

How We Got the Bible (10) – English Versions

A *version* is a translation of the original Greek / Hebrew / Aramaic text of the Bible into another language

Some well-known versions of the Bible in history:

1. Septuagint (Old Testament) – 250 BC
2. Latin Vulgate – Jerome, 4th Century AD
3. Syriac Peshitta – 2nd-4th Century AD
4. Wyclif Translation (Old English) – AD 1383
5. King James Version – AD 1611
6. New International Version (NIV) – AD 1978

History of the first printed Bibles:

1. The Printing Press was invented in 1450
2. 1456 – the Bible in Latin was printed (Maserin Bible)
3. 1512 – an Interlinear was printed in Spain (Complutensian Polyglot)
 - a. Bible was printed in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin side-by-side
4. 1516 – Erasmus of Rotterdam printed a Greek Bible
 - a. Used a collection of 12 manuscripts – called them the “Textus Receptus” = “this text we have received”
 - b. Erasmus’s manuscripts became the basis for English versions for 400 years

Three Major Periods of English Bible Translation

1. 1500-1611 – Versions based on the Textus Receptus
2. 1860-1901 – Versions based on newly discovered Greek manuscripts
 - a. Recognition that the Textus Receptus is not necessarily the best source for every given passage (Textual Criticism).
3. 1950-present – Versions produced for a number of reasons including:
 - a. Modernizing of the English language
 - b. Some attempt to be as accurate with original texts as possible
 - c. Others attempt to paraphrase the original texts / thoughts
 - d. Some are an attempt to cater to social / political agendas (gender-inclusive / gender-neutral terms, etc.)