



Which Version?

CHOOSING THE BIBLE
THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU



How we got the Bible we have

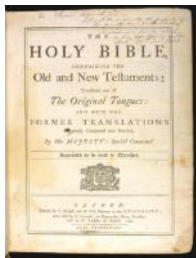


Let's explore the Bible we use

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



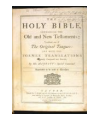
The Bible in English



- 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



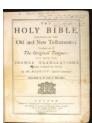
for us now

- 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)

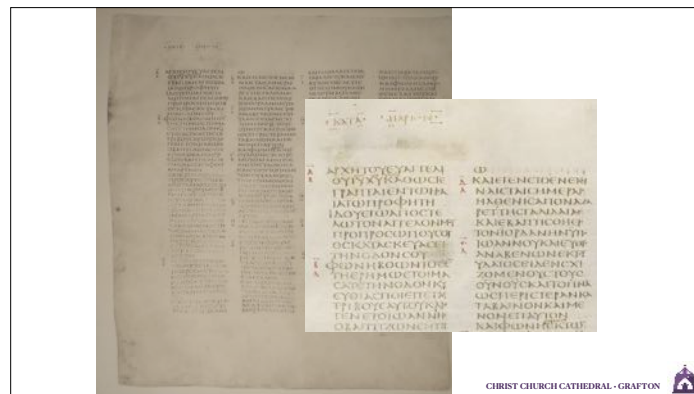


- but the **Torah** is read in Hebrew
- and the **Qur'an** is read in Arabic
- **Greek Orthodox** still read the Greek Bible
- In **Western Europe** > 1,000 years Bible was in Latin



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



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English Bible

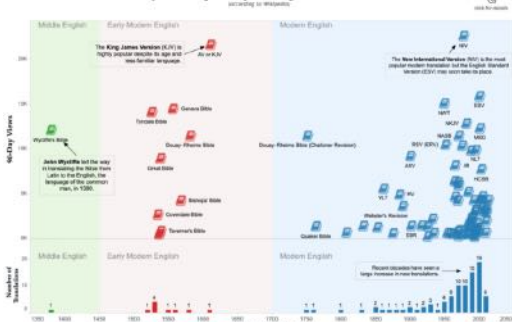
Family Tree

- **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 ...*



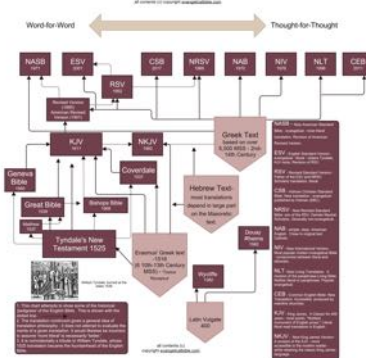
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The History and Popularity of English Bible Translations



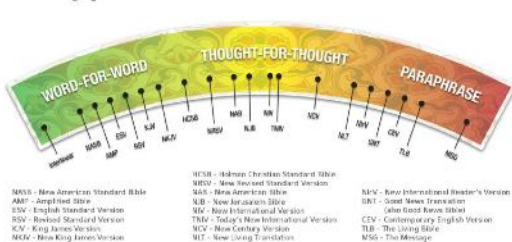
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English Bible Overview



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Types of Bible Translations

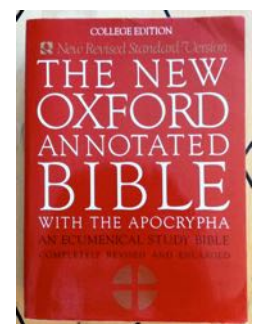


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Study Bibles

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 ...*

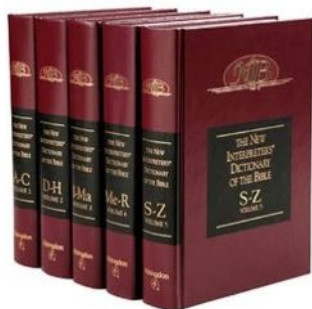


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Bible Dictionaries

Building a Bible Study toolkit

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



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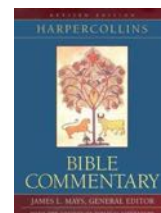


Reading between the lines

... let the reader understand ...

Academic publishers

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



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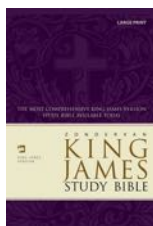


Reading between the lines

... let the reader understand ...

Evangelical / Conservative publishers

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



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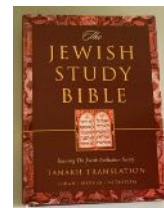


Reading between the lines

... 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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