



## Which Version?

CHOOSING THE BIBLE  
THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU

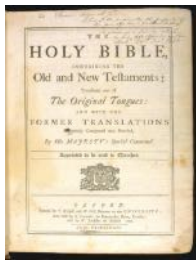
## How we got the Bible we have



Let's explore the Bible we use

- version/translation
- the edition we own
- characteristic features
- handy tools and aids
- extra information
- any special features
- probably in English

## The Bible in English



- in 2011 we celebrated 400th anniversary of King James Bible
- this was the culmination of a struggle over more than 100 years
- movement for Bible in the “common tongue” was at heart of the Reformation

## The Bible in English



back then

- a Bible in English was controversial
- the printed book was new technology
- expensive Bibles were chained to lecterns
- few people were literate

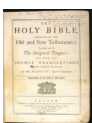


for us now

- moving into a post-book world
- want a multi-media Bible
- and we want it on our iPhones
- how the Bible is packaged will impact how we read it

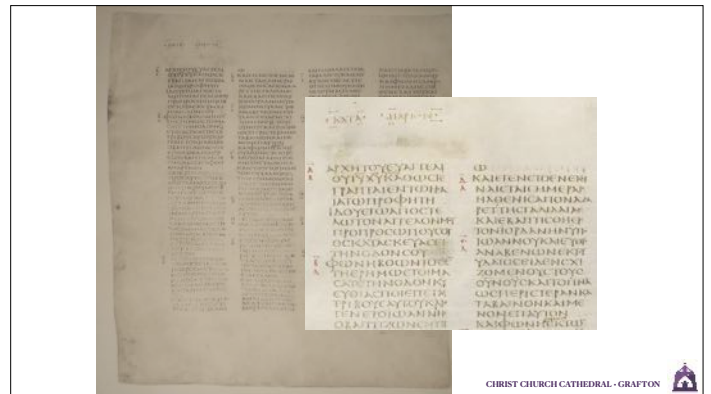
## The Bible in English

most of us read the Bible in English  
seems unremarkable to us  
(we are used to it)



- but the **Torah** is read in Hebrew
- and the **Qur'an** is read in Arabic
- **Greek Orthodox** still read the Greek Bible
- In **Western Europe** > 1,000 years Bible was in Latin

So what is the world's oldest Bible?



## Hebrew Manuscripts

- Hand written texts prior to invention of printing press
- Mostly on SCROLLS
- Until DEAD SEA SCROLLS no surviving Hebrew biblical texts before 900s CE
- Aleppo Codex (Tenth Century)
- Lenigrad Codex (1008 CE)

## Dead Sea Scrolls

MSS from Biblical times

- 1948 onwards
- Took us back 1,000 years
- >200 biblical texts
- Multiple copies of some books
- Only Esther not attested
- Reveal Bible before it was finalised
- Correct later manuscripts
- Impact of Bible translations

## Greek NT

Papyrus and Codex

- Almost 10,000 documents
- 50% lectionaries
- None date from first century
- Handful from second century
- Common from third century
- Major codices from 4th & 5th C
  - Sinaiticus
  - Vaticanus
  - Alexandrinus

## Textus receptus

Reformation era texts

- Beginning of text criticism
- Awareness of variations
- But no access to ancient texts
- European imperialism in Middle East in 19th century
- Archaeological discoveries
- Monastic libraries

## United Bible Societies

Eclectic critical texts

- Critical editions of OT & NT
- Includes deuterocanonical texts
- Eclectic
- Observe principles of text criticism
- Basis for all biblical scholarship
- Basis for modern translations



## English Bible

Family Tree

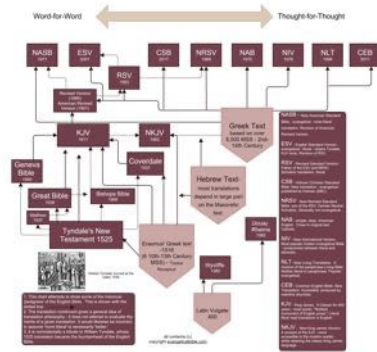
- **Authorised Version (KJV)** 1611
- Revised Version (1881)
- Revised Standard Version (1952)
- New RSV (1989)
- English Standard Version (2001)
- **Jerusalem Bible** (1966 & 1985)
- **New International Version** (1978)
- **Contemporary English Version** (1985)
- *and too many others to list ...*



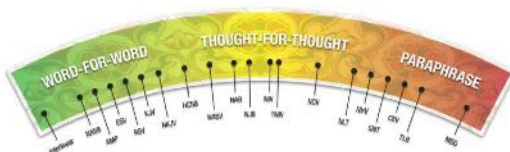
### The History and Popularity of English Bible Translations



### English Bible Overview



## Types of Bible Translations

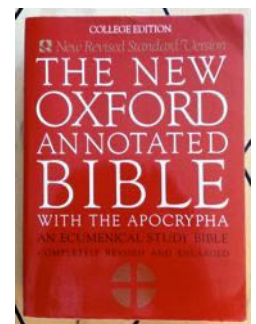


- NASB - New American Standard Bible
- AMP - Amplified Bible
- RSV - Revised Standard Version
- KJV - King James Version
- NKJV - New King James Version
- HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
- NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
- NIV - New International Bible
- NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
- NICV - New International Catholic
- TRV - Today's New International Version
- NCV - New Century Version
- MIT - New Living Translation
- NIV - New International Reader's Version
- INT - Good News Translation
- CEV - Contemporary English Version
- TJB - The Living Bible
- MSG - The Message

## Study Bibles

More than just a Bible

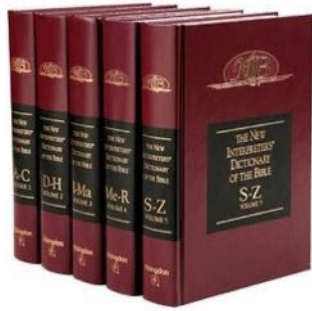
- **Thompson Chain Reference Bible**
- **Oxford Annotated Study Bible**
- **New Interpreters Study Bible**
- **The Jewish Study Bible**
- **Jewish New Testament**
- *and too many others to list ...*



## Bible Dictionaries

Building a Bible Study toolkit

- Choose your tribe
- Select your scholars
- Print or digital
- Bible software



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL - GRAFTON

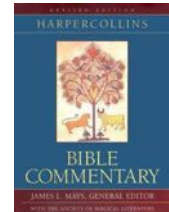


## Reading between the lines

... let the reader understand ...

### Academic publishers

- Anchor Yale
- Cambridge
- Harper/HarperCollins
- Oxford
- New Interpreter's Bible



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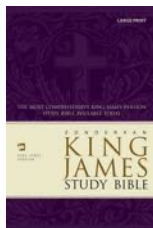


## Reading between the lines

... let the reader understand ...

### Evangelical / Conservative publishers

- New International
- Baker
- Eastman
- Holman
- Tyndale
- Zondervan



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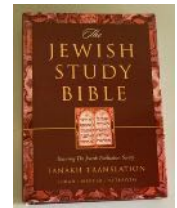


## Reading between the lines

... let the reader understand ...

### Denominational / Interfaith publishers

- Jewish
- Lutheran
- Orthodox
- Roman Catholic



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## Which version for me?

Choosing the 'right' Bible

- Accuracy (critical texts)
- Theological perspective
- Personal or public use
- Study or meditation
- Additional resources
- Clergy recommendation
- Bible software



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