

# Development of the English Bible Through 1611

Historical Theology

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## I. TRANSLATORS/ TRANSLATIONS PRECEDING THE KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

### A) JEROME/VULGATE (4<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, CA. 384)

Translation of whole bible into vulgar (common) Latin from early Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.

### B) DESIDERIUS ERASMUS/TEXTUS RECEPTUS (1516)

Greek New Testament translated from 12<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts completed very quickly (about 8 months). Had very limited access to manuscripts and no actual manuscript of Revelation. Foundational for many later translations of the Bible.

### C) JOHN WYCLIFFE/WYCLIFFE BIBLE (1395)

Translated Jerome's Latin Vulgate into English. Posthumously excommunicated and remains were burned for having translated the Bible into English.

### D) WILLIAM TYNDALE/TYNDALE'S NEW TESTAMENT (1526)

Completed a new English translation of the New Testament from Textus Receptus.

Died October 6, 1536 by strangling and burning because he translated the Bible into English. Legend says his last words were, " Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

### E) MILES COVERDALE

#### 1. COVERDALE BIBLE (1535) AUTHORIZED BY HENRY VIII (1537)

Utilized Tyndale's New Testament translation and translated Old Testament based on Luther's German Bible, Ulrich Zwingli's Zurich Bible and the Vulgate.

#### 2. GREAT BIBLE AKA CROMWELL BIBLE, WHITCHURCHS BIBLE AND CHAINED BIBLE (1539)

Essentially a revised version of the Coverdale Bible commissioned by Henry VIII.

### F) JOHN ROGERS/THOMAS MATTHEW'S BIBLE (1537)

Compiled and published by John Rogers, published under pseudonym Thomas Matthews because publication of English Bibles was illegal at that time. Mostly consists of books translated by William Tyndale

### G) GENEVA BIBLE (1560)

During the reign of Queen Mary, AKA Bloody Mary, many prominent Protestants fled to Geneva, Switzerland. While based somewhat on Tyndale's and Coverdale's work it was also translated directly from Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. Included LOTS of notes in the margins.

## H) BISHOPS BIBLE (1568)

Based largely in the Geneva Bible, was produced for the purpose of competing with the Calvinist and anti-hierarchy, anti-monarchy tone of the Geneva Bible.

## II. AUTHORIZED VERSION (1611)

### A) PURPOSE

When James Stuart, was just King James IV of Scotland he could easily be Protestant and not Anglican, but when he became King James I of England, Ireland and Scotland he also became head of the Anglican Church. He now needed to unify these competing religious factions under his rule. One avenue through which he sought to do that was by seeking a new English translation of the Bible that could be a sort of compromise between the Anglicans and Puritans.

He was also a good scholar in his own right and had worked on translating some of the Bible in his spare time. As such, he was dissatisfied with the existing translations.

### B) PROCESS

1. Based primarily on Bishop's Bible.
2. Could use the Tyndale Bible, Coverdale Bible, Matthew's Bible, the Great Bible and the Geneva Bible to bring clarity to any problematic passages in the Bishop's Bible
3. Could not include and marginal notes as there were many notes there that were concerning to the King.

4. 47 scholars were broke into 6 teams to do the translating, they were then subdivided into 6 groups. 3 for the OT, 2 for the NT and 1 for the Apocrypha.

### C) PRODUCT

1. As they completed their sections each group would gather to hear their work read aloud in recognition that it mostly be listened to.
2. Completed in 1611, but in the rush to print many errors were made, leading to numerous revisions and reprintings.

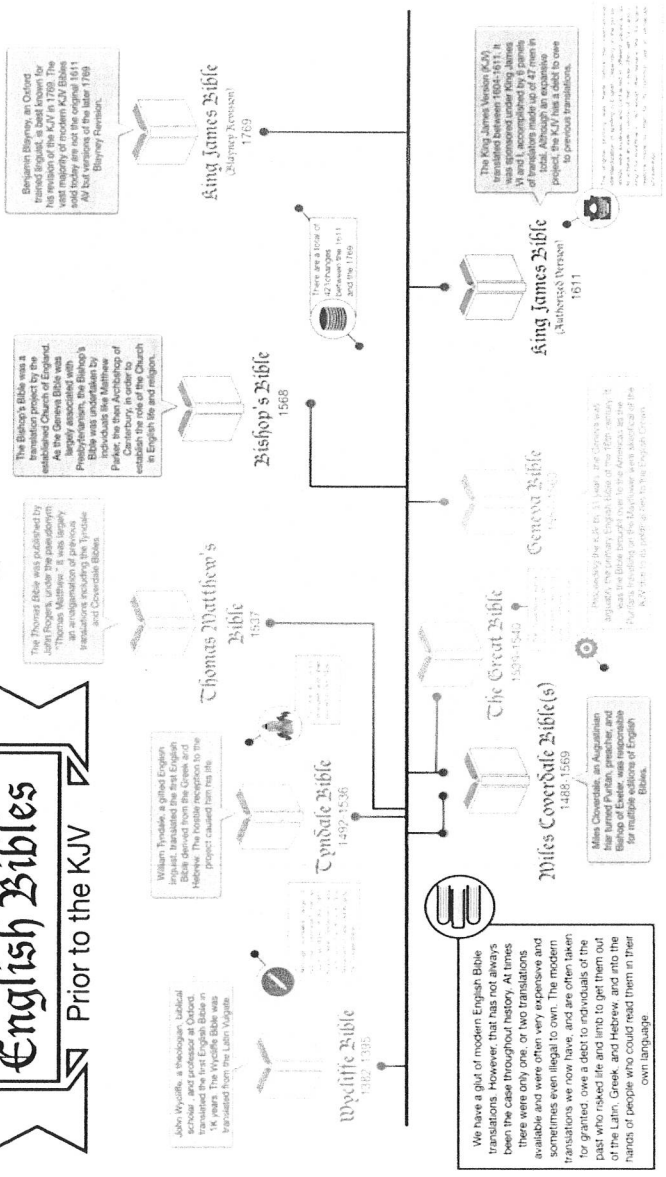
### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Gotquestions.org  
Wikipedia.com  
Youtube.com

## A Few Major

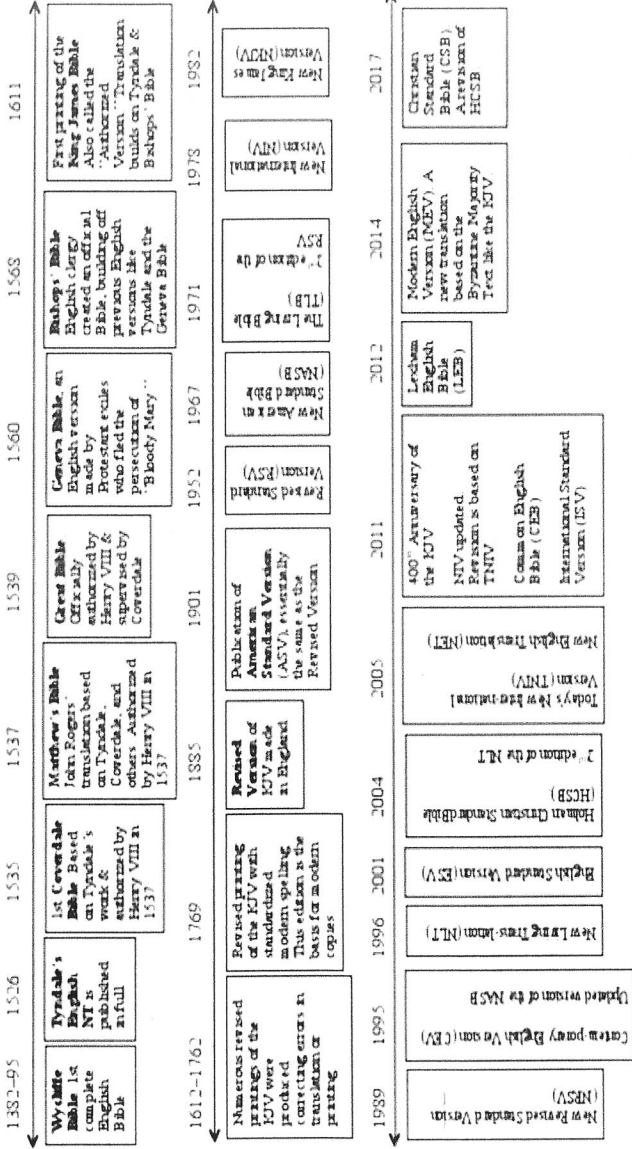
# English Bibles

## Prior to the KJV

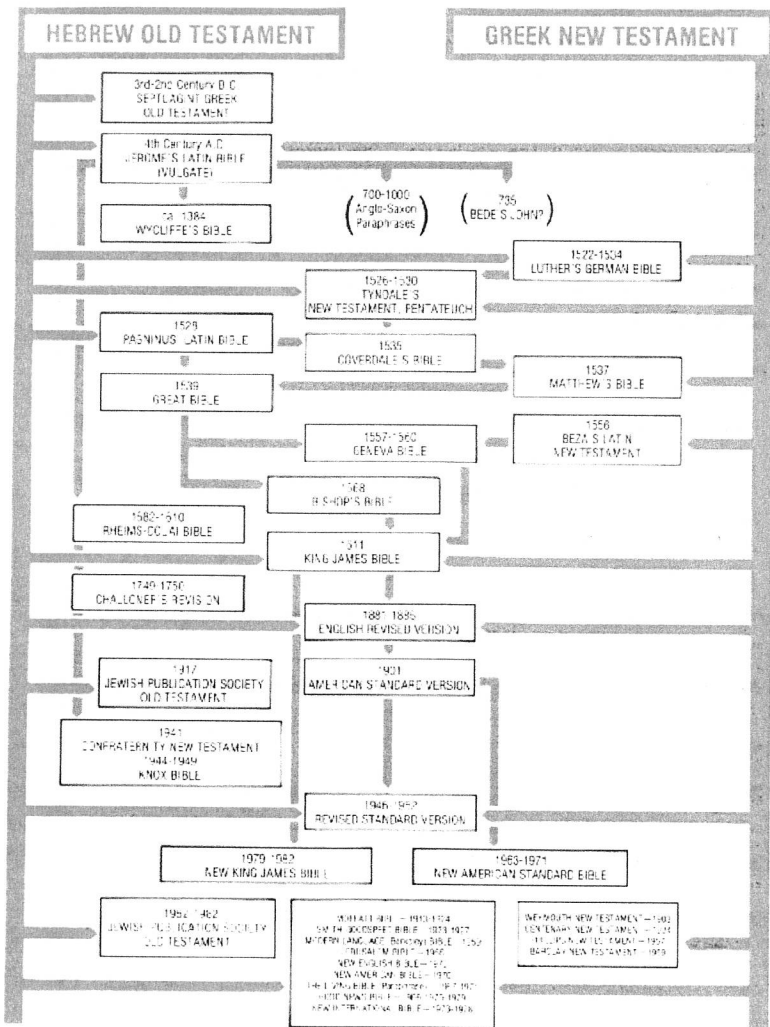


We have a glut of modern English Bible translations. However, that has not always been the case throughout history. At times there were only one, or two translations available and were often very expensive and sometimes even illegal to own. The modern translations we now have, and are often given for free, are the result of the efforts of men and women of the past who risked life and limb to get them out of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and into the hands of people who could read them in their own language.

# TIMELINE: ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS



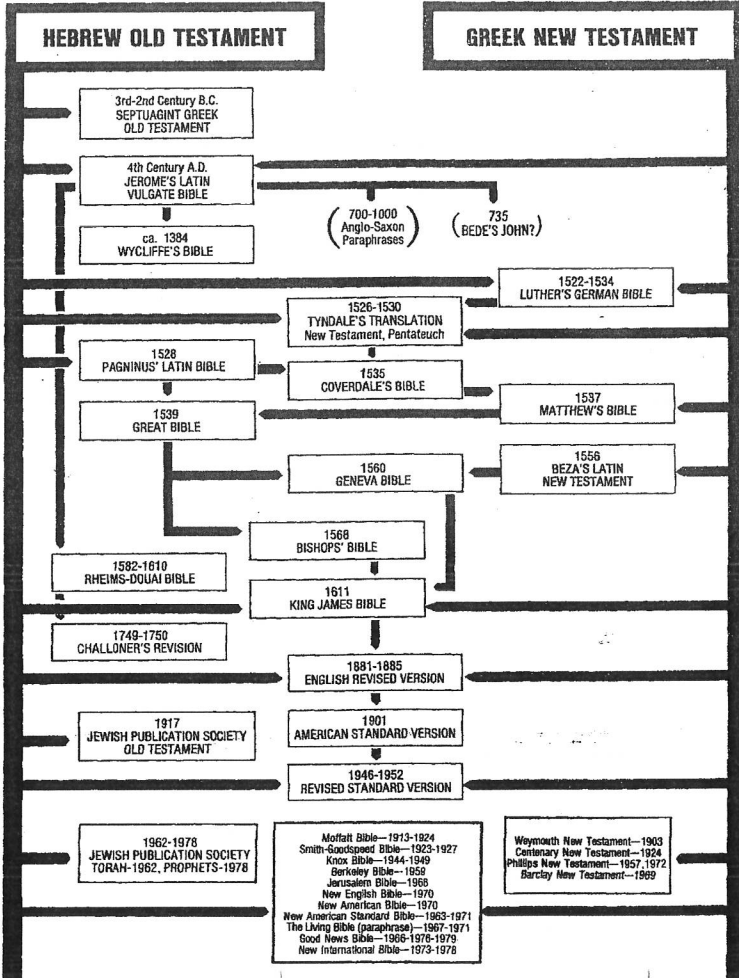
# CHART OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE



American Bible Society - 1859 Broadway - New York - New York 10003

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