

Lesson II

Why So Many Bible Translations?

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Bible Training Course

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Introduction

Student Remarks
Review of Lesson I

II. Versions - Translations

What's the difference?

Example:

1 Kings 20:11 (King James Version KJV)

And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.

1 Kings 20:11 (New American Standard Version NASB)

Then the king of Israel answered and said, "Tell him, 'Let not him who girds on his armor boast like him who takes it off.'"

This makes the verse somewhat easier to understand.

1 Kings 20:11 (Living Bible TLB)

The Living Bible simply says, *"Don't count your chickens before thy hatch."*

III. Why So Many Translations?

Matthew 28:18-20

“Go”

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

*19 Therefore **go** and **make** disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20 and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:18-20*

8:31-32

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Romans 10:14 -18

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

III. The Common People?

- A. Common Language**
- B. Common Culture**
- C. Common Bible**

IV. How Did a Believer Get to Ethiopia?

A. United Kingdom

B. Divided Kingdom

1. Jeroboam – King of Israel

2. Rehoboam – King of Judah

V. Babylonian Captivity

A. Kings of Israel

B. Kings of Judah

C. What happened to Israel?

Jeremiah 3:6-10

1 King 16:29

And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.

V. Babylonian Captivity

C. What happened to Israel?

Jeremiah 3:6-10

Jeremiah 3:6-10

⁶ During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there.

⁷ I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it.

⁸ I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.

⁹ Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. ¹⁰ In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense,” declares the LORD.

VI. Greek Takeover

A. Alexander The Great

B. Spread of Hellenism

1. Language

2. Culture

3. Bible

VII. The First Translation

Septuagint

This first translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek is called the **Septuagint**.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

200 BC: Completion of the Septuagint Greek Manuscripts which contain the 39 Old Testament Books AND 14 Apocrypha Books.

The first ever known Bible translation is the Septuagint, the first Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures. The Septuagint was created for Greek-speaking Jews for the Jewish community in Egypt when Greek was the common language throughout the region. and included books Jews eventually decided weren't authoritative. But Christians at the time accepted these books as having some kind of authority, even though eventually Christians would come to disagree about this. These texts are the Apocrypha, scripture for Catholics and Orthodox, not for Protestants.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

Jerome's Latin Vulgate was the only translation allowed in the Church.

Decree of the Council of Toulouse (1229 C.E.): "We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books."

Ruling of the Council of Tarragona of 1234 C.E.: "No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned..."

VIII. Timeline of Translations

***Fate of William Tyndale in 1536 C.E.:** William Tyndale was burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English. According to Tyndale, the Church forbid owning or reading the Bible to control and restrict the teachings and to enhance their own power and importance.*

VIII. Timeline of Translations

William Tyndale in 1536 C.E.:

William Tyndale's translation of the Bible into the English of the 1530s stands out for English speakers. He coined so many expressions that communicated powerfully. At the time, it was illegal to translate the Bible into a vernacular language, although Tyndale did so anyway to make the Bible more accessible for reading. Because of this, he was executed by the Catholic Church in 1536, prior to the completion of his Bible translation. Miles Coverdale completed the translation for him, finishing the first ever complete translation of the Bible in English.

He was burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English. According to Tyndale, the Church forbid owning or reading the Bible to control and restrict the teachings and to enhance their own power and importance.

William Tyndale's New Testament became the first printed part of the Protestant Bible translated directly from Hebrew and Greek.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1415 A.D. John Wycliffe

Proclamations at the Ecumenical Council of Constance in 1415 C.E.: Oxford professor, and theologian John Wycliffe, was the first (1380 C.E.) to translate the New Testament into English to "...helpeth Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best Christ's sentence." For this "heresy" Wycliffe was posthumously condemned by Arundel, the archbishop of Canterbury. By the Council's decree "Wycliffe's bones were exhumed and publicly burned and the ashes were thrown into the Swift River.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1535 AD: Myles Coverdale's Bible; The First Complete Bible printed in the English Language (80 Books: O.T. & N.T. & Apocrypha).

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1611 AD: The King James Bible Printed; Originally with All 80 Books. The Apocrypha was Officially Removed in 1885 Leaving Only 66 Books.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1885 AD: The "English Revised Version" Bible; The First Major English Revision of the KJV.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1901 AD: The "American Standard Version"; The First Major **American** Revision of the KJV.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1928 AD: Revised Standard Version

The *Revised Standard Version* (RSV) is an English translation of the Bible published in the mid-20th century. It traces its history to William Tyndale's New Testament translation of 1525. The RSV is an authorized revision of the *American Standard Version* of 1901 and is one of four translations that have the ASV as its basis. In 1928, the copyright to the ASV was acquired by the International Council of Religious Education (ICRE), which formed a panel of 32 scholars and charged them with the task of revising the ASV.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1971 AD: The "New American Standard Bible" (NASB) is Published as a "Modern and Accurate Word for Word English Translation" of the Bible.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

The NASB does not attempt to interpret Scripture through translation. Instead, the NASB adheres to the principles of a formal equivalence translation. This is the most exacting and demanding method of translation, striving for the most readable word-for-word translation that is both accurate and clear. This method more closely follows the word and sentence patterns of the biblical authors in order to enable the reader to study Scripture in its most literal format and to experience the individual personalities of those who penned the original manuscripts.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE 2020 UPDATE

After completion in 1971, the NASB was updated in 1977, 1995, and most recently in 2020. This brand new update of the widely respected NASB 1995 builds upon its strengths by further improving accuracy, modernizing language, and improving readability. The NASB 2020 is an important update because it utilizes advances in biblical scholarship over the past 25 years and it incorporates changes necessary to keep pace with the ever evolving English language.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

This refreshed text is designed to speak accurately and clearly to current and future generations.

The long-established translation standard for the NASB remains the same as it always has been, that is to accurately translate the inspired Word of God from the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts into modern English that is clearly understandable today.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

The NASB 2020 is a Bible that is accessible to all readers and is presented in a way that clearly and accurately communicates the content, so it is understood in the same way it would have been to the original audience. Most importantly, the NASB 2020 provides a literal translation of the Bible that clearly communicates God's message to the modern English reader so that everyone can continue to grow in their knowledge and love of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

1976: The Good News Bible, also known as the Good News Translation and Today's English Version, was first published as a full Bible in 1976 by the American Bible Society as a "common language" Bible. In 1992, the translation was revised with inclusive language. It is described by the publishers as a clear and simple modern translation that is faithful to the original Hebrew, Koine Greek, and Aramaic texts.

The GNB is written in a simple, everyday language, with the intention that everyone can appreciate it, and so is often considered particularly suitable for children and for those learning English. Included in the Good News Bible are introductions to each book of the Bible.

VIII. Timeline of Translations

2002 A.D. English Standard Version

The English Standard Version (ESV) is Published as a translation to bridge the gap between the accuracy of the NASB and the readability of the NIV.

VIII. The Dead Sea Scrolls

A Look into the value of the Dead Sea Scrolls to translations.

IX. Conclusion

Having journeyed from the United Kingdom to the diaspora to the first translation, what conclusion have you drawn?