

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

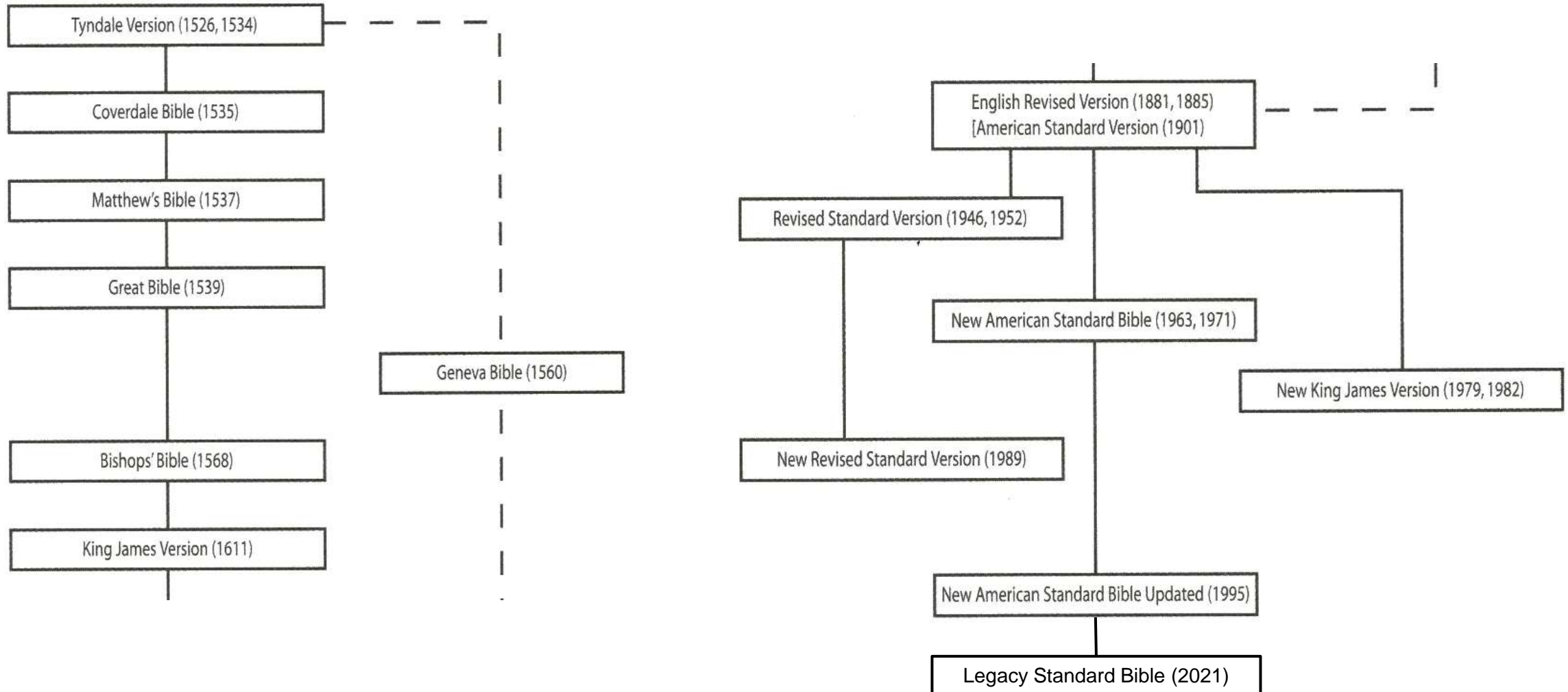
Part 3: Translation
Theories & Reasons
to Use the Legacy
Standard Bible for
Preaching, Teaching,
and Study



TRANSLATIONS IN THE TYNDALE TRADITION

“A translation with deep roots has profited from improvements made over a long period of time. That kind of growth provides a degree of stability and reliability” – Robert Thomas

The Tyndale Tradition of Translations



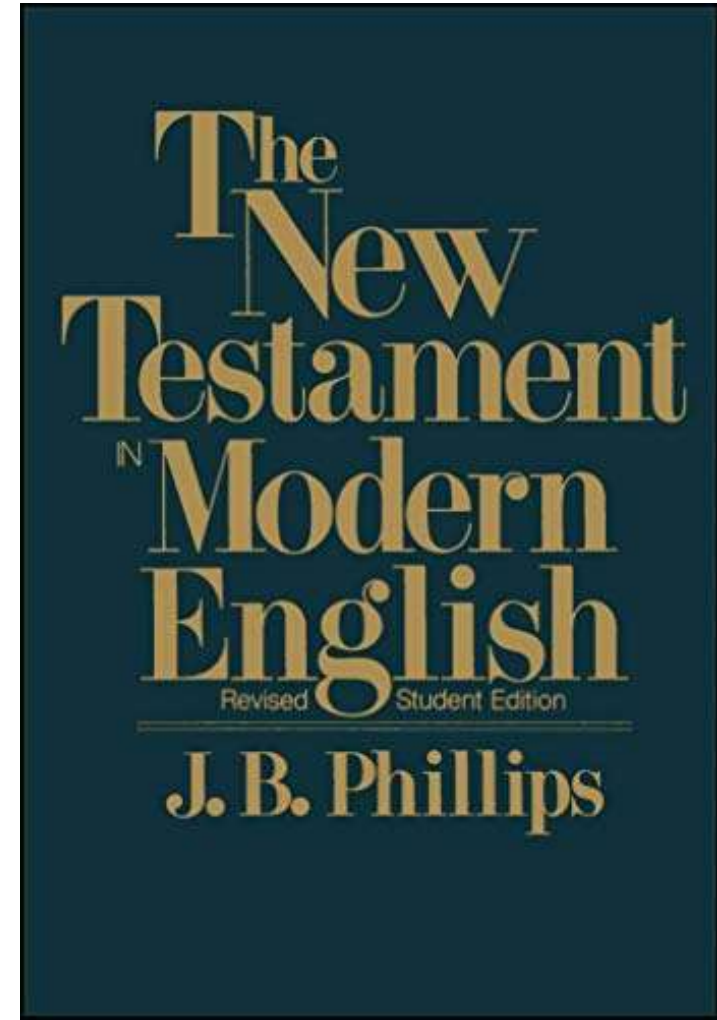


FRESH TRANSLATIONS

“Having an absolutely new translation could add freshness to our reading of Scripture.” – Robert Thomas

Fresh Translations

- Bible in Basic English
- Expanded Translation of the NT (Kenneth Wuest)
- The Amplified Bible
- Good News Bible
- Contemporary English Version
- Jerusalem Bible
- Living Bible & New Living Bible
- New International Version (& TNIV)
- Holman Christian Standard Bible



TRANSLATION PHILOSOPHY

Translation Terms: Dynamic Equivalence¹

- Native (donor) language: the original language in which a text is written
- Receptor language: the language into which a text written in a foreign language is translated.
- Dynamic equivalence: a theory of translation based on the premise that whenever something in the native-language text is foreign or unclear to a contemporary reader, the original text should be translated in terms of a dynamic equivalent.
- Dynamic equivalent: a meaning in the receptor language that is equivalent to (but not identical with) a meaning in a native-language text; for example, the “heart” as the modern way of denoting the essence of a person, especially the emotions, which for the ancients was situated in the kidneys.



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 18-19

Translation Terms: Functional Equivalence¹

- Functional equivalent: something in the receptor language that differs from what the original text says but that serves the same function in the receptor language; for example, “first fruits” translated as “special offering.”
- Functional equivalence: a theory of translation that favors replacing a statement in the original text with a functional equivalent whenever the original phraseology or reference is obscure for a modern reader in the receptor language; for example, “holy kiss” translated as “hearty handshake” because the latter is how Christians in Western cultures extend greetings to each other today.



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 19

What's the Difference between Functional & Dynamic Equivalence?

- Many people use functional equivalence and dynamic equivalence as synonyms.
- Eugene Nida, who pioneered both ideas, acknowledged that they are “not essentially different.”¹
- Yet Nida developed functional equivalence as a refinement of dynamic equivalence.
- See the article referenced below for more information on the differences between functional and dynamic equivalence.



¹https://www.academia.edu/1543036/Dynamic_vs_Functional_Equivalence, accessed 8/31/2022

Translation Terms: Equivalent Effect¹

- Equivalent effect: translating in such a way as to produce the same effect on readers of the translation as the original text produced on its native-language readers; for example, The Message gives the image of “daughters as shapely and bright as fields of wildflowers” as producing the same effect as the original text’s image of “daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace.” (Ps. 144:12)



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 19

Translation Terms: Formal Equivalence¹

- Formal equivalence: a theory of translation that favors reproducing the form or language of the original text, not just its meaning. In its stricter form, this theory of translation espouses reproducing even the syntax and word order of the original; the formula *word for word translation* often implies this stricter definition of the concept.
- Verbal equivalent: a word or combination of words in the receptor language that most closely corresponds to a word in the original, native-language text.
- Essentially literal translation: a translation that strives to translate the exact words of the original-language text but not in such a rigid way as to violate the normal rules of language and syntax in the receptor language.



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 19

Translation Terms: Linguistic Conservatism¹

- Linguistic conservatism: as applied to Bible translation, a general orientation toward language that would seek to conserve the actual words of the original text as much as possible; an implied contrast to the “liberalism” of dynamic equivalence, which does not feel bound to reproduce the actual Hebrew and Greek words of the original.
- Transparent text: this means two opposite things...A text is transparent to the modern or contemporary reader when it is immediately understandable in the receptor language; this is the goal of dynamic equivalent translations. A translation is transparent to the original text when it reproduces the language, expressions, and customs of the original text; this is the goal of an essentially literal translation.



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 20

What's Wrong With Dynamic Equivalence?¹

- While the term need not imply license, as used by dynamic equivalent proponents, it does imply a loose attitude toward preserving the words of the original text of the Bible.
- Translating the Bible into something *equivalent* to the original text stands in implied contrast to translating it into something that *corresponds to* or is *identical with* the words of the original.
- The word dynamic actually means...a spirit of freedom or exemption from the need to reproduce the actual words of the original in an English translation.



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 21

Inadequate & Misleading Terms¹

- We also need to note how inadequate—to the point of being misleading—the terms dynamic equivalence and functional equivalence are as descriptors of what translations being those names actually do with the original text.
- In fact, only a small amount—almost a statistically insignificant quantity—of what we find in modern dynamic equivalent translation is a matter of finding an equivalent for something in the original.
- What these translations *mainly* do is beyond that parameter, consisting of such things as changing syntax and word order, adding exegesis and interpretive commentary to the text, simplifying the content of the original text, removing figurative language from sight, producing a colloquial style for the English Bible, and adapting the translation to the expectations of a target audience. None of these activities can be honestly construed as finding an equivalent for difficult words and phrases in the original text of the Bible.



¹Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation*, 21

DEVIATIONS IN TRANSLATIONS

Types of Deviation:

- Change in word order
- Omissions
- Lexical alterations
- Syntactical alterations
- Additions

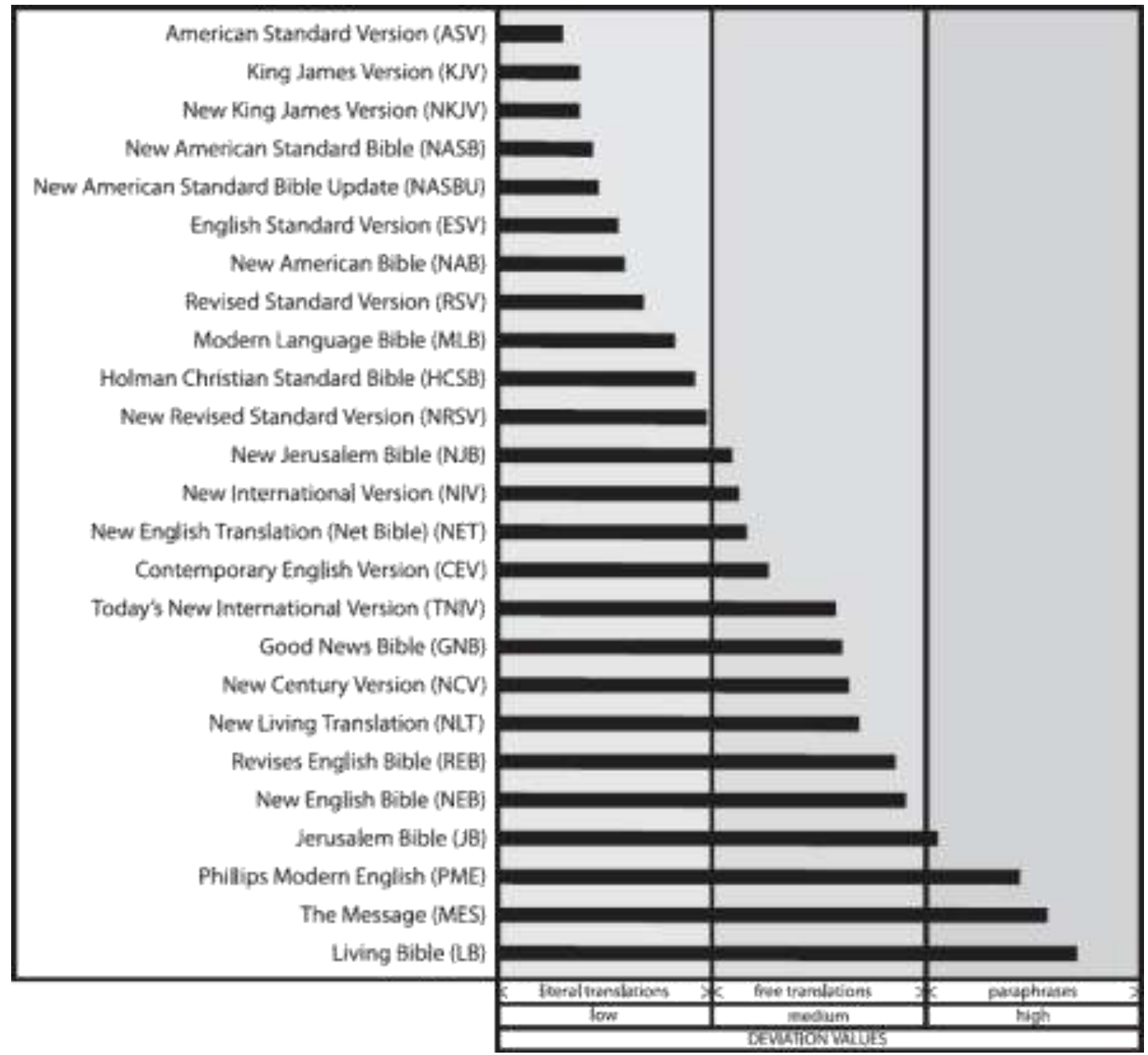


Chart by Robert Thomas, *How to Choose a Bible Version*, 96

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Word for Word

Formal Equivalent

Literal

Form Based

Thought for Thought

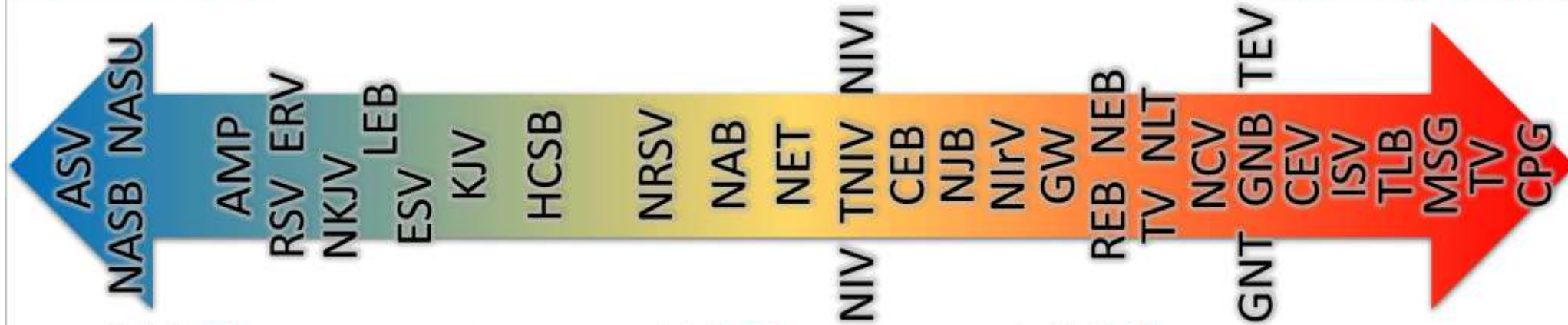
Dynamic Equivalent

Paraphrase

Functional Equivalent

Paraphrase

Meaning Based



- AMP - Amplified Bible (12)
- CEB^{^^} - Common English Bible (7)
- CEV^{^^} - Contemporary English Version (5)
- ERV[^] - Easy to Read Version (3.5)
- ESV^{*} - English Standard Version (9.5)
- GNB^{*} - Good News Bible (6)
- GNT - Good New Translation (6)
- GW - Gods Word (4.5)
- HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)
- ISV^{^^} - International Standard Version (8.5)
- KJV^{*} - King James Version (13)
- MSG - The Message (4.5)
- NAB^{*} - New American Bible (7)

- NASB - New American Standard Bible (11)
- NASU - New American Standard Update 1995 (11)
- NCV[^] - New Century Version (5)
- NEB^{^^} - New English Bible (7)
- NET^{^^^} - New English Translation (7)
- NIrV - New International Readers Version (3.5)
- NIV - New International Version (8)
- NIV2011^{^^} - New International Version 2011 (8)
- NIVI[^] - New International Version Inclusive (8)
- NJB^{*} - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)
- NKJV - New King James Version (9)
- NLT[^] - New Living Translation (6.5)
- NRSV^{^^} - New Revised Standard Version (10.5)

- REB - Revised English Bible (7)
- RSV^{*} - Revised Standard Version (11)
- TEV^{*} - Todays English Version (6)
- TLB - The Living Bible (8.5)
- TNIV[^] - Todays New International Version (7.5)
- TV - The Voice (7)

- ^{^^} No gender neutral language for God, moderate inclusive language for man.
- [^] Gender neutral language
- ^{*} Apocrypha available or included
- ^(#) Grade reading level

Translation Resources for Further Study

- Robert Thomas, *How to Choose a Bible Version*, Revised Edition, Mentor, 2004
- Leland Ryken, *Understanding English Bible Translation: The Case for an Essentially Literal Approach*, Crossway, 2009
- Leland Ryken, *The Word of God in English: Criteria for Excellence in Bible Translation*, Crossway, 2002

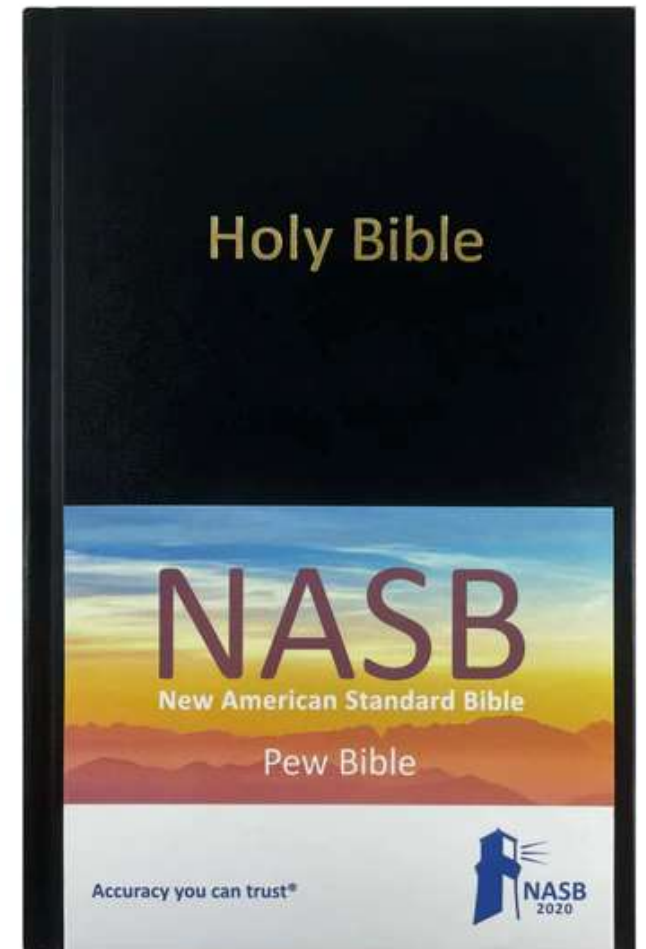


WHY NOT JUST KEEP USING THE NASB?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” - Bert Lance

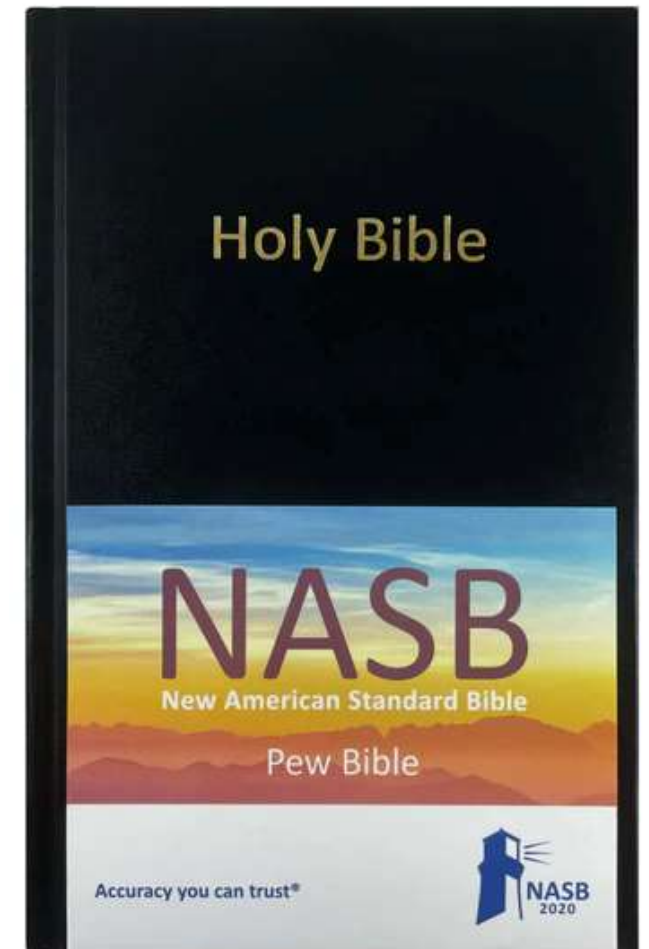
2020 NASB Update

- The Lockman Foundation asserts, “The NASB 2020 maintains faithful accuracy to the original texts and modernizes the English so that it is properly understood by readers most familiar with modern English language standards.”
- Still considered to be in the Tyndale tradition of English translations.
- Changes Include:
 - An attempt to use gender-accurate language (i.e., “to specifically include women if it was indisputable that the original audience would have understood the text to mean women were, in fact, included.”)
 - Use of “Let’s” for “Let us.”
 - Updated textual basis (the Hebrew and Greek used as the basis)
 - Most bracketed text moved to footnotes.



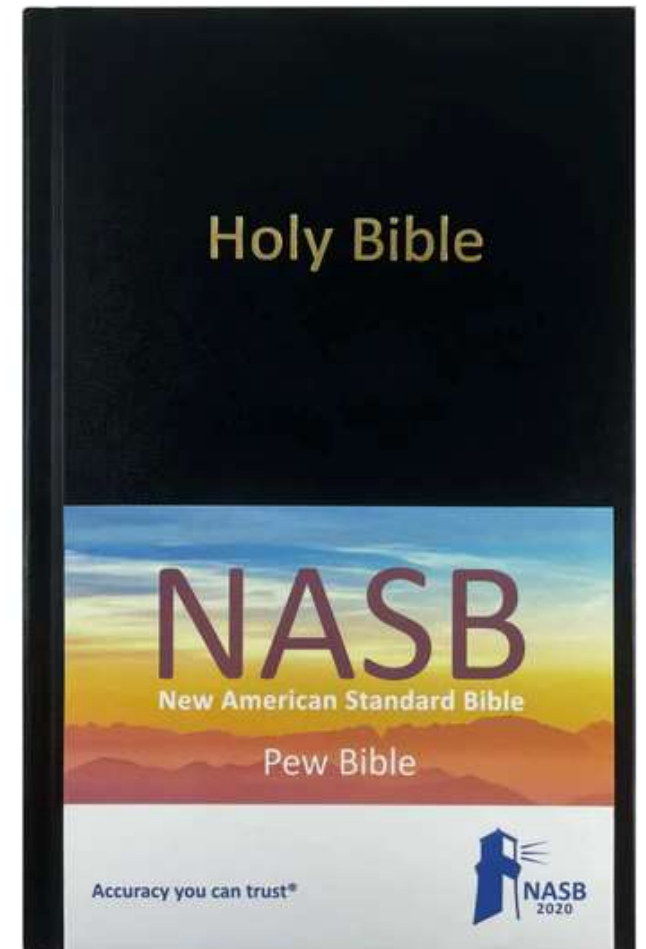
2020 NASB Update

- Loss of distinctions - An Example from Revelation
 - Rev 19:12 (NASB95): His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.
 - Rev 19:12 (NASB2020): His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.
- Why does this matter?
 - There is more than one Greek word for *crown* in the Greek NT
 - A victor's crown (*stephanos*), given to believers
 - A king's crown (*diadem*), worn by Jesus
 - Rev 4:4 (NASBB95): Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.
 - Rev 4:4 (NASB2020): Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.



2020 NASB Update

- Changes are not generally helpful for those who desire the text to be a window into the originals – a necessary criterion for Bible exposition and study.
- Trending towards being a reader-oriented translation
- Uses more gender-neutral language
- For more information, see a helpful review at <https://opened-heart.com/2021/01/07/nasb-2020-update-news-and-review/>



INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGACY STANDARD BIBLE

Building on the best of the NASB

Legacy Standard Bible



- What is the LSB?

The Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) is a translation that—at its core—seeks to be a window into the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. By translating individual words as consistently as possible within their various nuances, it allows the reader to discern what God originally wrote and know the author’s intent. In this way, the LSB seeks to be an improvement upon the NASB, while simultaneously preserving its faithful legacy.

- Is the LSB a new translation?

The Legacy Standard Bible is a direct update of the NASB 1995 edition and fundamentally endeavors to uphold it. The translators went back to the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek of every verse in order to double check its accuracy. Any changes made strictly revolved around providing greater consistency in word usage, accuracy in grammatical structure, and tightening phrasing. Sometimes these changes will incorporate what was found in the earlier NASB ’77 edition. However, if no update was needed, then the text was left as originally translated by the NASB ’95. Thus, as opposed to a brand new translation, the LSB is truly designed to be a legacy edition. It is a version that honors and upholds the NASB tradition, and endeavors to more fully implement its translation philosophy

Legacy Standard Bible



- How is the LSB different from the NASB '95?

While the Legacy Standard Bible sought to uphold the NASB 95, it has several key distinctions:

- The recovery of God's name, Yahweh in the OT, and slave for the Greek term doulos in the NT.
- The change of certain words and phrases in order to ensure that English words consistently matched their original language counterparts, and that the phrasing matched the grammar of the original language.
- The usage of weights, measurements, and currency as they're found in the original writing. Because this translation is designed to bring the reader to what was originally written, the LSB maintains the unit of measurement that the Scripture uses. For clarity, conversions into both American and metric units are provided in the notes for measurements. This allows for the LSB to serve the entire English-speaking world by not choosing one country's unit of measurement or currency over another. It also preserves any exegetical significance of the way the measurements were originally expressed.

Legacy Standard Bible

- Why was the LSB created?

From decades of preaching and teaching, the NASB became the translation of choice for John MacArthur and many others who were trained by him. The LSB project was undertaken to preserve the legacy of the NASB for all coming generations, as the gold standard of literal, formal-equivalent translations.

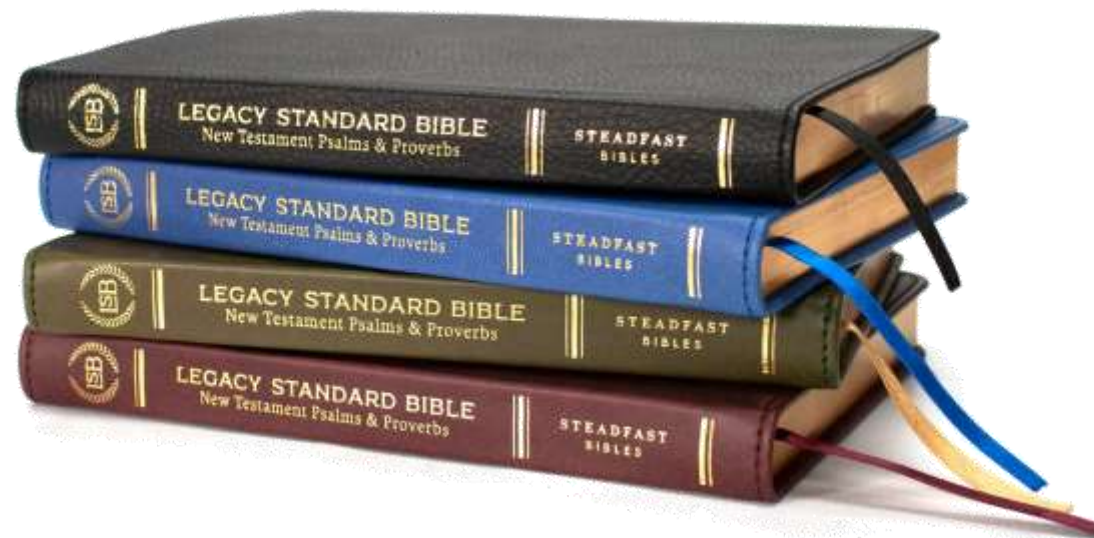
- Who is behind the LSB?

The LSB is a joint-venture product of The Lockman Foundation, Three Sixteen Publishing, and the John MacArthur Charitable Trust. The translation committee consists of a group of biblically qualified, faithful men from the Master's University and Seminary, all of whom are scholars and preachers. The translation also went through an extensive review process from a team that consists of scholars and pastors from all around the world.

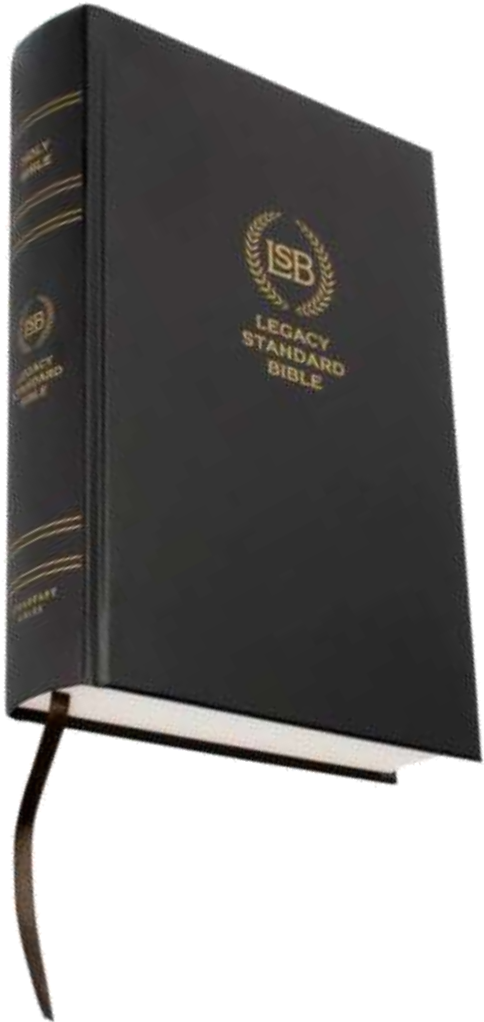


Legacy Standard Bible

- All modern translations tend to be geared toward the reader – what will the reader understand?
- The LSB is geared toward communicating what the author intended. The gap between the text and the reader is to be filled by the preacher, not the translator.
- Have the best possible window into the original text.
- Goal of the LSB: To bring into English what is in the original language so that whatever the translator seeks in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, the reader sees it, too.



Legacy Standard Bible



- All modern translations tend to be geared toward the reader – what will the reader understand?
- The LSB is geared toward communicating what the author intended. The gap between the text and the reader is to be filled by the preacher, not the translator.
- Have the best possible window into the original text.



LSB Reveals Proper Word Distinctions

- An example from Revelation 11
 - Rev 11:1 (NASB95): Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² “Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.
 - Rev 11:1 (LSB): Then a measuring rod like a staff was given to me, saying, “Get up and measure the sanctuary of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² “And leave out the court which is outside the sanctuary and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city under foot for forty-two months. Why does this matter?
- Why does this matter?
 - God wants you to know what He actually said.
 - Sanctuary is the inner part of the temple
 - Court is the outer part of the temple, so the NASB reading confuses things.
 - 1Cor. 3:16 (LSB): Do you not know that you are a sanctuary of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If any man destroys the sanctuary of God, God will destroy him, for the sanctuary of God is holy, and that is what you are.
 - 1Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

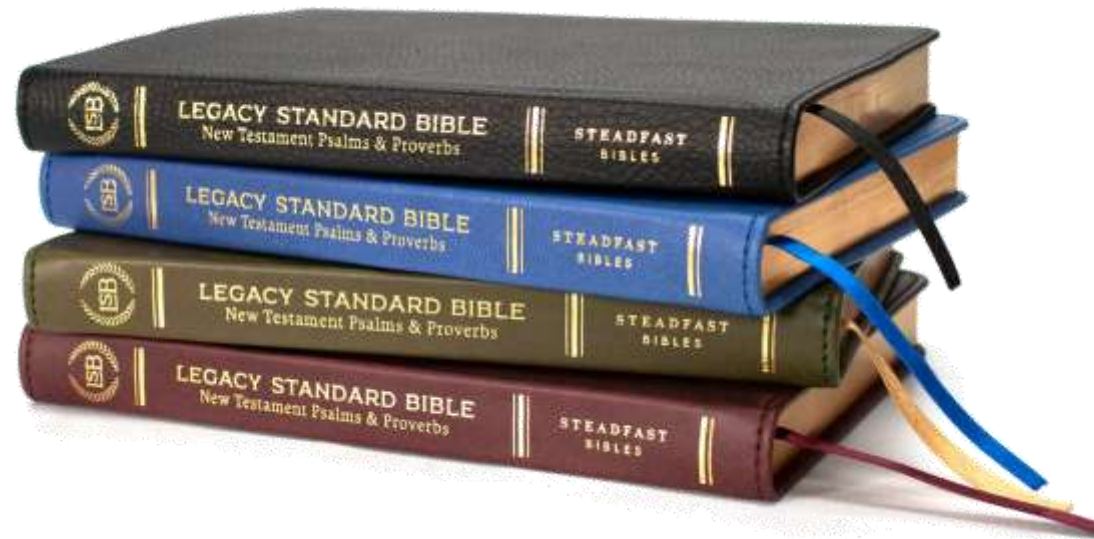
LSB Reveals Proper Word Distinctions

- An example from 2 Timothy 3:16
 - 2 Tim 3:16 (NASB95): All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 (LSB): All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Why does it matter?
 - The LSB text tells you what the Greek literally means.
 - Thus, you do not need a preacher or commentator to tell you that “inspired by God” actually means “God-breathed.” You still need to work to understand that, but the LSB more clearly reflects what the Greek actually says.



LSB Helps with Biblical Theology

- Biblical Theology is understanding what the whole Bible teaches about a particular word or idea.
- Biblical Theology traces a word or concept wherever it is used in the Scriptures.
- The LSB's principle of consistently translating words the same way helps facilitate Biblical Theology.
 - This allows you to see themes (i.e., the theme of the "seed" in the Pentateuch and in the NT)





LSB Helps with Biblical Theology

Example from the word “image”

| Ref | NASB95 | LSB |
|--------------|--|---|
| Gen 1:27 | God created man in His own <u>image</u> , in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. | And God created man in His own <u>image</u> , in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. |
| Dan 2:31-32a | “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great <u>statue</u> ; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 “The head of that statue was made of fine gold... | “You, O king, were looking, and behold, there was a single great <u>image</u> ; that image, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was rising up in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 “The head of that image was made of fine gold, |
| Dan 3:1 | Nebuchadnezzar the king made an <u>image</u> of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. | Nebuchadnezzar the king made an <u>image</u> of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. |
| Dan 3:19 | Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial <u>expression</u> was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. | Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and the <u>image</u> of his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He answered and said to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. |

LSB Helps with Biblical Theology

Example from the word “fear”



| Ref | NASB95 | LSB |
|---------------|---|--|
| 1 Pet 2:17 | Honor all people, love the brotherhood, <u>fear</u> God, honor the king. | Honor all people, love the brethren, <u>fear</u> God, honor the king. |
| 1 Pet 2:18 | Servants, be submissive to your masters with all <u>respect</u> , not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. | Servants, be subject to your masters with all <u>fear</u> , not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are crooked. |
| 1 Pet 3:1-2 | In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ² as they observe your chaste and <u>respectful</u> behavior. | In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² as they observe your pure conduct with <u>fear</u> . |
| 1 Pet 3:13-15 | Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT <u>FEAR</u> THEIR <u>INTIMIDATION</u> , AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and <u>reverence</u> ; | And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT <u>FEAR</u> THEIR <u>FEAR</u> , AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and <u>fear</u> , |

LSB Helps with Biblical Theology

Example from Psalm 119:33-40



NASB95

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,
And I shall observe it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law
And keep it with all *my* heart.
35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.
36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies
And not to *dishonest* gain.
37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,
And revive me in Your ways.
38 Establish Your word to Your servant,
As that which produces reverence for You.
39 Turn away my reproach which I dread,
For Your ordinances are good.
40 Behold, I long for Your precepts;
Revive me through Your righteousness.

LSB

33 Instruct me, O Yahweh, in the way of Your statutes,
That I may observe it to the end.
34 Cause me to understand, that I may observe Your law
And keep it with all *my* heart.
35 Cause me to walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.
36 Cause my heart to incline to Your testimonies
And not to *dishonest* gain.
37 Cause my eyes to turn away from looking at worthlessness,
And revive me in Your ways.
38 Cause Your word to be established for Your slave,
As that which produces fear for You.
39 Cause my reproach which I dread to pass away,
For Your judgments are good.
40 Behold, I long for Your precepts;
Revive me in Your righteousness.

LSB: Psalm 62:9-10



LSB

Surely men of low degree are merely vanity and men of rank are a lie; In the balances they go up; They are together lighter than a breath of vanity. Do not trust in oppression And do not put vain hope in robbery; If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.

KJV

Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

NIV

Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath. Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

ESV

Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them

LSB: Proverbs 1:7



LSB

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; Ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline.

KJV

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

NIV

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

ESV

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

LSB: Hebrews 5:11



LSB

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

KJV

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

NIV

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand.

ESV

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Finding Out More About the LSB



Be sure to visit <https://lsbible.org/media/>



An LSB discussion: NT use of the OT, Bible software, and more



Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) – Round Table Discussion with John MacArthur – Pt. 3



LSB Roundtable Discussion – Pt. 2



Roundtable Discussion with the Translation Team

Questions

- What version do I preach from?
- Would there be a time when the LSB would replace the “pew” Bibles?
- Does any of the MBC leadership use the LSB?
- Could we place a church order to obtain discounts and save on shipping?
- What is the current availability of the LSB?
<https://316publishing.com/collections/lbs>
- Other questions?



Points of Application

- Thank our Lord God for
 - Giving us many faithful translations of God's Word in our language
 - Giving us many study tools in our language (get the LSB app for free)
- Make sure you are using a formal equivalence (more word for word) translation (LSB, NASB, NASB95, ESV, NKJV) for your Bible study.
- Dynamic equivalence translations and paraphrases should be used sparingly to supplement.
- Don't quench the Holy Spirit's work in your life – pick up your Bible and regularly read it
- Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you (Col 3:16)

