

HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE WITH PURPOSE



Resource materials for Bible Seminar
Christ Fellowship
July 14, 2012

By: Randy Broberg

Copyright 2012

Table of Contents

Section One

How to Read the Bible	4
Why Read the Bible	5-11
How To Read the Bible	12-17
Circumstances	18-21
Sample Questions	22-30
Applying What We Have Learned	31-34

Section Two

How to Study the Bible	35
Why Study the Bible	36
How to Study the Bible	37-51
Markers	52-62
Literary Aspects	63-73
Translations	74-105
Commentaries	106-107
Applications	108-110

About the Author

Randy Broberg has been teaching at Maranatha Chapel for several years, with such topics as “The Gospels on Trial,” “The Battle Over the Bible,” “Early Church History,” and “How to Read the Bible with Purpose.” Randy has also preached at Maranatha Chapel, with such topics as “Joy...Gotta Have It,” “Living in the Last Days,” and “Faith’s Midlife Crisis.”

Randy has degrees in both classical studies and European history from Stanford University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia. He also attended the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece and the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, Italy. For 22 years and until recently, Randy has been practicing law. He and his wife, Justine, have three teenagers at home.

Section One

How to Read the Bible

Why Read the Bible ?

It Helps Us Avoid Sin

Psalm 119:9-16

⁹ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?
by taking heed [thereto] according to thy word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let
me not wander from thy commandments.

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might
not sin against thee.

¹² Blessed [art] thou, O LORD: teach me thy
statutes.

¹³ With my lips have I declared all the judgments of
thy mouth.

¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as
[much as] in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect
unto thy ways.

¹⁶ I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not
forget thy word.

It Helps Us When We Most Need Help

Psalm 119:25-28

²⁵ My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

²⁶ I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.

²⁷ Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

²⁸ My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

We Love It

Psalm 119:47-48

⁴⁷ And I will delight myself in thy commandments,
which I have loved.

⁴⁸ My hands also will I lift up unto thy
commandments, which I have loved; and I will
meditate in thy statutes.

It Assists Our Consciences

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It Equips Us For Good Works

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God,
and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in righteousness:

It Teaches and Encourages Us

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

By It We Grow!

Acts 20:32

³² And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

How to Read the Bible

Begin With Prayer

The Veil

2 Corinthians 3:15-17

¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

¹⁶ Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.

Ask the Lord for Understanding

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalm 119:18

18. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Ask the Lord for Understanding

Psalm 119:33-37

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it [unto] the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with [my] whole heart.

³⁵ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

³⁶ Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

³⁷ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; [and] quicken thou me in thy way.

Psalm 143: 10

¹⁰ Teach me to do thy will; for thou [art] my God: thy spirit [is] good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Understanding the Bible Requires the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

³ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Illumination by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

⁶ Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to naught:

⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. Yea, the deep things of God.

¹⁰ But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Illumination by the Holy Spirit, con't

1 Corinthians 2:6-16, con't

¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Circumstances

Pay Attention to Your Circumstances

Psalm 119:147-148

¹⁴⁷ I prevented the dawning of the morning, and
cried: I hoped in thy word.

¹⁴⁸ Mine eyes prevent the [night] watches, that I
might meditate in thy word.

Circumstances

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Stopping Bad Habits

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Read With Purpose

“So then, from this we must gather that to profit much in the holy Scripture we must always resort to our Lord Jesus Christ and cast our eyes upon him, without turning away from him at any time. You will see a number of people who labor very hard indeed at reading the holy Scriptures -- they do nothing else but turn over the leaves of it, and yet after ten years they have as much knowledge of it as if they had never read a single line. And why? Because they do not have any particular aim in view, they only wander about. And even in worldly learning you will see a great number who take pains enough, and yet all to no purpose, because they kept neither order nor proportion, nor do anything else but gather material from this quarter and from that, by means of which they are always confused and can never bring anything worthwhile. And although they have gathered together a number of sentences of all sorts, yet nothing of value results from them. Even so it is with them that labor in reading the holy Scriptures and do not know which is the point they ought to rest on, namely, the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

John Calvin, *Sermon on Ephesians 2:19-22* (1559).

Reading with Purpose Sample Questions

Questions About Prayer

1. Why and when do the people pray?
2. How do they pray?
3. How does God respond?

Works best with History

Questions about Living and Godliness

1. What habits sustain godly living?
2. What are the early warnings signs of trouble brewing?
3. What mistakes do the people make?
4. What are the consequences of their failures?
5. If the people remain faithful, what tips do they have for us?
6. What are the consequences of their faithfulness?

Works best with History

Questions About God

1. What names of God are used?
2. What are God's character traits? (attributes)
3. Does this passage describe any of God's emotions? Or other personality traits?
4. What are God's motives or objectives?

Works best with Job, Psalms and
the Prophets

How does the passage describe God's relationship with humanity?

1. What is God's attitude toward humanity?
2. How does God describe Himself?

Works best with Job, Psalms and
the Prophets

Sample Questions About Jesus

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Is He divine?
3. Is He human?
4. Is He equal or inferior to the Father?
5. Was He created?
6. Was He outgoing or private?
7. What were his personality traits?

Works best with the Gospels

Questions about Jesus

1. How did Jesus interact with other people?
2. How did He treat children?
3. How did He treat women?
4. How did He relate to men?
5. How did He handle religious leaders?
6. How did He interact with Gentiles, sinners, tax collectors, etc.?

Works best with the Gospels

Sample Questions About Humanity

1. How does this passage describe unsaved humanity?
2. What are the different words used for sin or the power of sin?
3. How does it describe the relationship the unsaved person and God have?
4. What is the consequence of sin for the unsaved?

Works best with the Epistles

Questions about Humanity, con't

1. How does this passage describe saved humanity?
2. What are different words used to describe believers?
3. How does it describe the relationship the saved person and God have?
4. What are the consequences of being saved?

Works best with the Epistles

Sample Questions About Salvation

1. What is salvation?
2. What does being “saved” mean?
3. Saved from what exactly?
4. Is it permanent?
5. How does one “get saved”?
6. What’s the role of the law?
7. What role if any, do good works play?
8. Why did Jesus have to die?
9. What’s the role of Christ’s death?
10. What is faith? What does it mean, exactly?
11. What is the importance of the resurrection of Christ?

Works best with the Epistles

Applying What We Have Learned

Relevance

1. Contemporary issues
2. False teachings
3. Worldviews

Theology

1. Who is Christ and what was he like?

Applications

1. Practical
2. Personal

Journal It!

1. Requires time, concentration, effort
2. Make notes
3. Keep a record of all your answers
4. Use a journal

Helpful Books

How to Read a Book; by Mortimer Adler

How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth; by
Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

How to Read the Bible Book by Book; by Gordon
Fee and Douglas Stuart

Section Two

How to Study the Bible

Why Study the Bible ?

1. The Bible is God-breathed (II Timothy 3:16-17).
2. The Bible is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12).
3. The Bible is able to build you up (Acts 20:32).
4. The Bible is able to instruct and give hope (Romans 15:4).
5. The Bible is able to assist one in dealing with sin successfully (Psalms 119:9-11).
6. The Bible is able to equip you for every good work (II Timothy 3:17).
7. To deepen our relationship with God and to be more and more transformed into the likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18)
8. To lead us to salvation, train us for righteousness, correct us from error, and equip us to do good works (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

How to Study the Bible ?

Our Approach

1. The approach we will use is one that seeks to work independent of commentaries, except to consult findings and check results.
2. The approach we will employ in learning to study the Bible is inductive in nature.
3. The approach to the Bible includes historical and grammatical analysis.
4. The approach is methodical.

Why So Much History?

1. Scripture has one meaning, and we must know that. It's not all relative and everyone's opinion of what the Bible means is not equally valid.
2. How do we find that meaning? By learning what the author meant.
3. How do we do that? By learning what the original audience would have understood he meant.
4. The Bible is God-breathed but it's also true that a particular author wrote each part to a particular audience at a particular place at a particular moment in time.
5. This means history is crucial to understanding Scripture.

Vocabulary

Define the Words Used

1. Begin with an English dictionary.
2. Use a dictionary or lexicon that deals with Bible words.
3. See how it is used in other passages.
4. Study the context in which it is used.
5. Compare various translations.

Let's First Define Our Terms

"...I consider looseness with words no less of a defect than looseness of the bowels."

John Calvin

Word Meanings

1. Order terms according to importance.
 2. Word study of most important terms.
 3. Key words; one cannot exegete without knowing the meaning of the words
-
1. Repetition
 2. Hinge Words
 3. Unusual Words
 4. Imported Words

How to Identify the Key Words

1. Repetition
2. Hinge Words
3. Unusual Words
4. Imported Words

Finding the Meaning

1. What key words require word study?
2. What is the meaning of the term _____?
3. How does it function in this sentence?
4. What verb tenses are used?
5. Why was this word (or verb tense) used here?
6. What other word might have been used, and why was it not?
7. Why does the author change terms?
8. Is this word crucial to the argument of the paragraph or book?

Word Tools

1. Cross References
2. Dictionaries
3. Concordances
4. Lexicons
5. Translations

Unusual Vocabulary of Colossians

- 34 Greek words are unique to Colossians, including :
 - “visible” (1:16),
 - “supremacy” (1:18),
 - “fill up”(1:24),
 - “philosophy” (2:8),
 - “Deity” (2:9).
- Colossians includes some stylistic differences such as unusual genitival combinations:
 - “the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27),
 - “body of . . . flesh” (2:11, NASB),
 - “growth . . . from God” (2:19, NASB),
 - “reward of . . . inheritance” (3:24, NASB).

Colossians

The word or phrase and verse reference	
The Greek word or phrase	
The most common definitions for the Greek word or phrase NASB translation	
NIV translation	
NKJV translation	
Other noteworthy translations	
How the same Greek word or phrase is used elsewhere in Colossians	
How the same Greek word or phrase is used elsewhere by Paul	
How the same Greek word or phrase is used elsewhere in the NT	
How the same Greek word or phrase is used elsewhere in contemporary Hellenistic literature	
Other uses	
Are there any antonyms	
Comments	

Assume A “Normal” Use of Language

- expect God’s revelation in the Bible to use language as it is normally used in communication between two persons
- do not look for “hidden” meanings (i.e. meanings requiring additional revelation or mystical formulas giving deeper understanding to a select group of people).
- “Normal” interpretation of language does not mean strictly “literal” interpretation. “Normal” considers :
 - the history and culture of the original recipients (i.e. the customs, idioms, beliefs, figures of speech, superstitions and historical and geographical facts of the author’s day)
 - the style or genre which is used to convey the message
 - the grammar of the original language
 - the broader context in which a message is conveyed

Figures of Speech

- Non-literal language (e.g. — I am the bread of life)
- hyperbole, metaphor, simile
- Is the language literal or figurative?
- What figures of speech are used?
- Why are the figures of speech used rather than literal language?
- What increased understanding of the truth is communicated through the figures of speech?

The “Firstborn” of all Creation

- What does the word “first-born” mean (1:15,18; Heb. 12:23; Ps. 89:27)?
- Does this imply that Christ is a created being (as Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons claim)?
- How does the word “for”(1:16) help to answer this question?

Figures of Speech, cont

The “Image” of God

- How is the word “image” used elsewhere in Scripture (1:15; Gen. 1; Rom. 1:23; 8:29; 1 Cor. 11:7; 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:4; Col. 3:10)?
- How does Christ visibly reflect “the invisible God” (Heb. 1:1-3; think of illustrations from the gospels)?

“Put to death your members”

- What does it mean to “consider as dead”(3:5; literally, “put to death”) the “members”(cf. Rom. 7:22-23) of your body?
- Does this mean we’re not *really* dead to these sins? Explain the relationship between 3:1-4 and 3:5 ff. (note the word “therefore” in 3:5).

Structure



The Original Format was not a Study Bible

- Note the columns — no paragraphs
- No commas
- No periods
- No question marks
- No explanation points
- ALLCAPITALLETTERSWITHNOSPACESBETWEEN-WORDS

How Do We Figure Out the Structure?

Need to look for markers in the text itself.

Grammatical Markers

- How does each word function in the sentence?
- “Verb” creates the action or state of being
 - tense
 - voice
- Noun
- Pronoun
- Adjective
- Adverb

Adverbial Markers

Type	Markers
Temporal	after, then, as, until, before, when, now, while
Geographical	where
Emphatic	indeed, only

Markers

Comparisons Markers

- **Markers:** as, like, in the same way, and
- Shows *similarities* between two or more related ideas, or simply joining like ideas (association).
- See Hebrews 5:1-10 for a comparison of the priesthoods of Aaron and Christ.

²*“But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

³*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:2-3*

Contrasts Markers

- **Markers:** but, however
- Shows *dissimilarities* between thoughts or ideas.

*“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident... **But** the fruit of the Spirit is...” (Galatians 5:19-23)*

Purposes or Reasons Markers page title

- **Markers:** that, so that, for, in order that, to
- Shows *why* the author made a particular statement.
- frequently indicated by the phrase — in order that.

*“But these are written, **that** ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and **that** believing ye might have life through his name.” John 20:31*

*“And, behold, there was a man which had [his] hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? **that** they might accuse him.” Matthew 12:10*

Results Markers

- **Markers:** “therefore” and “as a result”
- Show *consequences* of an idea (s), action (s) or event (s).
- It is often difficult to distinguish between purpose and result.
- The phrase — in order that” can sometimes mean — with the result that.”

“From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” John 6:66

Explanation Markers

- **Markers:** "for" or "because" or "because of"
- Shows an idea or event followed by its *interpretation* (or the reasons why it is true, or why it occurred, etc.).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Means or Methods Markers

- **Markers:** "through" to identify means/ methods.
- Shows the *means* to an end.

*"But we believe that **through** the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved, even as they." (Acts 15:11)*

Questions Markers

- **Markers:** who, what, where, when and why or any question
- Shows *rhetorical structure* built around questions posed and answered by the author (or a hypothetical opponent created by the author).

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue to sin, that grace may abound?” (Romans 6:1)

“I have loved you,” saith the LORD. Yet ye say, “Wherein hast thou loved us? [Was] not Esau Jacob’s brother? Saith the LORD: Yet I loved Jacob,” (Malachi 1:2)

Repetition and Continuity Markers

- **Markers:** reiteration of the same word or phrase is *repetition*

“these are the generations of...” (Genesis)

“By faith...” (Hebrews 11)

“...for His lovingkindness is everlasting...” (Psalm 136)

- **Markers:** a similar but not exact word, phrase or idea is repeated is *continuity*

lost sheep, lost coin, lost son (John 15)

General to Specific and *Vice Versa* Markers

- the movement of ideas from
 - general to particular (Matthew 6:1-18)
or
 - particular to general (James 2)

Causes and Effects Markers

- the passage *first states the cause and then describes the effects.*
 - Romans 1:18-31 demonstrates the cause (rejection of God)
 - and the effect (God gave them over)
- the author *first states the effect and then states the cause.*
 - In Romans 8:18-27 Paul describes the effect of longing,
 - and in 8:28-30 he describes the cause, which is our certain future glorification.

Emphasis Markers

- Proportion of material devoted to an idea, person or event (e.g. crucifixion events) emphasizes or de-emphasizes an idea by the **amount of material** the author includes or omits.
 - *Stated purpose* (John 20:30; Prov 1:2-6)
 - *Order* (Genesis 1-3; Luke 4)

Summarization Markers

- the author gathers the main ideas he has been trying to communicate and restates them in a summary.
 - For examples see Hebrews 8:1-2 and Joshua 12.

Literary Aspects

Authorship

- Known vs. Unknown
- Biographical Background
- Vocabulary/Style
- The writer calls himself Paul three times (1:1, 1:23, and 4:18).
- The language and structure of the book is Pauline.
- The unusual vocabulary
 - Use of pleroma, deity, philosophy
 - Use of Pauline words, e.g. righteous, salvation, fellowship, law, and believe are omitted.

–Usual Pauline words, e.g. righteous, salvation, fellowship, law, and believe, are omitted.

Literary Type / Genre

- Poetry
- Prophecy
- History
- Letters
- “The first order of business (in the study of Paul's letters) is to learn to read the letter as a letter. This means above all to learn to read its structure.”

—Robert Funk

What Is the Book's Theme?

- What is the controlling idea that holds all the parts together?
- What are the Key Verses?
- How do the parts support that theme?
- How does this theme compare
- Theme of Colossians vs Galatians?
- Theme of Colossians vs Romans?

Tone and Intention

- How would you describe the tone (sarcasm, compassion, urgency, despair, humility, awe, gratitude, joy, anger, concern)?
- What words does the author use to reveal his tone?
- What reasons might be affecting the tone?
- What is the intended effect on the audience (e.g. persuasion, motivation, repentance, encouragement)?

Scripture Interprets Scripture

No part of Scripture can be interpreted in such a way to render it in conflict with what is taught elsewhere in Scripture. It must be read as a unified whole.

Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture

Finding the One Meaning

How do we find THE ONE meaning?

- By learning what the author meant.

How do we do that?

- By learning what the original audience would have understood he meant.

The Bible: Divine AND Human

The Bible is God-breathed but it's also true that a particular author wrote each part to a particular audience at a particular place at a particular moment in time.

Understanding Context

- Who said it?
- To whom was it said?
- Under what circumstances?
- Subject under discussion?

Authorship

- One writer may explain what another writer meant.
- The plain will help with the symbolic

Audience

- General/Unspecified vs. Specific
- Ethnic/cultural background
- Religious background
- Occasion for the letter

Tone, Purpose Theme & Key Verses

- What kind of *tone* the apostle Paul was using. That is, look for words which reveal his emotions while writing.
- Look for evidence of the *purpose* of the letter. That is, can you tell why Paul wrote the letter? What effect did he hope the letter will have?
- Look for the *theme*. In other words, if you had to summarize the entire letter in a single phrase or sentence what would it be? Try writing it out in your own words so we can share and compare.
- Look for the *key verses*. Why did you pick the ones you picked?

Translations

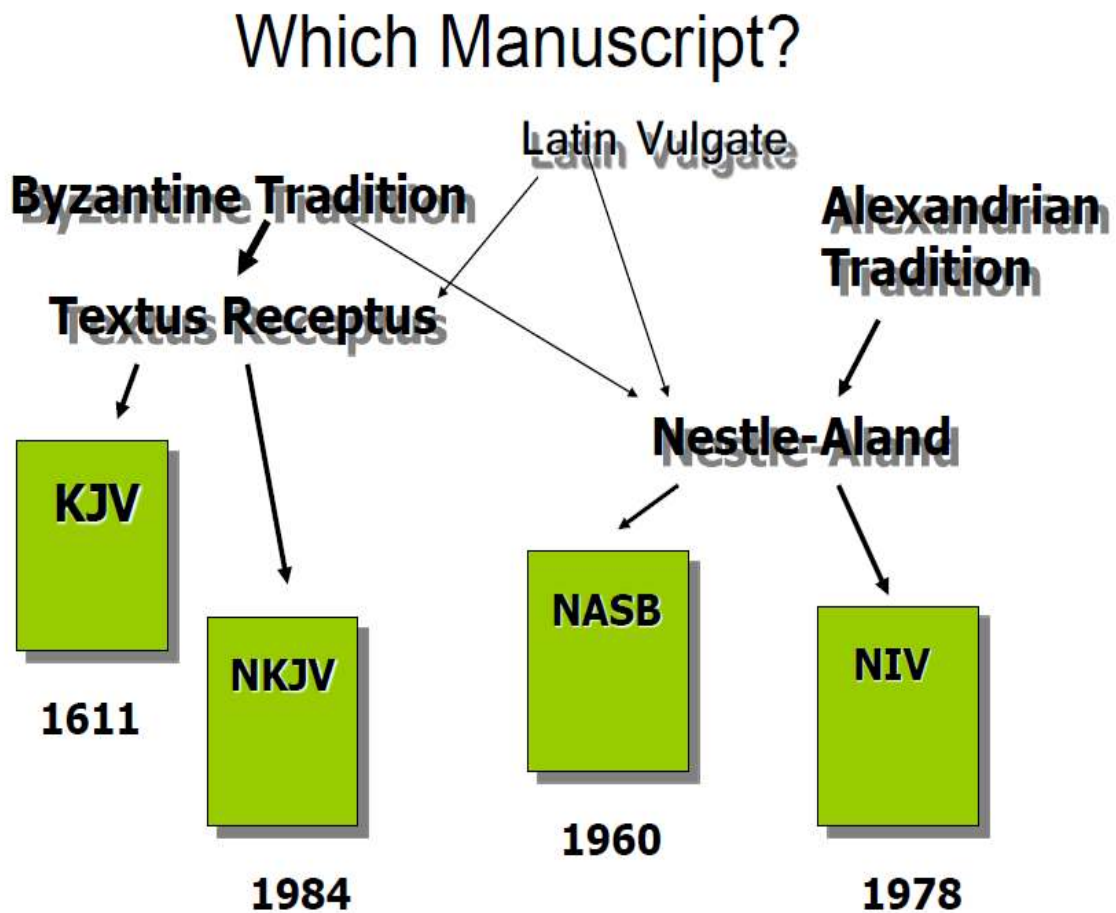
Theme Verses

2 Timothy 2:15

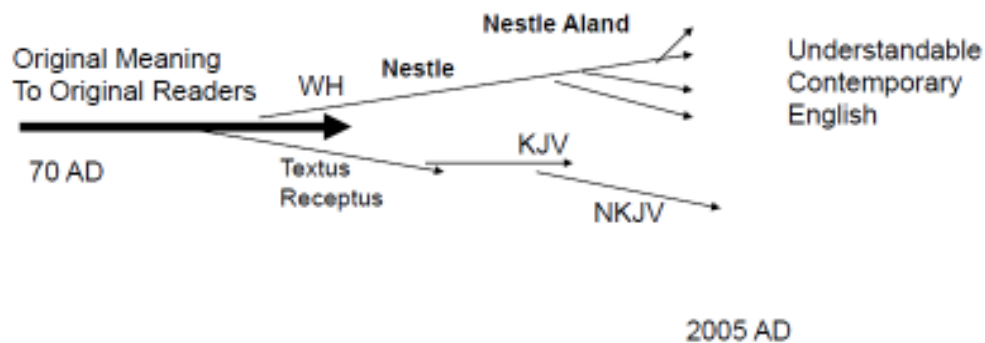
KJV	Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
ESV	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
NASB	Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
NIV	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
Message	Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won't be ashamed of, laying out the truth plain and simple.

Which Manuscript?

- No original manuscripts exist
- Thousands of handwritten copies of copies
- Late manuscripts have more variance
- Textus Receptus –KJV
- Wescott Hort –NASB
- Nestle sp? –NIV



Translation Challenges



The Problem of Historical Distance

- Historical distance — the differences between the original and the receptor
- Language differences over time
- Weights, measures, money
- Euphemisms
 - Translate literally?
 - Translate literal equivalent?
 - Translate equivalent euphemism
- Vocabulary
- Grammar and syntax

Transliterations

Greek	Transliterations	Translations
<i>Christos</i>	Christ, Messiah	Anointed One
<i>Baptizo</i>	Baptize	Dip or immerse
<i>Presbeteros</i>	Presbyter, Priest	Elder or Pastor
<i>Episkipos</i>	Bishop	Overseer (Elder)
<i>Angelos</i>	Angel	Messenger
<i>Eidololatra</i>	Idolatry	Service of images
<i>Apostolos</i>	Apostle	Messenger, Representative

Even Latin Transliterations

Greek	Meaning	Latin Transliterations	Transliterations from Latin
<i>hagia</i>	set apart	sancta, sacer	saints, sanctify, sacred
<i>apolutrosin</i>	buy out of slavery	redemptionem	redemption
<i>diakonos</i>	servant	minister	minister
<i>paratomasin</i>	crossing over	transgressions	transgressions
<i>xaris</i>	gift	gratia	grace

The Loaded Term / Jargon Problems

Greek	Literal Translation	Common Translation	Implied Meaning
<i>ekklesia</i>	assembly	church	organization, papacy and buildings
<i>baptizo</i>	dip or immerse	baptize	sacrament, sprinkling and babies
<i>episkipos</i>	supervisor or overseer	bishop	Roman Catholic or Episcopal Hierarchy

Types of Translations

- All translations are interpretations
- Word for Word / Literal—keeping as close to the exact words and phrases of the original—
 - most historical distance problem
 - least interpretive problems
- Thought for Thought / Dynamic equivalent—translation of words and phrases into equivalents :
 - middle ground
- Paraphrase —restate the ideas—
 - eliminates historical distance,
 - most interpretive problem

Fee and Stuart, pp. 34-37

Word vs Thought Translation

- 1 John 3:17
 - KJV: "shutteth up his bowels"
 - NIV: "has no pity"
- Colossians 3:12
 - KJV: "put on bowels of mercies"
 - NIV: "clothe yourselves with compassion"

Types of Translations, con't

Word For Word/Literal

- Formal Correspondence
 - Maintain the vocabulary, grammar, structure of the original as closely as possible
 - RSV, NRSV, NIV, NKJV, NJPS are all examples
- Sentence structure, verbal nuances, and idioms of original language are used.
- Literal-keeping as close to the exact words and phrases of the original
- Most historical distance Challenge
- Least interpretive Challenges

Types of Translations, con't

Thought for Thought / Dynamic Equivalent

- More emphasis on creating coherence in the receptor language
- JB, NJB, NEB, TEV or Good News are all examples
- Translation of words & phrases, etc. Into precise equivalents
- Translator attempts to produce the same effect as the original had on its readers.
- Middle ground

Translations vs. Paraphrases

“It has never been easy to distinguish between a 'translation' and a 'paraphrase'. Translations tend to go for contemporary scholarship at the expense of contemporary language, whereas paraphrases tend to sacrifice accuracy for relevance.”

John R. W. Stott

Preacher, Evangelist, Author

Paraphrases

Paraphrase –restate the ideas—

- Restatement of an author’s thoughts, using different words than he did.
- Eliminates historical distance
- Most interpretive Challenge
- Most bias

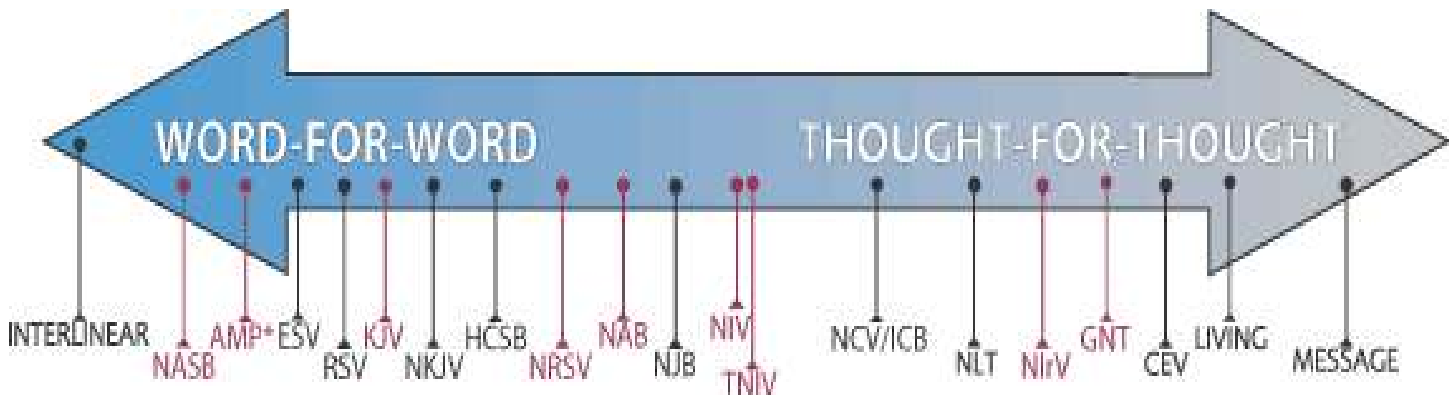
Example of a Paraphrase:

Compare the NRSV and TEV translations of Ruth 3:9b:

- NRSV: And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin.”
- TEV: “It’s Ruth sir,” she answered. “Because you are a close relative, you are responsible for taking care of me. So please marry me.”

Paraphrases

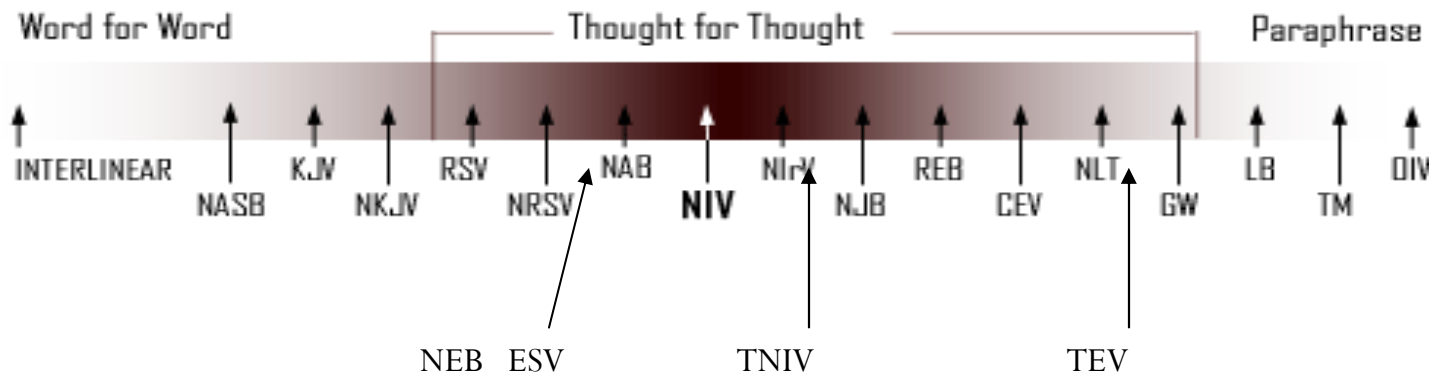
- The Living Bible
- The Message
- Oxford's Inclusive Language Version
- Contemporary English Version
- New Living Translation



Bible Translation

- Paraphrase help people who are new to the Bible understand it
- Literal translations are helpful for people who want to study each word
- The NIV is literal where possible and "thought-for-thought" where necessary to help the reader understand
- The NIV is the best balance between accuracy and readability

English Bible Translation Comparison



CEV Contemporary English Version

GW God's Word

KJV King James Version

LB The Living Bible

NAB New American Bible

NASB New American Standard Bible

NIV New International Version

NIV New International Version

NJB New Jerusalem Bible

NKJV New King James Version

NLT The New Living Translation

NRSV New Revised Standard Version

OIV Oxford's Inclusive Language Version

REB Revised English Bible

RSV Revised Standard Version

TM The Message

Translation Grade Levels*

Bible Buying Tip

Sometimes, it helps to know what the approximate reading level is for a given translation. Here's a quick and easy guide for the most popular translations:

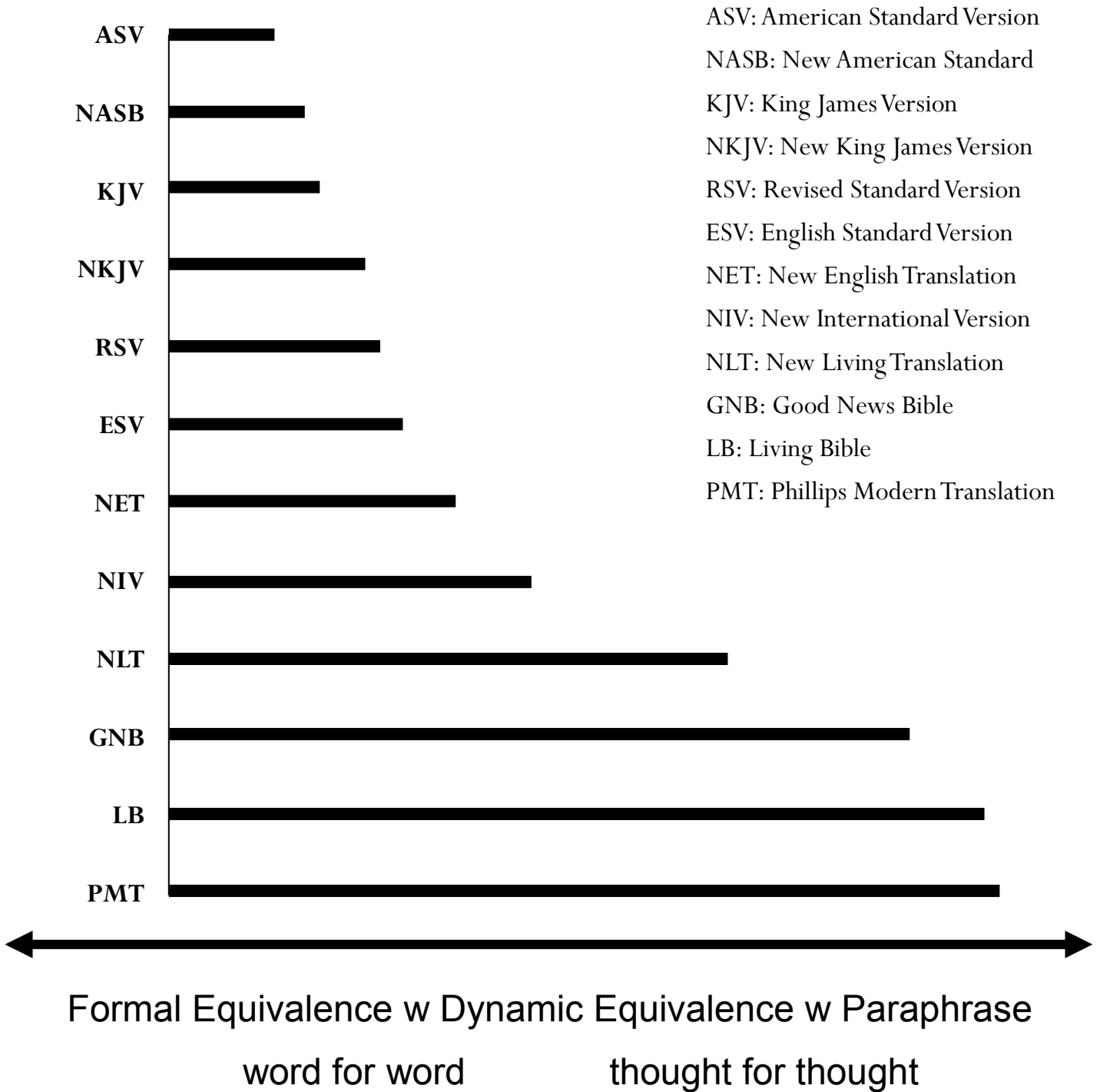
Translation	Grade Level
NIV	12th
KJV	12th
RSV	12th
NASB	11th
NRSV	11th
ESV	10th
HCSB	9th/10th
NKJV	7th
NLT	6th
Message	4th/5th
NCV	3rd
KIRV	3rd

*source www.christianbook.com

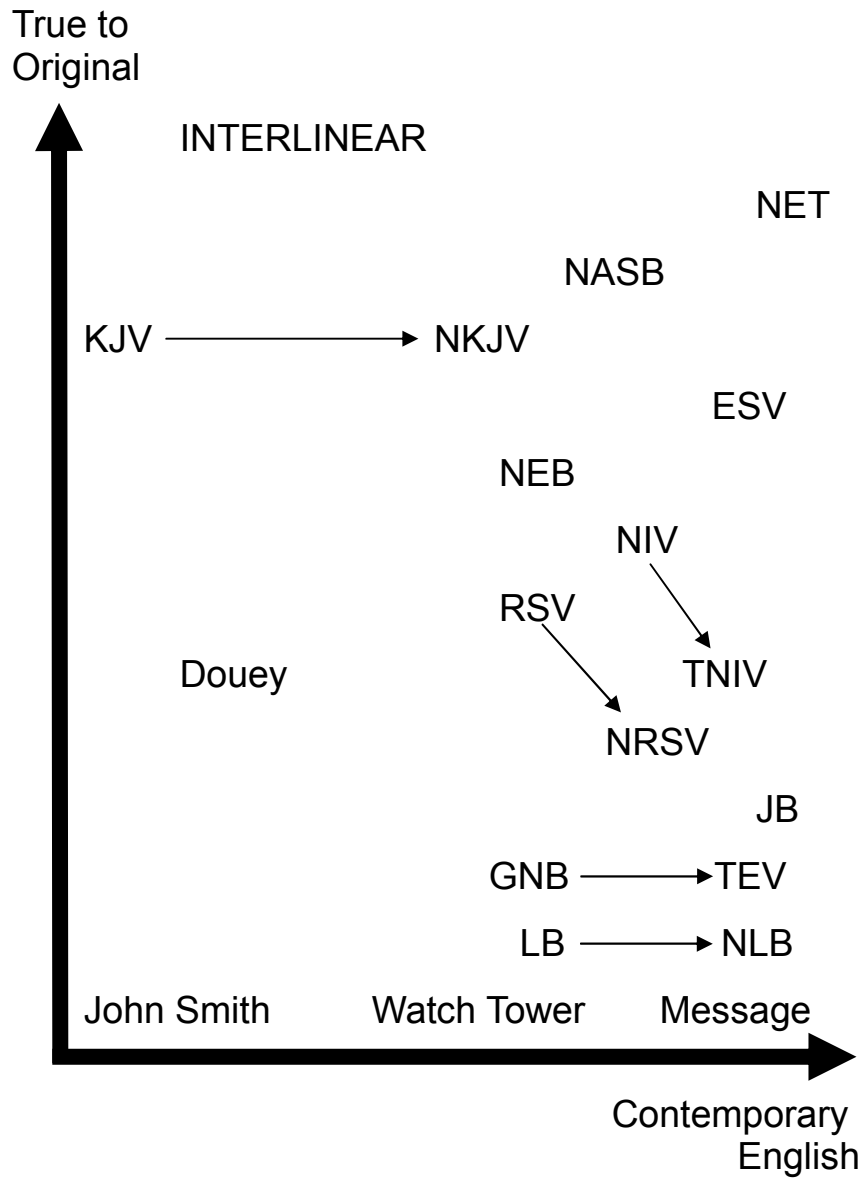
Textual Appearance and Formatting

- Hebrew / Greek: no spacing or punctuation
- KJV / NASB: chapters/verses in block text
- NIV / NLT: paragraphs with headers



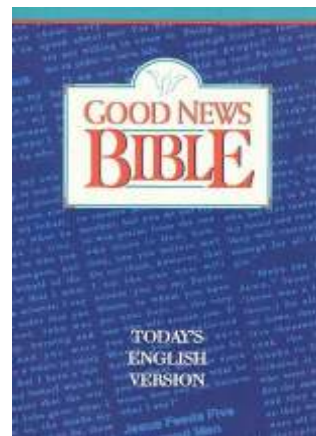
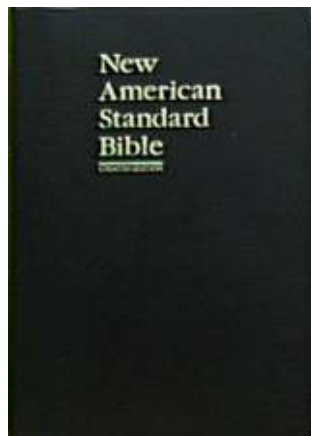
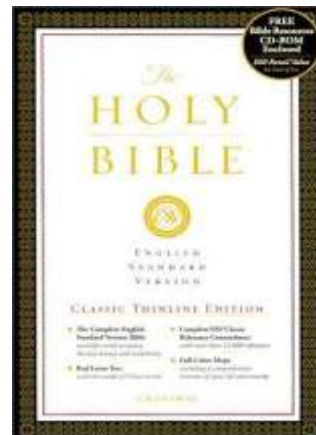
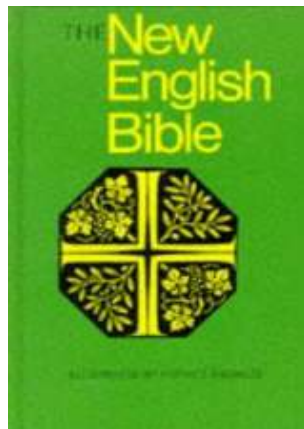


True vs. Contemporary



Geographic Variance

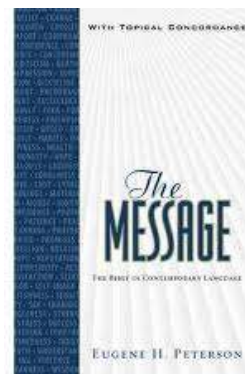
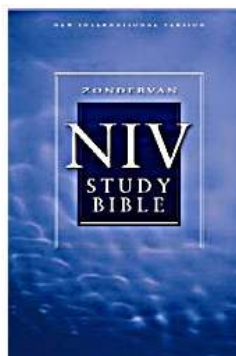
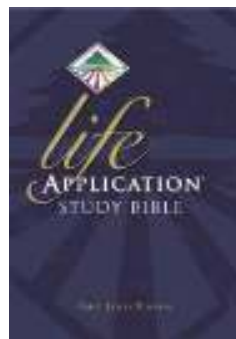
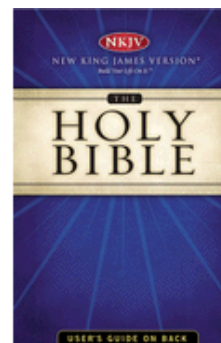
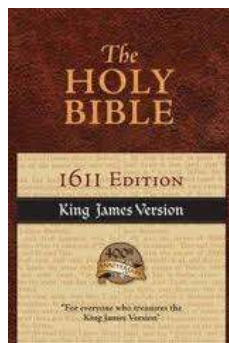
UK or US English?



Translations

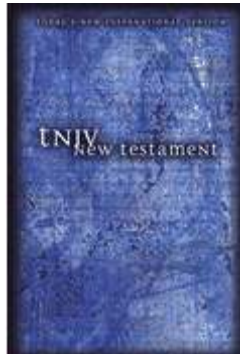
Different Styles of English

- Formal vs. Informal
- Literary vs. Common



Translations

Overt Political or Ideological Agendas



- NRSV
- TNIV

- NRSV

GENESIS 2:1
2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ¹And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ²So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Another Account of the Creation
 In the day that the Lord^a God made the earth and the heavens, ¹when no plant of the field had yet sprung up—²for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ³but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁴then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,⁵ and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁶And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁷Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Shinar, where there is gold; ¹²and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called

2 **Another Account of the Creation**
 every living creature, that was its name. ²The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ³So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ⁴And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ⁵Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, for out of Man she was taken."⁶ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ⁷And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

The First Sin and Its Punishment
2 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ³The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ⁴but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁵But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁶for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁷So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁸Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁹ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ¹⁰So the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹¹He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹²He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹³The man said,

^a The NRSV, as in other places where "Lord" is spelled with capital letters, see also Gen 1:14:15 with notes. ^b Or "formed a man (flesh and bone) of dust from the ground (flesh and bone)." ^c Or "for Adam of the dust." ^d Or "with." ^e Or "with."

Translations

More Subtle Bias

- All translations involve interpretation and the making of choices and reflect the needs and biases of the sponsors of that translation.
- Liberal/Conservative
- Paedo vs Credo Baptist
- Arminian vs Calvinist

Example Luke 2:14

NASB	NKJV	NIV	Message
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”	“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”	“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”	Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on hearth who please him.”

Historical Distance

- Historical distance—the differences between the original and the receptor
- Weights, measures, money
- Vocabulary
- Grammar and syntax

Changing Definitions

- Translations must also be updated because the meanings of words change over time.

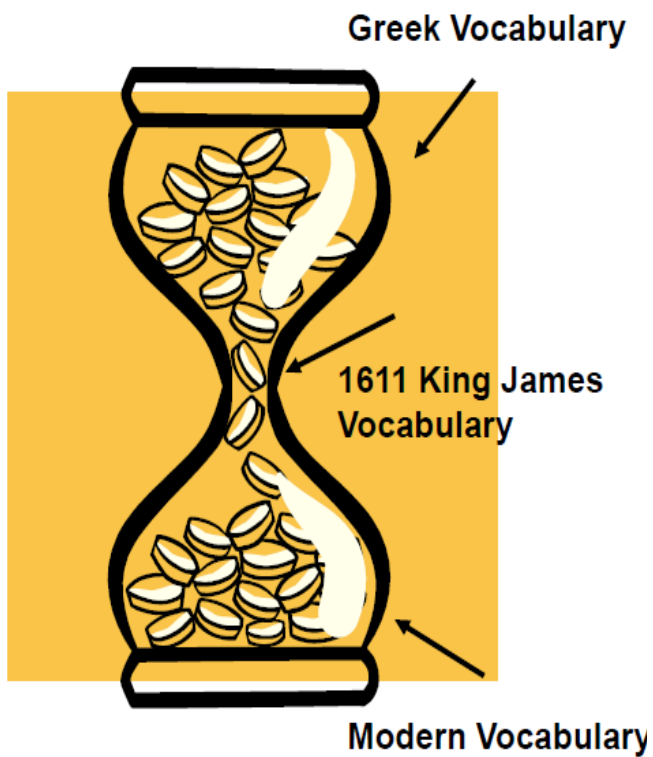
Version	Age
KJV	400 years
RSV	100 years
NASB	50 years
NIV	25 years

New Discoveries

- New translations are also warranted because of new archaeological discoveries and new insights into ancient texts & languages.
- “Greetings”

Evolving Language

- 100 AD Greek – a mature literary language, with 1,000 years of writing tradition
- 1611 AD English – an immature language with 300 years of writing tradition and 30% of the words we have today.



Roots

In Hebrew and Greek many words derive from the same root, giving words overtones of meaning lost in English.

- Grace, Greetings and Thank you
- Holy, Saint and Sacred

Many English words appear related when the corresponding Hebrew or Greek do not.

- Right, Righteous

Non Parallelism

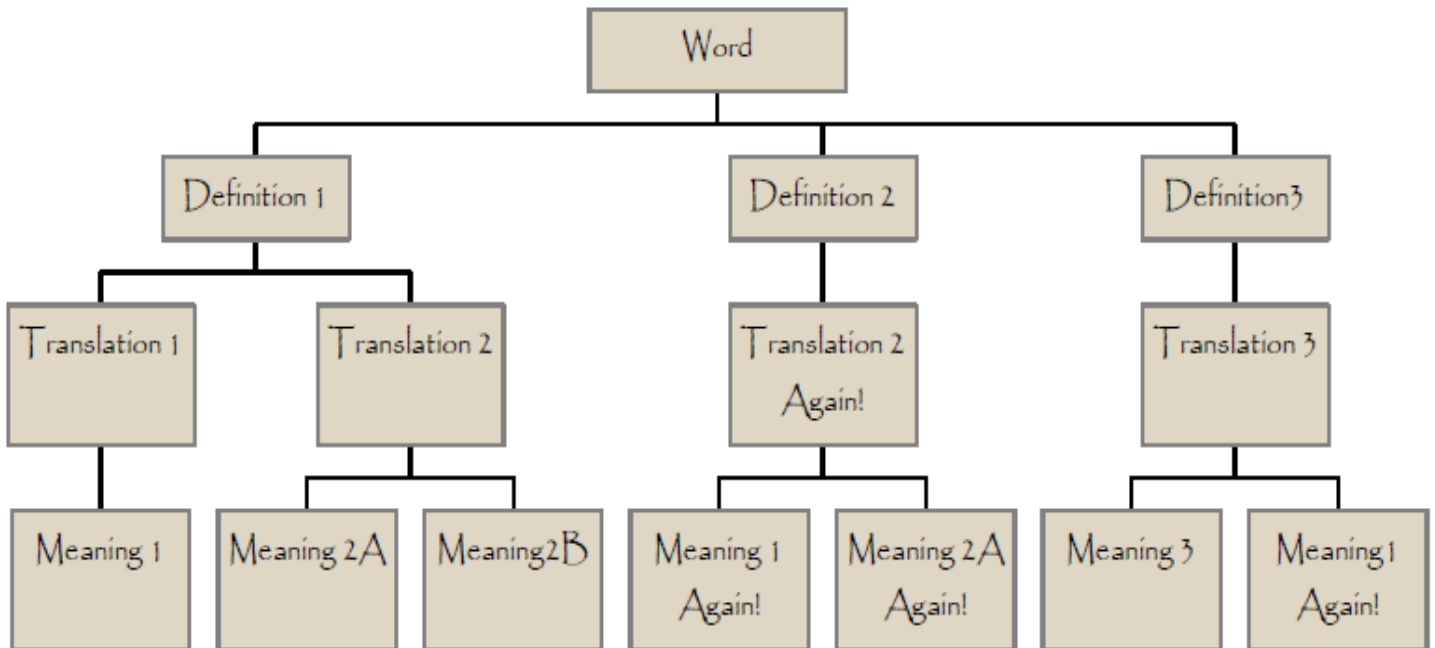


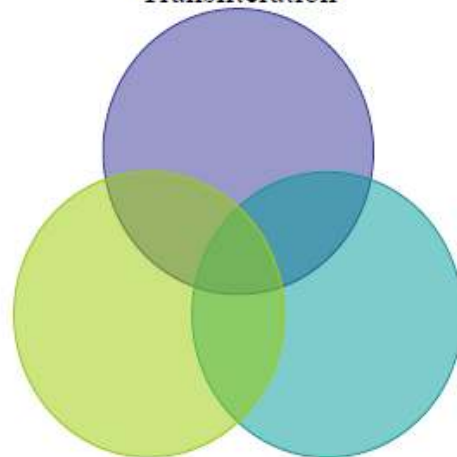
Illustration of the Non-Parallel:

Greek "*diakonos*"

Deacon

Transliteration

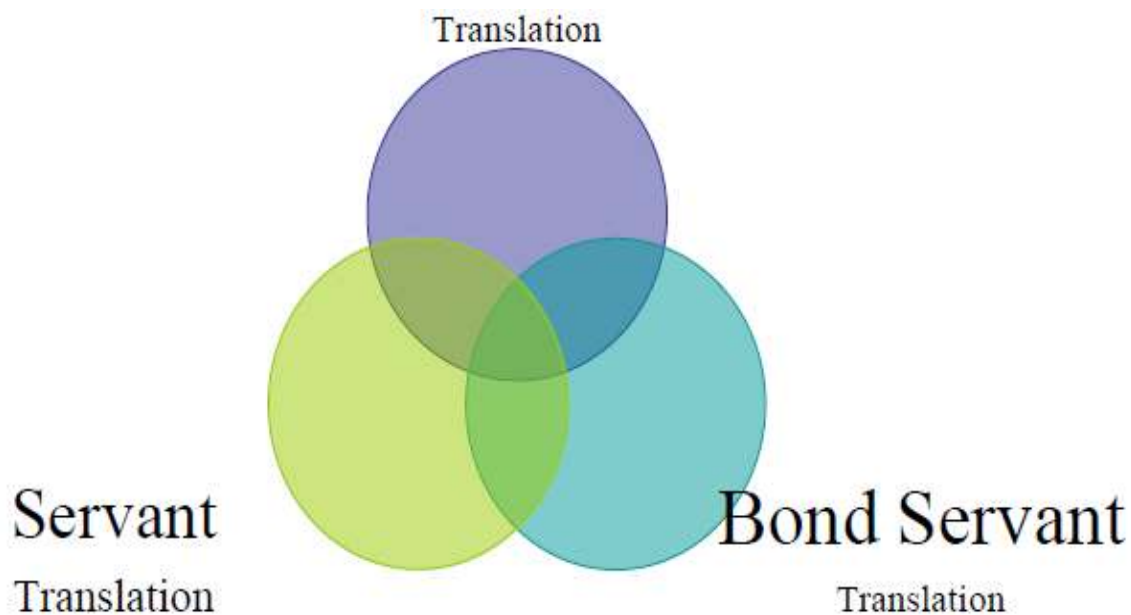
Servant
Translation



Minister
Translation

Illustration of Non-Parallel

Greek “*doulos*”



Euphemisms and Figures of Speech

- Translate literally
- Translate literal equivalent
- Translate equivalent euphemism
- 1 John 3:17
KJV: “shutteth up his bowels”
NIV: “has no pity”
- Colossians 3:12
KJV: “put on bowels of mercies”
NIV: “clothe yourselves with compassion”

Comparing Translations

Job 38:1-11

	NIV	RSV	KJV	Interlinear
1	Storm "And he said"	whirlwind	Whirlwind "and said"	תַּסְעִירָהּ the-storm "and he said"
3	Brace yourself	Gird up your loins	Gird up your loins	Loins
5	Dimensions Measuring line	Measurements line	Measures line	Dimensions Measuring line
6	footings	bases	foundations	אֲדָנֶיהָ footings-of-her
7	angels	Sons of God	Sons of God	בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים God sons-of
9	garment	Swaddling band	swaddlingband	מְלַבְּדוֹ wrapping-of-him
10	Fixed limits	Prescribed bounds	Brake up for it my decreed (place)	מִקְלִי limit-of-me

Notes:

Comparing Study Bibles

Study Bible	Baptism	Soteriology	Eschatology
Scofield	Belivers	Arminian	Premil Dispensational
Ryrie	Believers	Arminian	Premil Dispensational
NIV	?	Arminian	Premil Dispensational
MacArthur	Believers	Calvinist	Premil Dispensational
Geneval/Reformation	Babies	Calvinist	Amil Covenantal

NET Bible with Translators Notes

The NET Bible is the first Bible in history with extensive Translators' notes. The NET Bible is a completely new translation of the Bible, not a revision or an update of a previous English version. It represents the work of more than twenty biblical scholars who worked directly from the best currently available Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. The translation project originally started as an attempt to provide an electronic version of a modern translation for electronic over the internet at www.netbible.com. The 60,237 translator's notes included with the NET Bible are a major product of our internet focus. Bible readers are often not aware that every translation makes many interpretive decisions for them. One goal of the NET Bible project was to find a way to help the reader see the decisions and choices that went into the translation. The answer was to include notes by the translators. These notes are unique in providing an extended dialogue between translator and reader about the nuances which are usually lost in the translation process.

NET Translation Notes

whom you do not recognize,

Numbered options for significant interpretive issues

Preferred option given with brief support

Key scholarly articles and works cited

- 1 *Gk* "for from his fullness we have all received of χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος could be: (1) to Sinai covenant, thus replacement; (2) grace, thus correspondence. The most common sense is supported by the usage in the Septuagint which provides the background for this expression: "I have seen your ways, that I may know them; let me know your ways, that I may be able to walk in them." (The Johannine Prologue and the Messianic Son of God, *JBL* 81 [1962]: 1-12) proposed that it is this idea of favor given to the Jews that is intended ("But" is not in the Greek text, but has been added by the translators between law and grace. In Jewish sources, the word *chayin* is used to refer to the law.)
- 2 "But" is not in the Greek text, but has been added by the translators between law and grace. In Jewish sources, the word *chayin* is used to refer to the law.)

L&N 34.18; BDAG 556 s.v. κόλπος 1. Cf. NCV "what God is like." The term Ἰουδαῖοι may refer to the entire Jewish people ("the authorities in Jerusalem, the authorities or leaders in Jerusalem. of John," *BT* 26 [1975]: 401-9.) 33 892^c *al* it) or after "Levites" (P^{66c} vid. of MSS (P^{66*}, 75^s N^{c3} L^{w3} f¹ R) lack

Standard lexical and grammatical reference works cited as needed

Text-critical sigla and abbreviations are the same as in NA27

NET NT With Greek



Conclusion

Use Multiple Translations and Learn Some Greek!

- Using one translation only commits one to the interpretation of that translation
- Learn some Greek; e.g., logos, episcopas, presbyterios, cosmos, agape, ecclesia, pneuma, psyche, etc,

Commentaries

Secondary Literature

- What have others said about the passage?
- Don't use a commentary to determine what you believe
- Use a commentary to organize your thoughts after you have studied and know what you believe
- Compare with / adjust your interpretations

Types of Commentaries

- Backgrounders
- Sermon Collections
- Exegesis

Applications

Biblical Theology

- Doctrine of God (Theology)?
- Doctrine of Christ (Christology)?
- Doctrine of Humanity (Anthropology)?
- Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)?

Apologetics

What do we learn about Apologetics?

Applications: Personal Life

- List relevant life issues.
- Identify audience of application.
 - knowledge
 - action
- Time focus of application
- Limits of application

