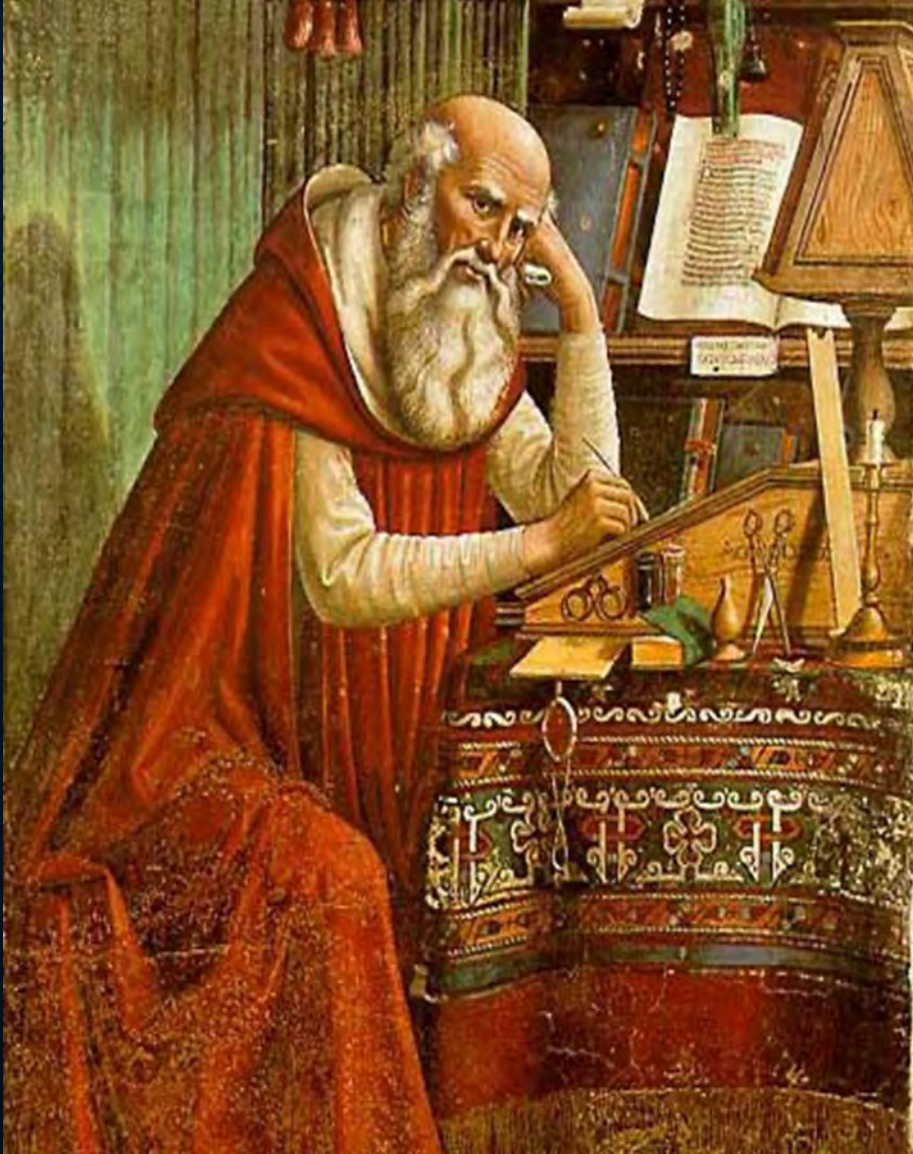
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- The conquests of Alexander the Great in 4th century BC caused the spread of Greek language
- Alexander showed considerable favor to the Jews
- Originally the Torah; then the entire OT
- New Testament quotations are directly from the Septuagint
- Bridged the historical gap between Hebrew OT of Jews and the Greek-speaking Christians
- Jews later lost interest when Christians adopted it as OT
- Remains authoritative text of Eastern (Orthodox) Church
- Dead Sea Scrolls agree more with Septuagint than the Masoretic Texts for certain scripture



# History – The Latin Vulgate



- Roman influence resulted in Latin rapidly becoming the official language of the church
- One of the earliest Latin translations of the Bible was "Old Latin" (from the Septuagint), which was copied extensively
- By end of 4th century, numerous Old Latin texts existed, leading Pope Damasus, to commission an authorized revision from Saint Jerome
- Damasus died and Jerome moved to Bethlehem, and completed the translation (405 AD)
- Became the unofficial standard text for the Bible, for 1,000+ years and becoming the official Bible of the Catholic Church in 1546
- It served as the basis for most modern Bible translations



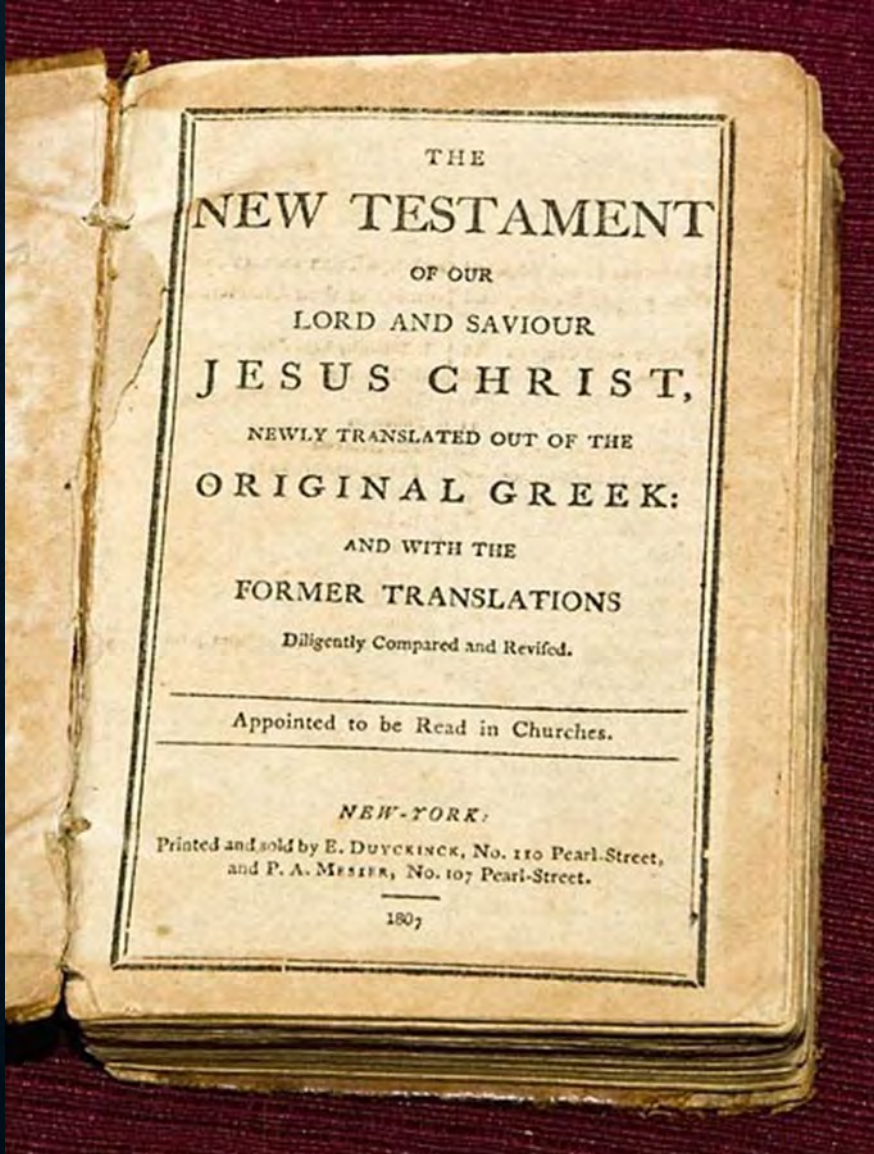
# History - Masoretes



- Jewish scribe-scholars who worked from around the end of the 5th through 10th centuries CE in Jerusalem and Tiberias.
- Standardized the pronunciation, paragraph and verse divisions, and cantillation of the Hebrew Bible
- The Masoretes devised the vowel notation system for Hebrew that is still widely used.
- The Masoretic Text is the primary foundation of most of today's Bible translations.
  - Aleppo and Leningrad Codices
- Although the final version of the Masorah is only about 1,000 years old, it preserves tradition and scholarship that is much older.



# History – The New Testament



- Originally written in koine Greek (lingua franca)
- Most translated document in the world – by far!
- More than 24,000 manuscript copies or portions of the New Testament (e.g., MSS, unicals, miniscules, lectionaries, papyri, etc.) in existence today
- 2nd is the Iliad with 643 extant manuscripts
- Additionally, we have 32,000 quotes about the Bible
- All but eleven verses of the New Testament could be reconstructed through these writings alone
- The Muratorian Canon Fragment dating from 170 AD lists the same New Testament books commonly accepted today



# The English Bible

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Can You Read This?

Fn der pure pu pe eart on  
heofonum, Si pin nama gehalgod.  
to becume pin rice, gewurpe din  
willa, on eordan swa on  
heofonum. urne  
gednghwamlican hlaf syle us  
todng,  
and forgyf us ure gyltas, swa we  
forgyfad urum gyltendum.  
and ne gelnd pu us on costnunge,  
ac alys us of yfele.  
soplice.



# The English Bible

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- That is an Anglo-Saxon (or Old English) translation of the Lord's Prayer
- While it's unclear how the English language developed, Old English was in use from ~450 – 1100 AD, dominated by the influence of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes
- The first Bible text in written English form was accessible only to the elite, and (a) were piecemeal, (b) were translated from Latin, and (c) rarely contained the full text of the entire Bible
- Following the Norman invasion of England in 1066, the language experienced "momentous changes, more extensive and fundamental than those that have taken place any time before or since" – and entered the Middle English period (1100 – 1500) - this was the time of Geoffrey Chaucer



# The English Bible

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Can You Read This?

Oure fadir that art in heuenes,  
halewid be thi name;  
thi kingdoom come to; be thi will  
don in erthe as it is in heuene;  
yue to vs this dai oure ech dayes  
breed and foryue to vs oure  
dettis  
as we foryuen to oure dettouris  
and lede vs not in to temptacioun,  
but delyuere vs fro yuel.  
Amen



# History – John Wycliffe



- Lord's Prayer from John Wycliffe's translation of the Bible in the late 14th century
- He opposed papal authority and the traditional church, believing God alone gives authority and aligning with Lollards (preachers)
- He created the first English translation of the complete Bible from the Vulgate
- NT completed in 1380 AD and OT completed in 1382 AD...hand-written...dozens of copies made
- First time ever the biblical canon in its entirety was made accessible to the reader literate in English but not Latin
- 44 years after Wycliffe's death, the Pope had his bones dug up, crushed, and scattered in the River Swift



# History – Gutenberg Press – 1450's AD

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- All the world acknowledges that the invention of Gutenberg is the greatest event that secular history has recorded. - Mark Twain
- Invented/developed moveable type, oil based ink and the printing press.
- Printed medium was now within the reach of the middle class.
  - It took a scribe 2.5 years to write out a Bible
  - Gutenberg printed 180 Bibles in 2.5 years
- Literacy Exploded
- The Bible was now translated into many languages.
- The common man now wanted to read their Bible...the church became the educator.



# History – William Tyndale

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- The first NT translated directly from the original Greek was produced by William Tyndale in 1526 – also first printed
- Pioneer in use of simple language through poetic aphorism; his Bible is thought to have inspired Shakespeare
- Use of Erasmus' interlinear Greek/Latin text
- Persecuted by the Catholic Church and Church of England, ultimately hanged and burned at the stake
- Final words: "Oh Lord, open the King of England's eyes."
- Inspired all Bibles to come...Coverdale Bible, Matthew Bible, Great Bible, the Geneva Bible

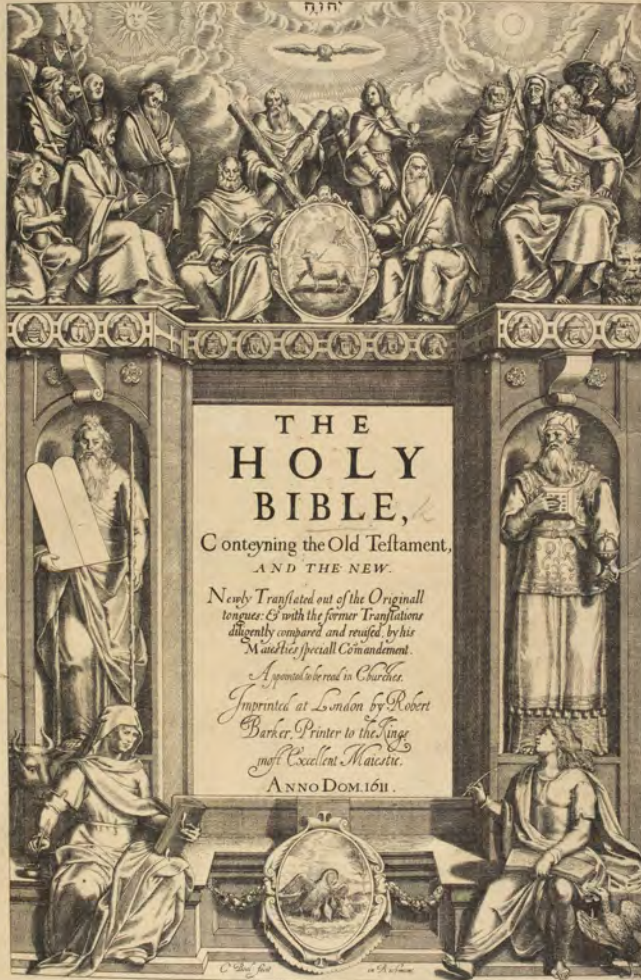




**King James**



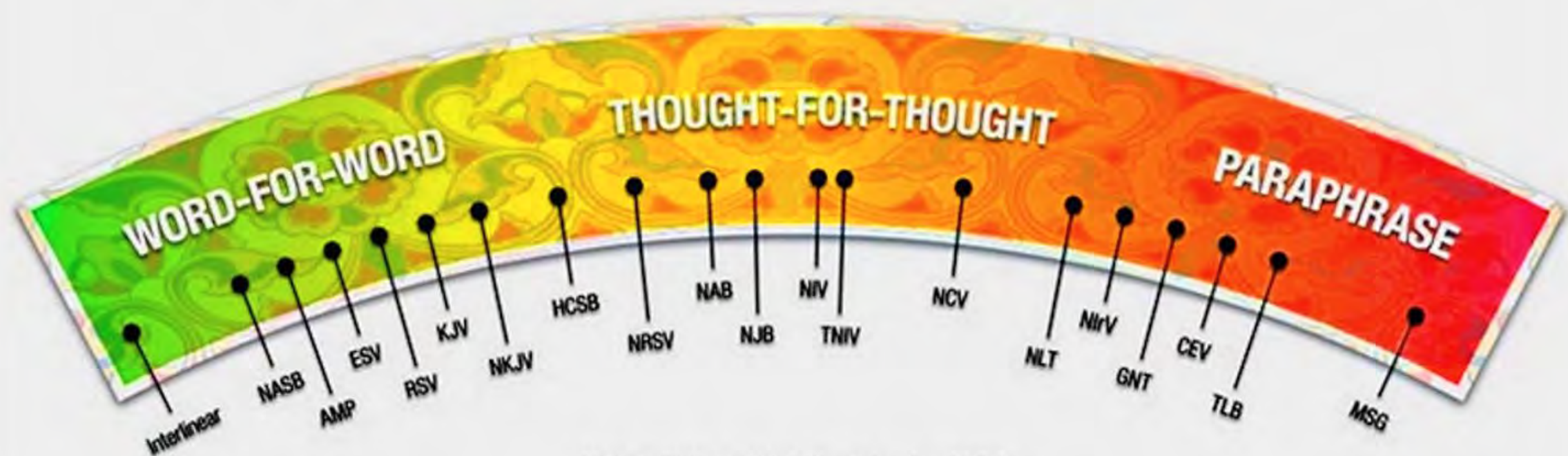
# History – KJV 1611



- King James I ascended to the English throne in 1603
- Too many Bible versions creating trouble between sects within the church;
- Generally considered the first Bible translation to use a "committee-approach"
- Committee...great respect for the Word and considered it inspired by God;
- Few marginal notes and no private comments
- Pub. 1611; technically neither "authorized" nor "version"; for more than 300 years it was the main English translation
- The standard edition of today's KJV comes from a revision in 1769 by Ben Blayney of Oxford
- KJV...protected under British law



# Types of Bible Translations



NASB - New American Standard Bible  
AMP - Amplified Bible  
ESV - English Standard Version  
RSV - Revised Standard Version  
KJV - King James Version  
NKJV - New King James Version

HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible  
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version  
NAB - New American Bible  
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible  
NIV - New International Version  
TNIV - Today's New International Version  
NCV - New Century Version  
NLT - New Living Translation

NirV - New International Reader's Version  
GNT - Good News Translation  
(also Good News Bible)  
CEV - Contemporary English Version  
TLB - The Living Bible  
MSG - The Message



# Bible Translations By Grade Level

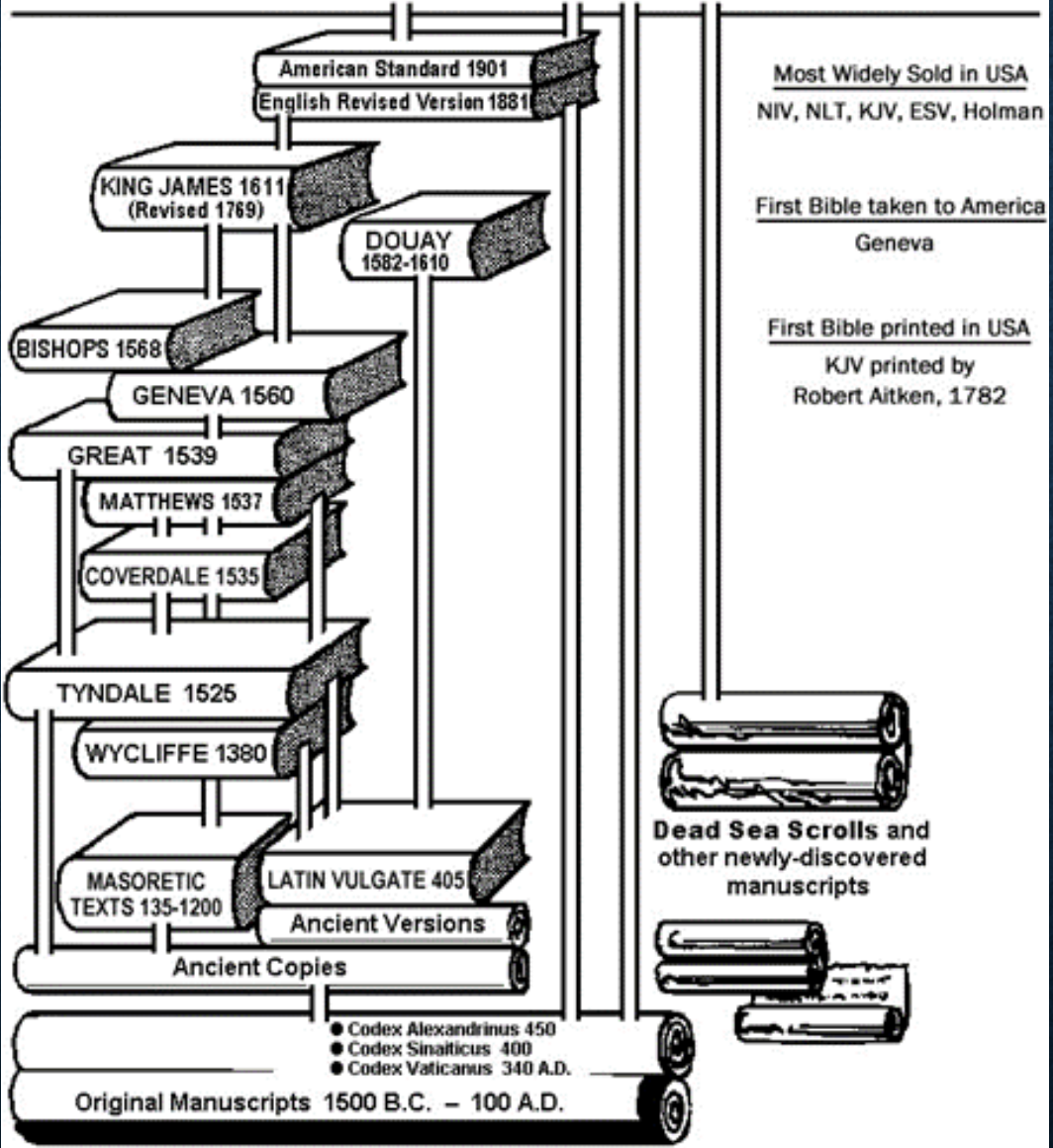
<b>Translation</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Translation</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
<b>KJV</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>NIV</b>	<b>8th</b>
<b>ASV</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>CEB</b>	<b>7th</b>
<b>RSV</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>NLT</b>	<b>6th</b>
<b>NASB</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>GW</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>UASV</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>CEV</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>ESV</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>NCV</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>NKJV</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>4th</b>
<b>HCSB</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>NIRV</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>NRSV</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>ICB</b>	<b>3rd</b>



**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS**

ESV 2001	Message 2002	Holman 2004
REB 1992	CEV 1995	NLT 1996
NIV 1978-84	NKJV 1982	NRSV 1989-90
NASB 1971	Living 1971	GNB/TEV 1976
Jerusalem 1966	NEB 1970	NAB 1970
RSV 1952	Berkeley MLB '59	Amplified 1965

MODERN ENGLISH →



Charted adapted, corrected and updated from Thompson Chain Reference Study Bible by David Ahl, 2015, www.BibleStudyMen.com



# Immanuel Bible Church

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“We believe the Scriptures - the 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament - provide God’s authoritative written revelation to mankind ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [Galatians 1:12](#)). God interacted with the human writers of those books so that every word of the original texts was exactly as He wanted ([2 Peter 1:20-21](#)) and without error ([John 17:17](#)). The Scriptures are the supreme and final authority ([Psalms 19:7-11](#); [Ps 119](#); [Romans 10:17](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#)).”



## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



# 1 Thessalonians 2:13

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<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.



# Galatians 1:12

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<sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.



## 2 Peter 1:20-21

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<sup>20</sup>...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



# John 17:17

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<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.



# Psalm 19:7-11; 1-6

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<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, <sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.



# Psalm 19:7-11; 1-6

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<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.



# Psalm 119

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<sup>89</sup> Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

<sup>92</sup> If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

<sup>93</sup> I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



# Romans 10:17

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<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.



## Hebrews 4:12

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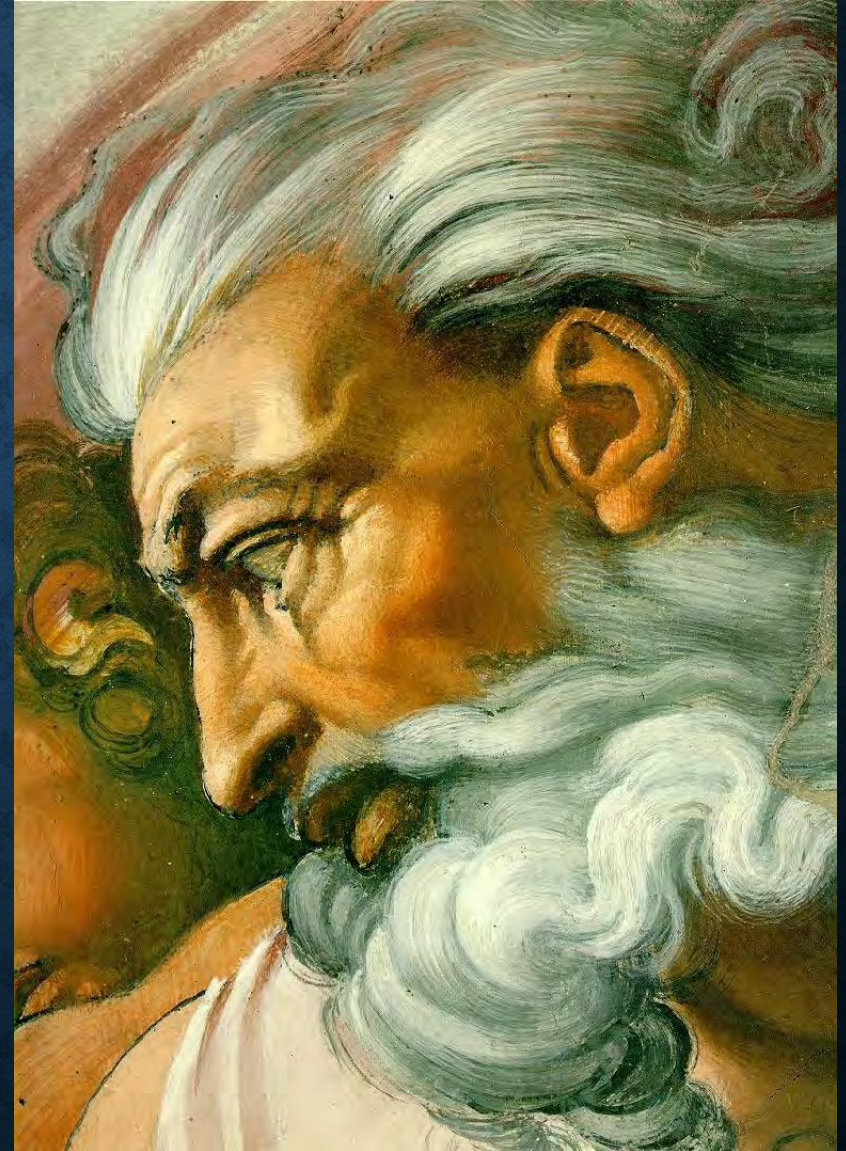
<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



# God Is...

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- Omnipotent
- Omniscient
- Omnipresent
- Infinite
- Transcendant
- Holy, Holy Holy







*“The strength of the evidence for the Christian worldview is so strong that one would have to willfully shut their eyes to it.”*

*- Alisa Childers*

“Another Gospel? A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity”





HOLY BIBLE

READ  
ME!