





Translation

How We Got the Bible

Winter Sessions 2025–26



A Brief History of the Bible in English

Bede the Venerable 672–735 AD



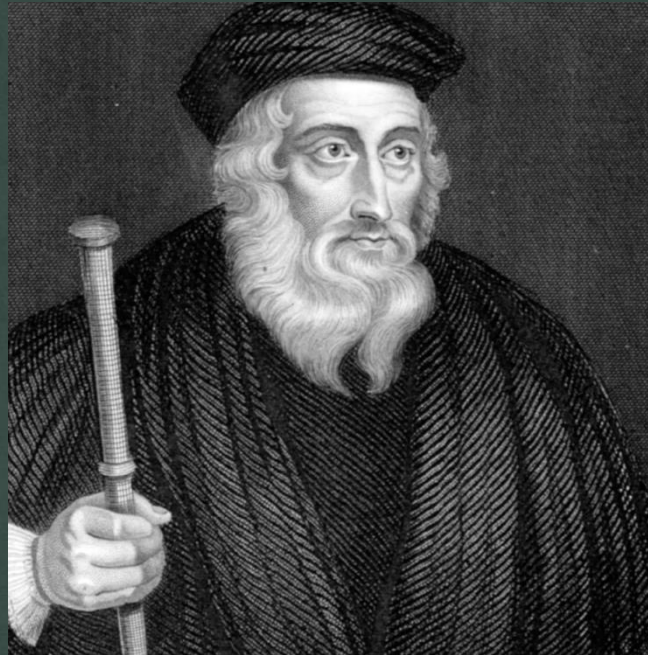
Alfred the Great 849–899 AD





John Wycliffe

1328–1384



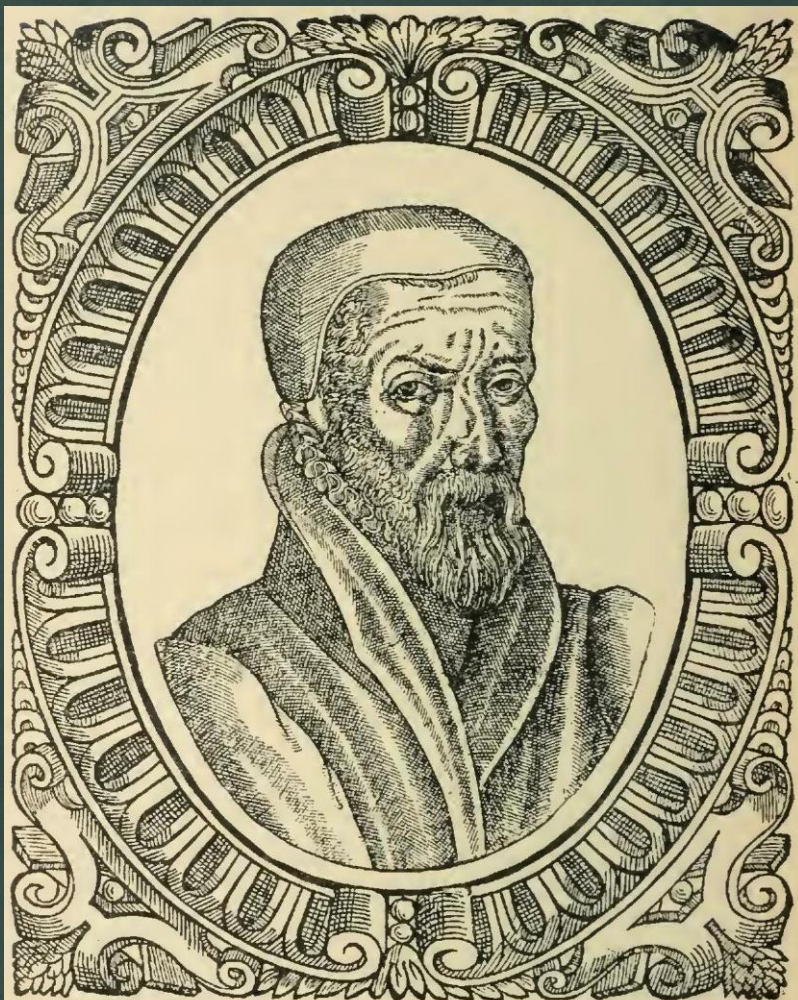
The Wycliffite Bible





William Tyndale

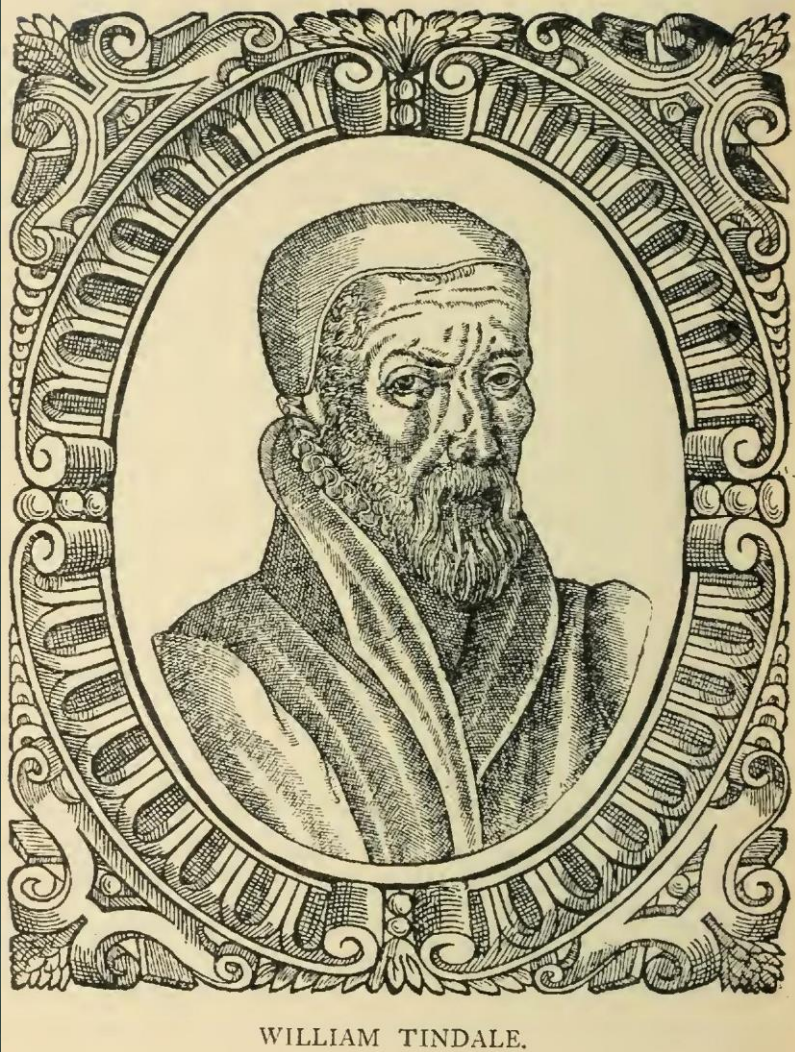
ca. 1494–1536



WILLIAM TINDALE.

William Tyndale

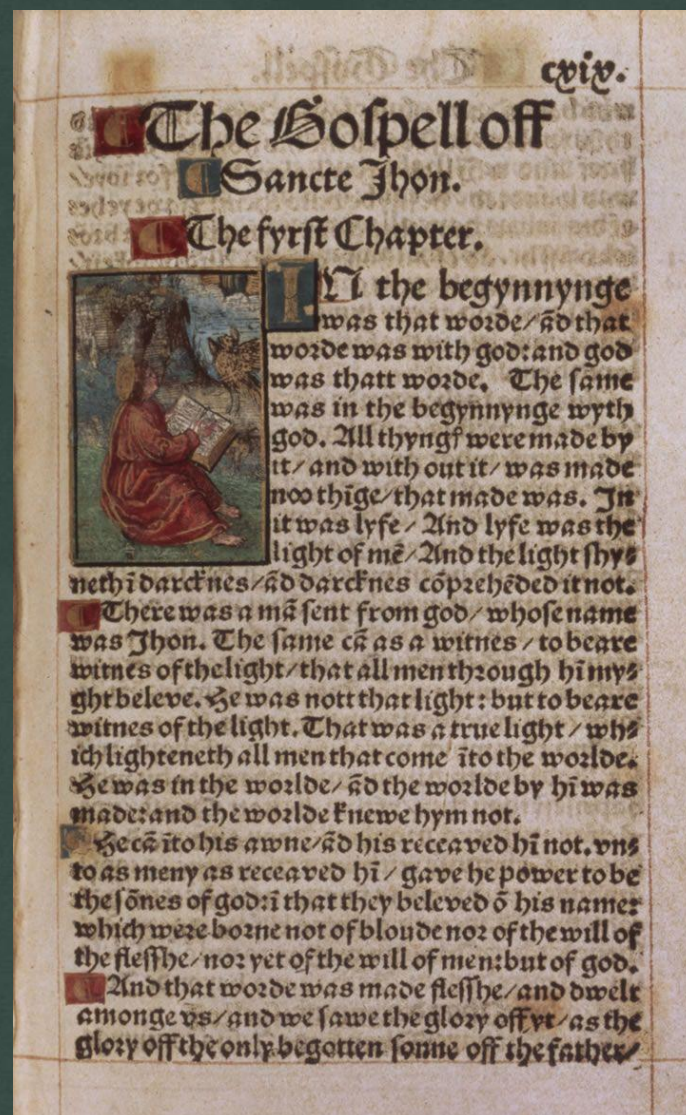
ca. 1494–1536



“I defy the Pope and all his laws; and if God spare my life, ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scripture than thou dost.”

Cited in David Daniell, *William Tyndale: A Biography* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 79.

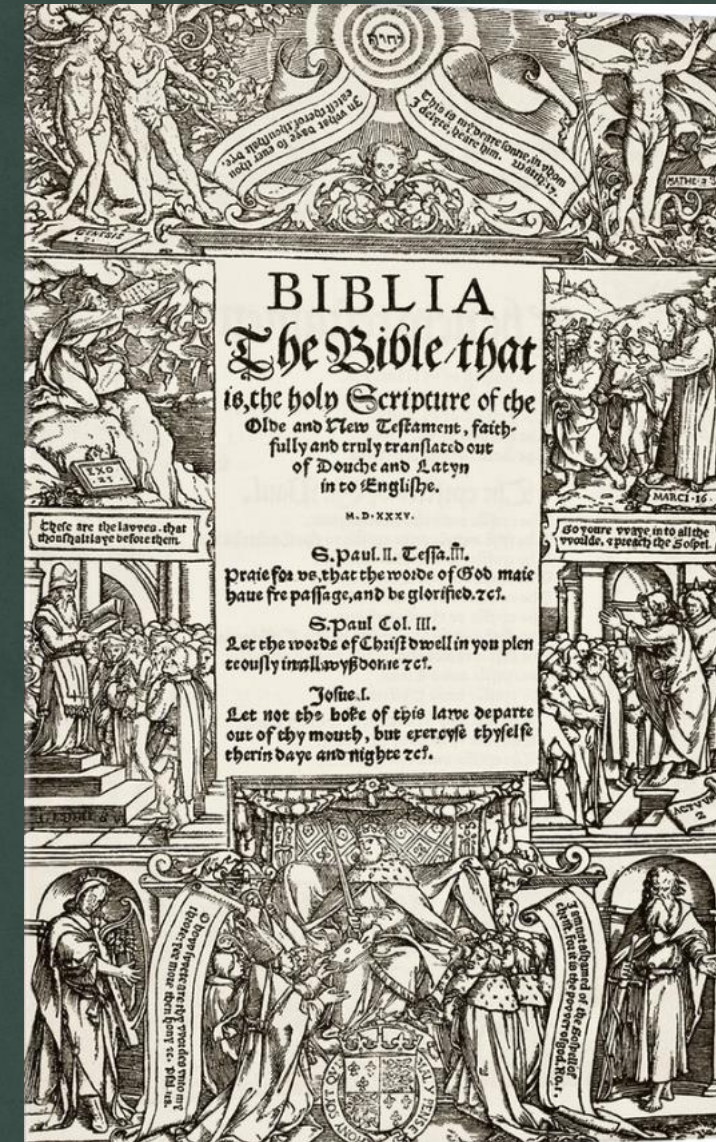
The Tyndale Bible



Myles Coverdale ca. 1488–1569



The Coverdale Bible

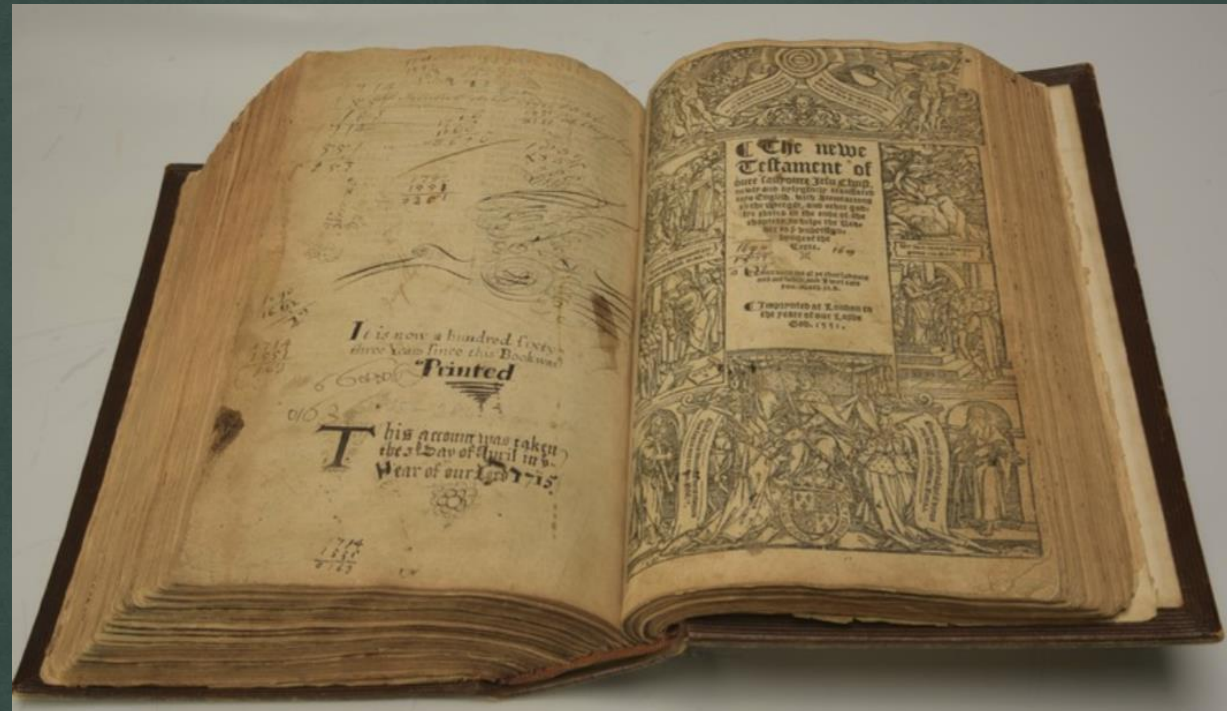




John Rogers ca. 1505–1555



The Thomas Matthew Bible



Mary I of England

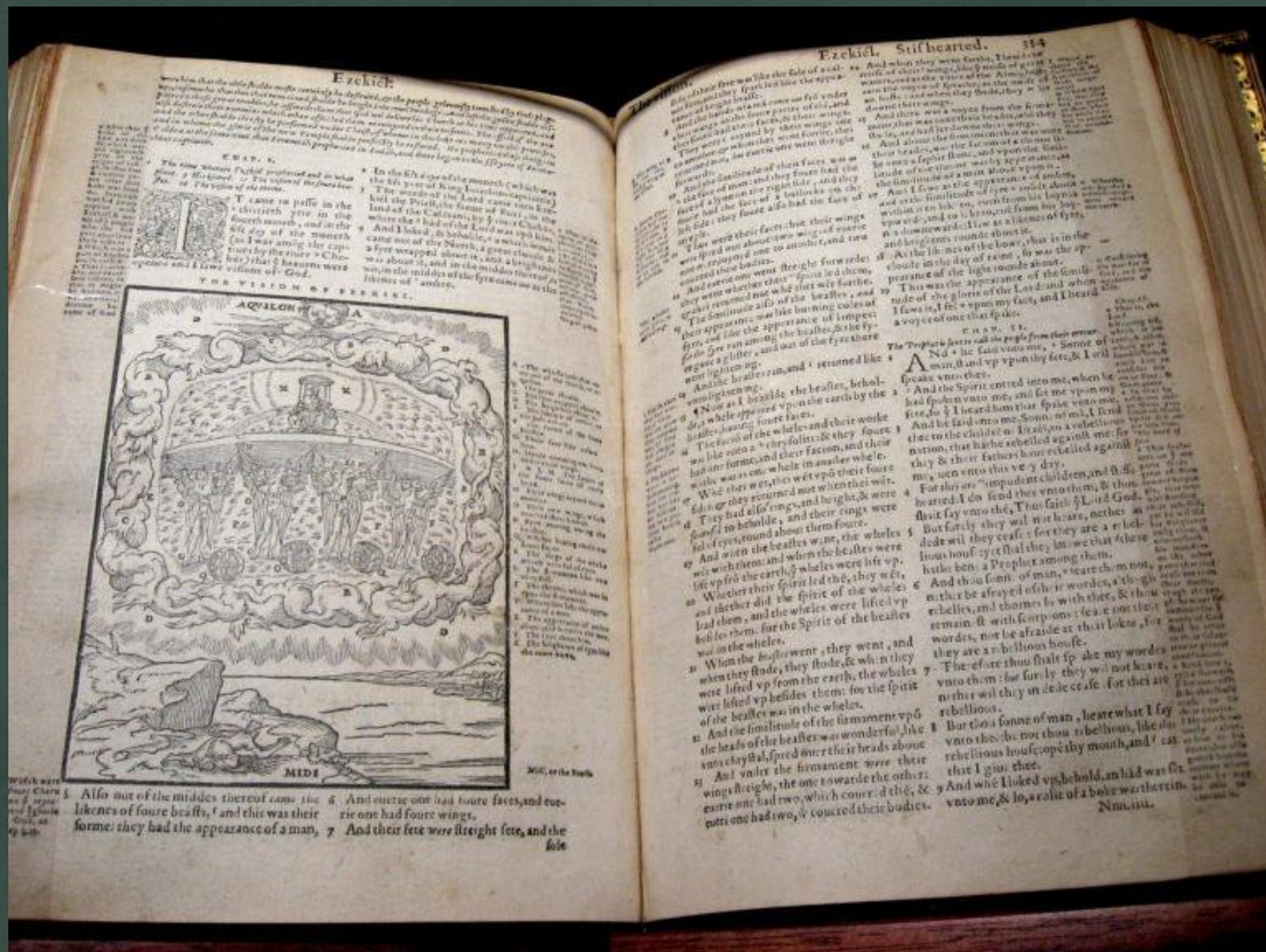
r. 1553–1558



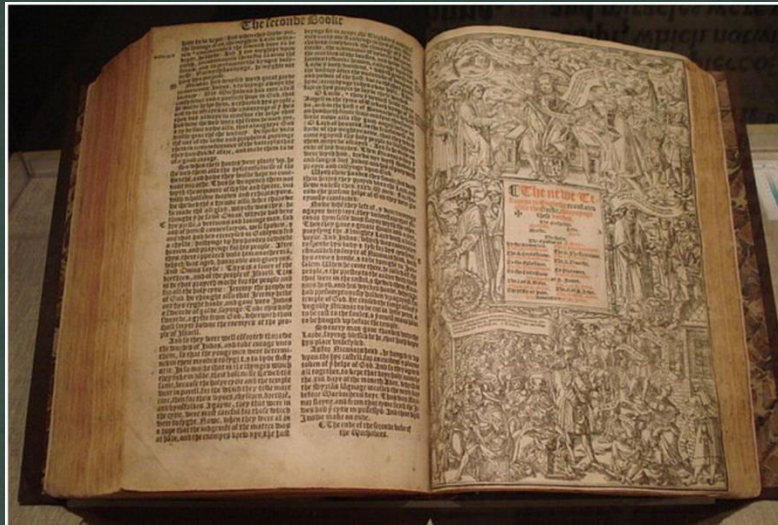
The Death of John Rogers



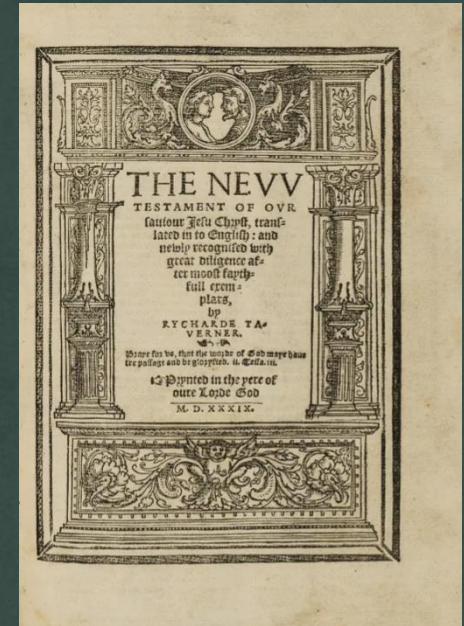
The Geneva Bible



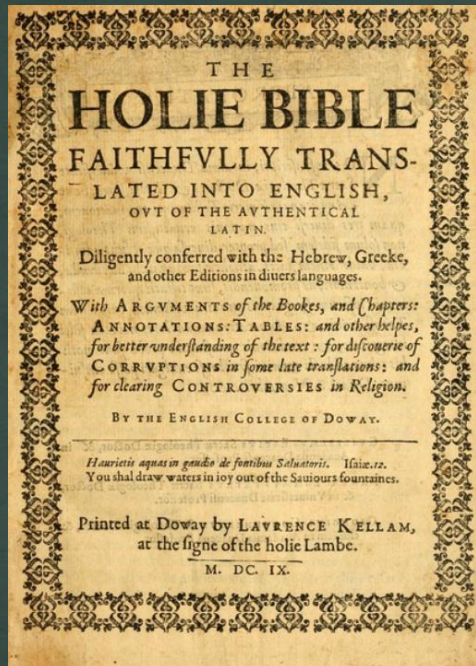
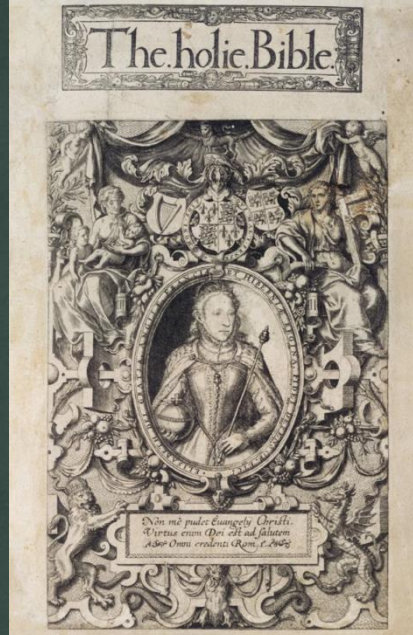
The Great Bible



Richard Taverner's Bible



The Bishop's Bible



The Douay-Rheims Bible



Elizabeth I of England

r. 1558–1603





James I of England

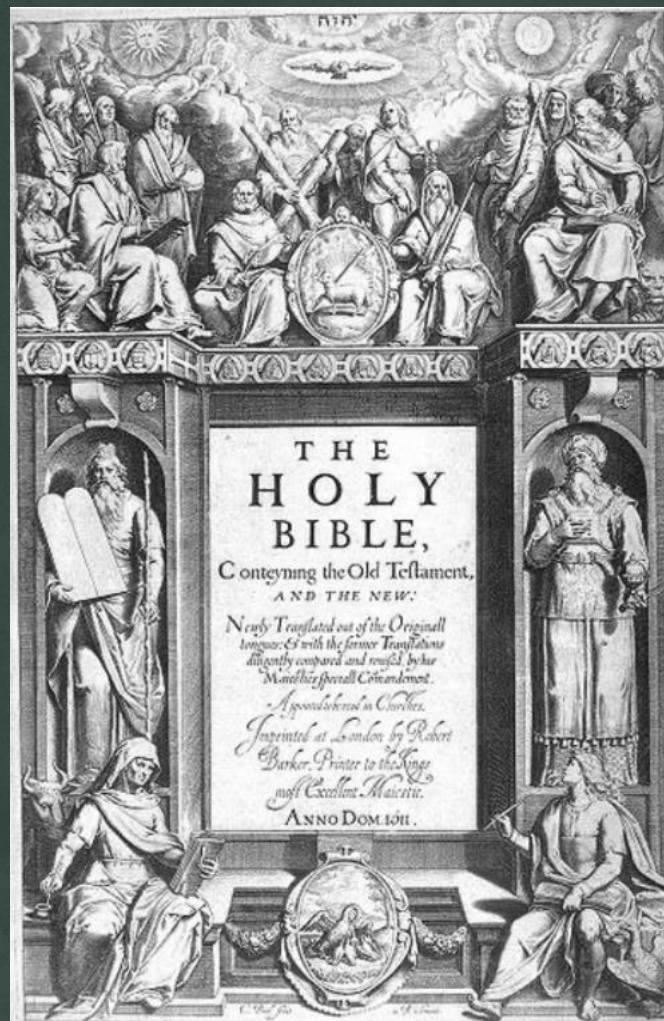
r. 1603–1625





King James Bible

1611





The Sinners' Bible

“Thou shalt commit adultery.”

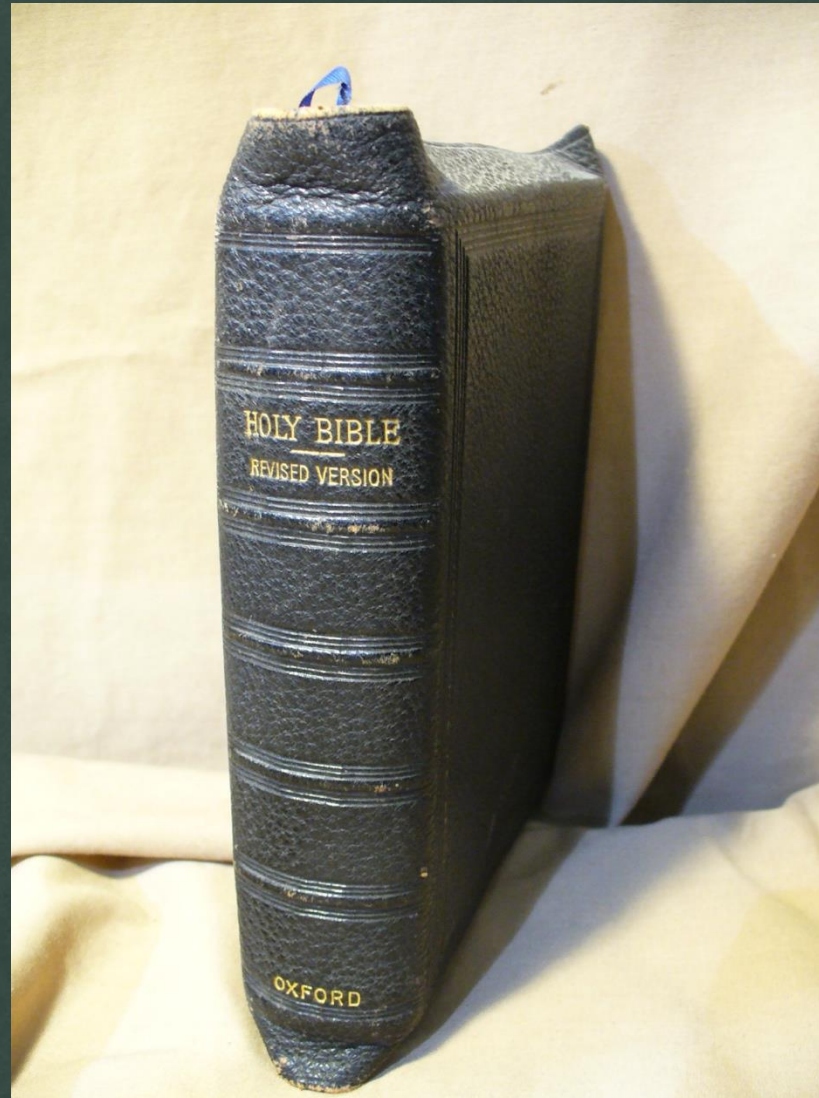
Exodus 20:14

“Behold, the Lord our God hath shewed us his
glory and his asse.”

Deuteronomy 5:24



The Revised Version





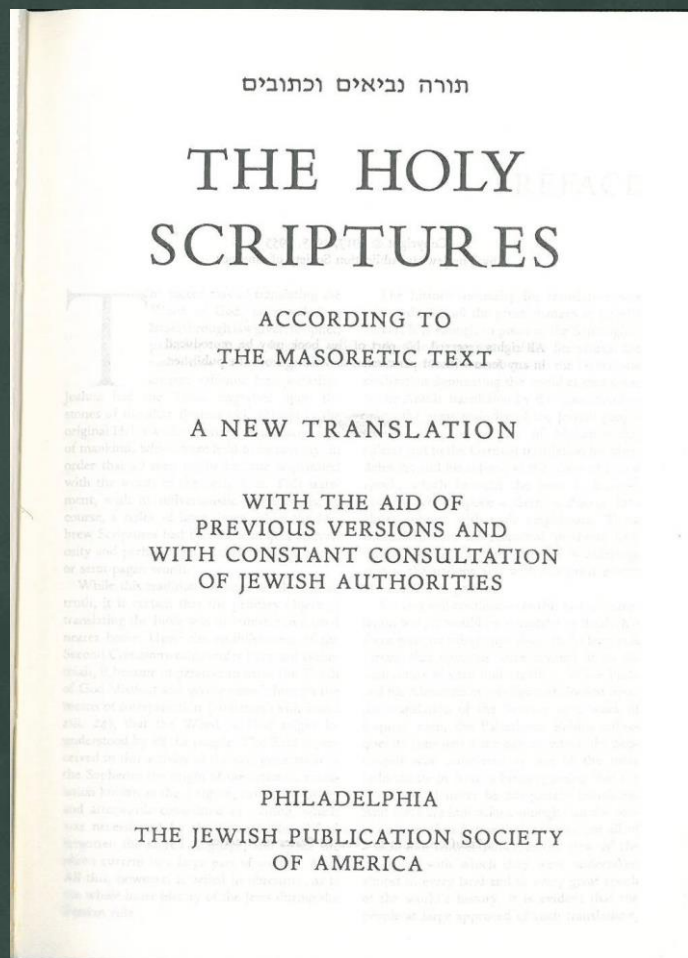
THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

SUNDAY MAY 22, 1981—SIXTEEN PAGES

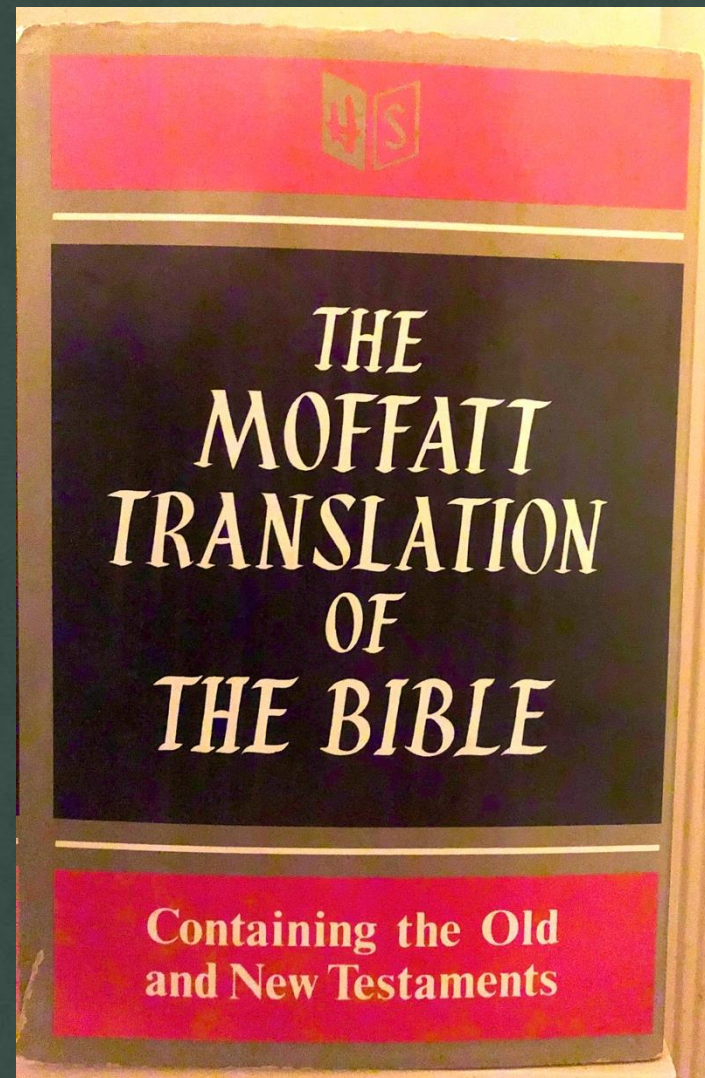
[illegible]



The Jewish Publication Society Version

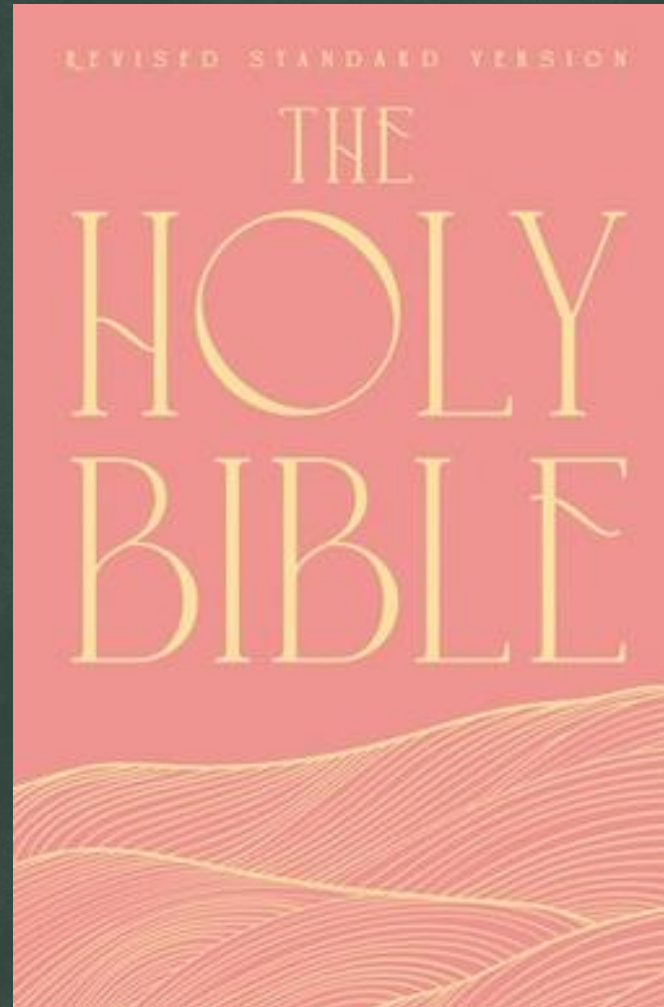


The Moffat Version





The Revised Standard Version



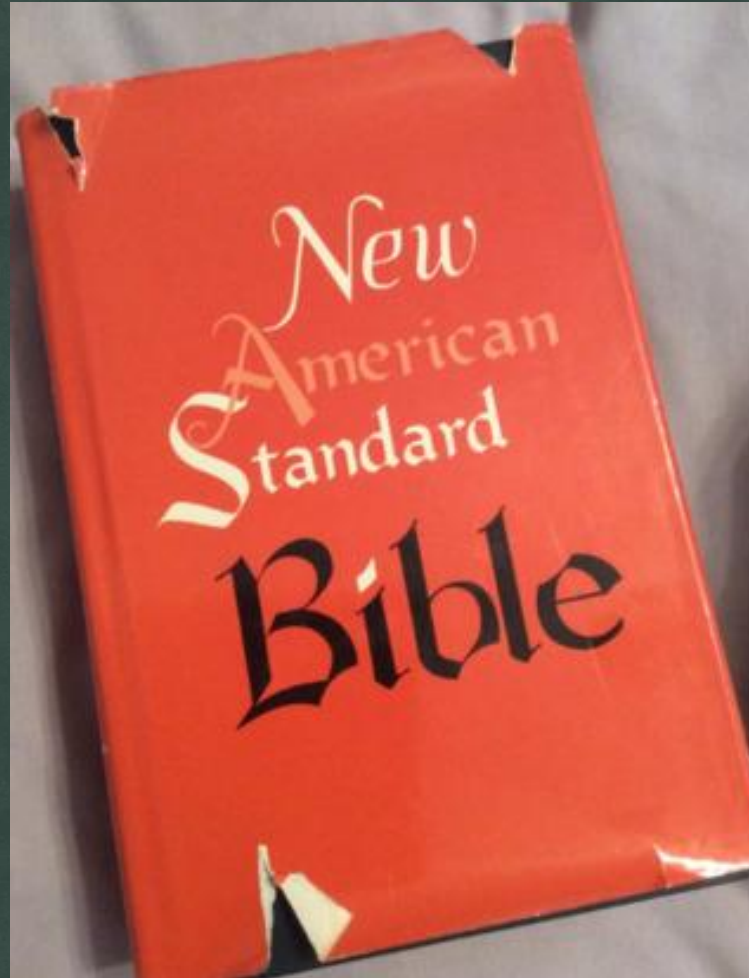


“Behold, a young woman shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14, RSV

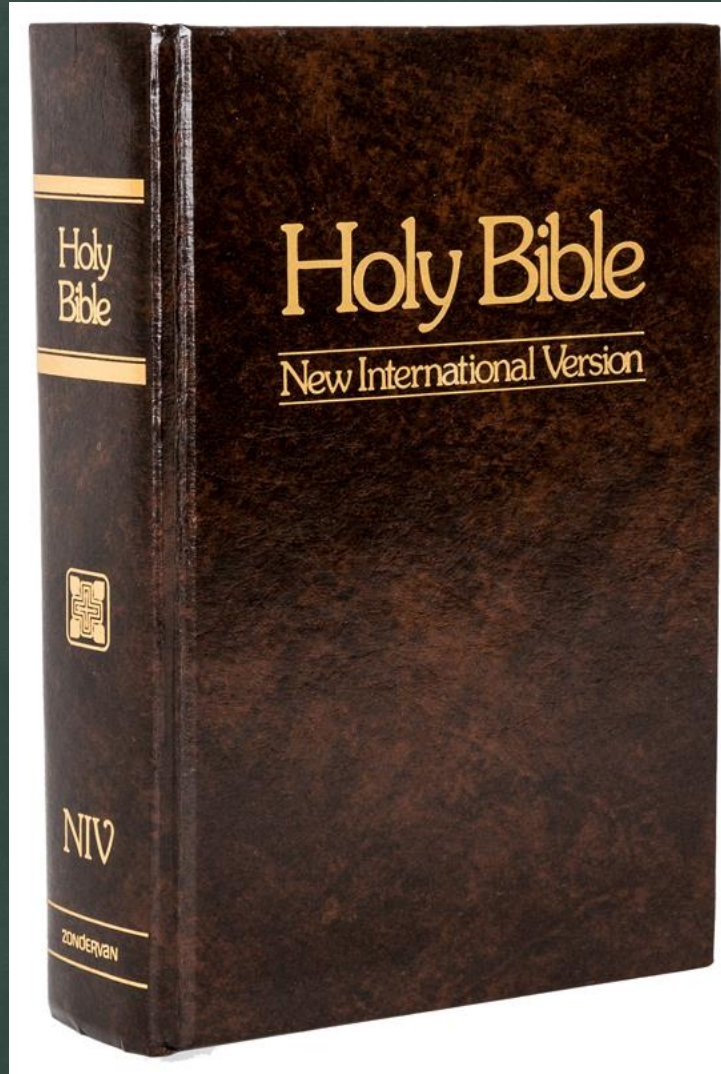


The New American Standard Version



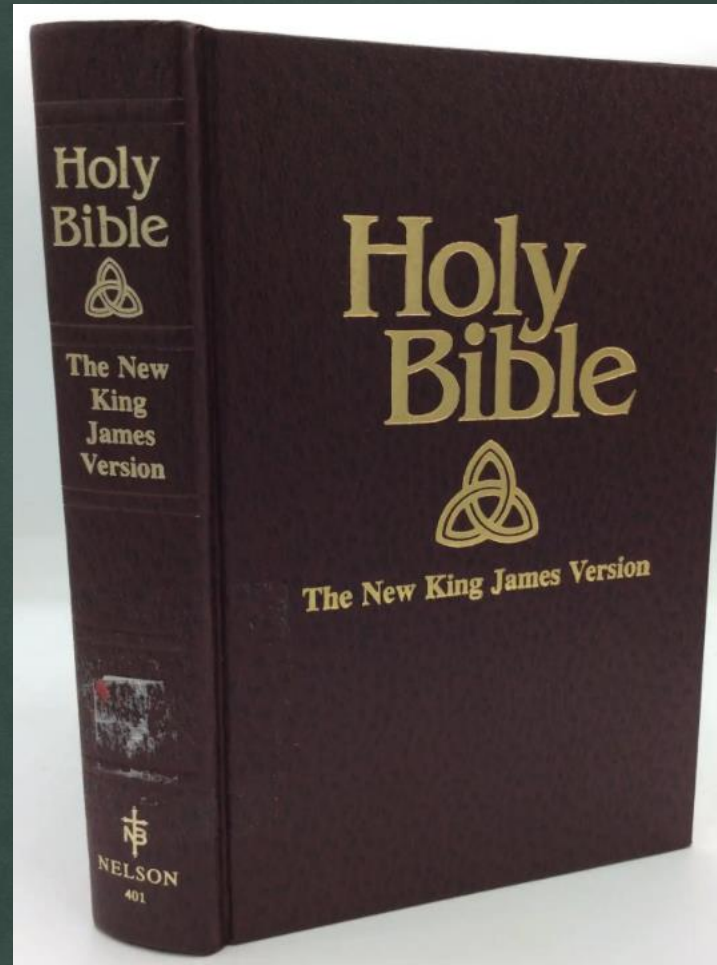


The New International Version



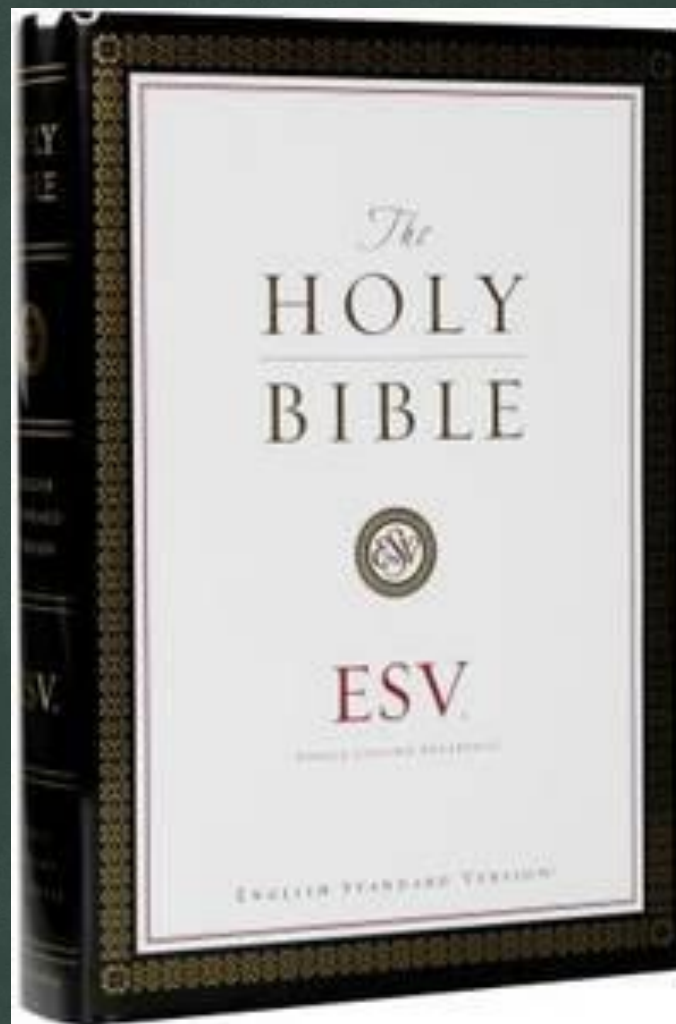


The New King James Version



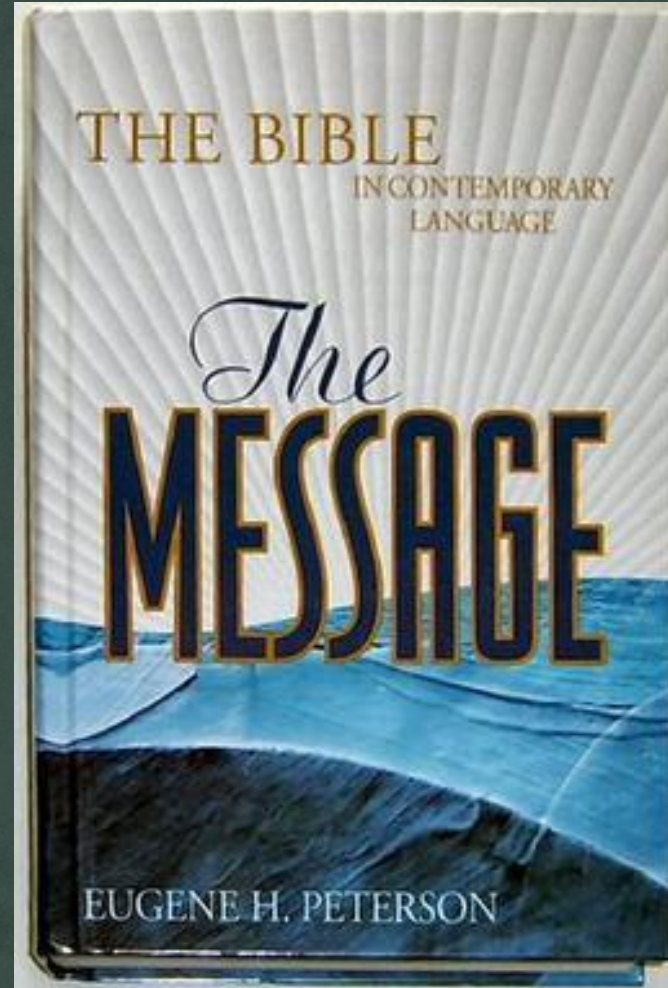


The English Standard Version

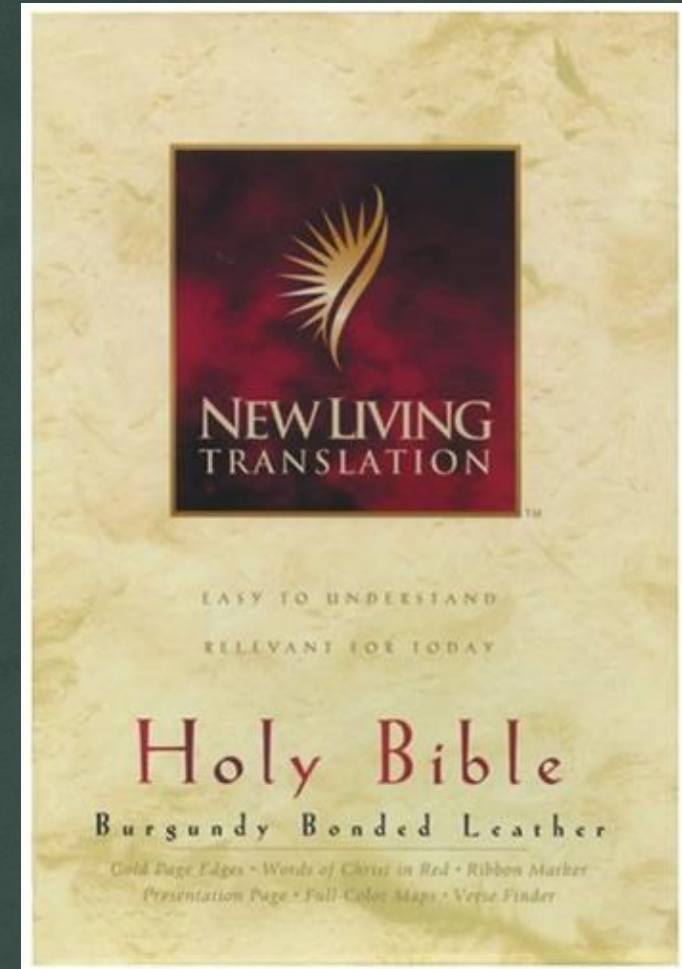




The Message

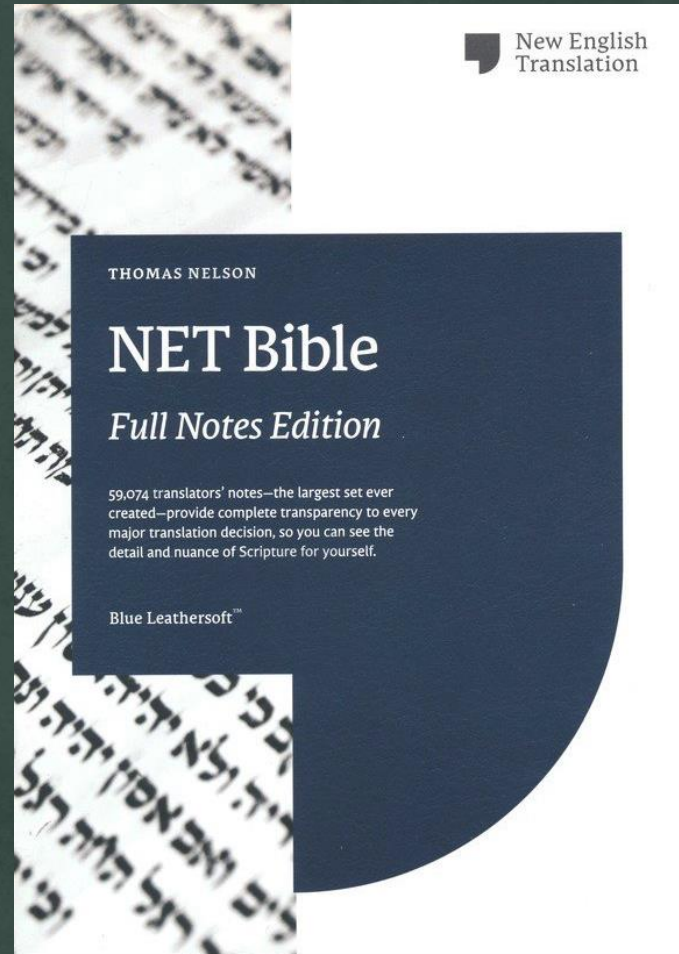


The New Living Translation

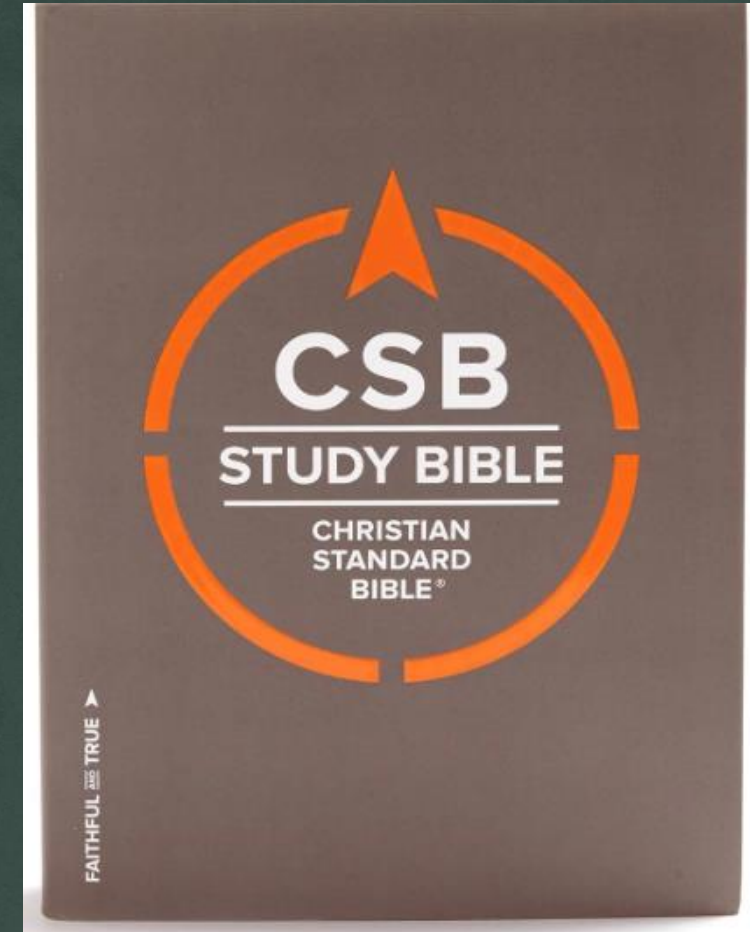




The New English Translation



The Christian Standard Bible





Questions



Understanding Bible Translation



Two aims of every Bible translation: Accuracy and readability.



Formal equivalence: Seeks to reproduce the form of the original text.



Romans 3:21 NASB

Νυνὶ δὲ

χωρὶς νόμου

δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ

πεφανέρωται

But now

apart from
the Law

the righteousness
of God

has been revealed

μαρτυρουμένη

being witnessed

ὑπὸ τοῦ νόμου

by the Law

καὶ τῶν προφητῶν

and the prophets



Functional equivalence: Seeks to reproduce the meaning of the original text.



Romans 3:21

NASB & NLT

Νυνὶ δὲ χωρὶς νόμου δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ πεφανέρωται
But now apart from the righteousness has been revealed
the Law of God

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law,

μαρτυρουμένη ὑπὸ τοῦ νόμου καὶ τῶν προφητῶν
being witnessed by the Law and the prophets
as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.



Romans 3:21

NASB & NIV

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <u>Νυνὶ δὲ</u> | <u>χωρὶς νόμου</u> | <u>δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ</u> | <u>πεφανέρωται</u> |
| <u>But now</u> | <u>apart from</u> <u>the Law</u> | <u>the righteousness</u> <u>of God</u> | <u>has been revealed</u> |
| But now | apart from the Law | the righteousness of God | has been made known, |
| <u>μαρτυρουμένη</u> | <u>ὑπὸ τοῦ νόμου</u> | <u>καὶ τῶν προφητῶν</u> | |
| <u>being witnessed</u> | <u>by the Law</u> | <u>and the prophets</u> | |
| to which the Law and the Prophets testify. | | | |



The Translation Spectrum

| Formal | | | | Mediating | | | | Functional | | | |
|--------|------|------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| ASV | RV | NKJV | KJV | NRSV | NAB | NIV | JB | NEB | GNT | CEV | LB |
| | RSV | ESV | | | NET | CEB | REB | NLT | NCV | | MSG |
| | NASB | | | | CSB | NJB | | | | | |

Adapted, with some modification, from
Mark L. Strauss, *40 Questions about Bible Translation*
(Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2023), 32.

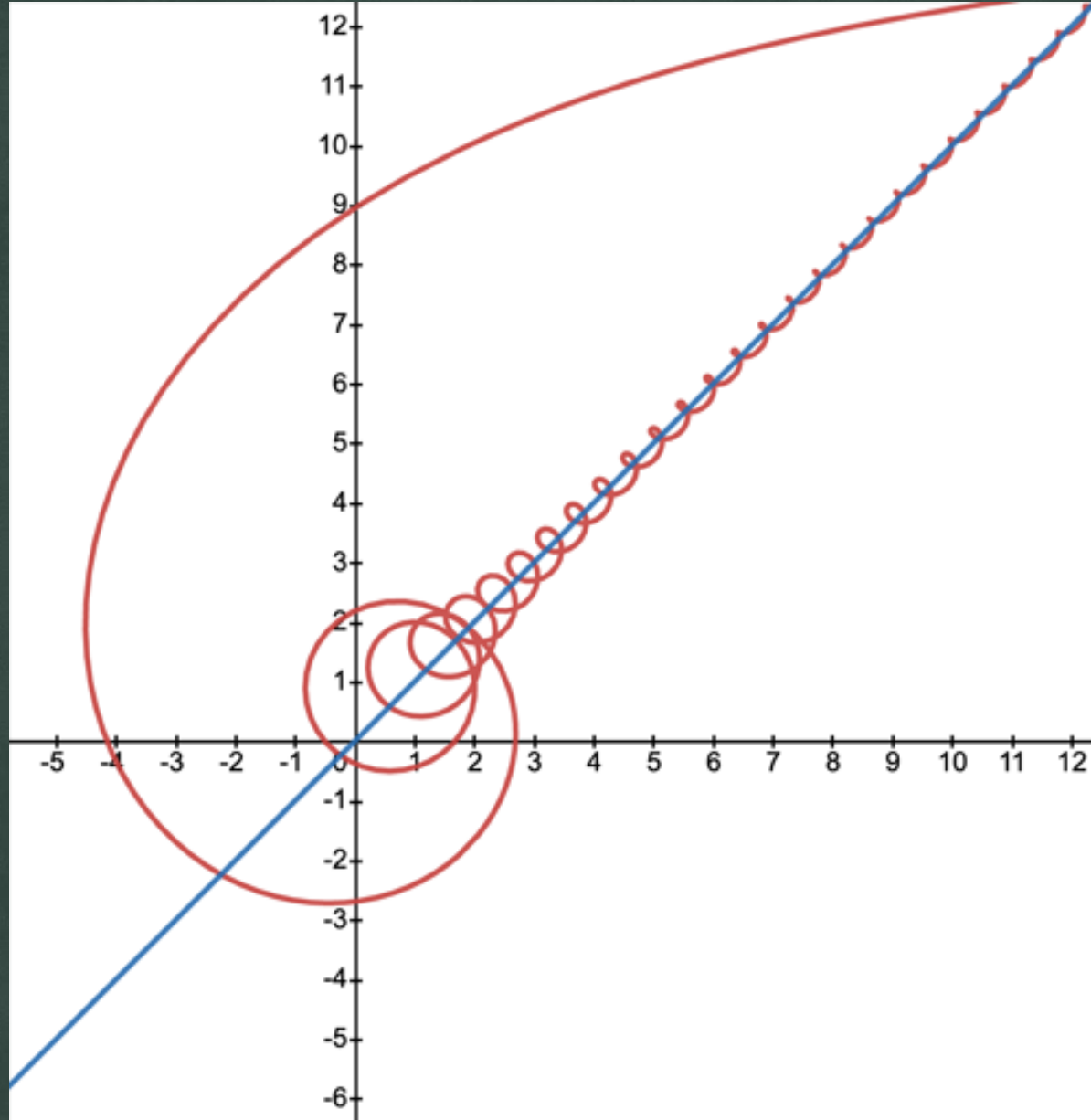


Formal equivalence: What the text says.

Functional equivalence: What the text means.



Asymptote: A line that continually approaches a given curve but does not meet it at any finite distance.





Psalm 1:1

אֲשֶׁר־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא הָלַךְ בְּעֵצַת רְשָׁעִים וּבְדֶרֶךְ חַטָּאִים לֹא עָמַד

“... nor stands in the way of sinners” (ESV, KJV)

“... nor stands in the path of sinners” (NASB, NKJV)

“... or stands in the way that sinners take” (NIV)

“... or stands around with sinners” (NLT)

“... you don’t stand with the good-for-nothings” (MSG)



2 Corinthians 5:17

ESV: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

NLT: “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”



2 Corinthians 5:21

ESV: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

NLT: “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”



Romans 7:21–23

26 NIV:

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work. In me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

NLT:

²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love the law of God with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with *** my mind. This power makes me a slave to the *** sin that is still within me.



Where Does This Get Us?



The King James Version

“Only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”

2 Thessalonians 2:7

“We which are alive ... shall not prevent them which are asleep.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15

“Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel.”

Philippians 1:27

The Granville Sharp Rule



Titus 2:13

KJV:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”

... ἐπιφάνειαν τῆς δόξης τοῦ μεγάλου θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

ESV:

“Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”



The Granville Sharp Rule

2 Peter 1:1

KJV:

“... to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”

... ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

ESV:

“... by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”