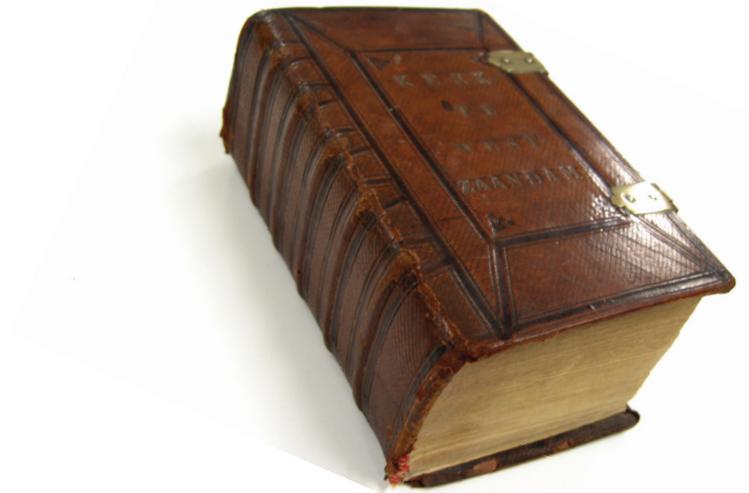


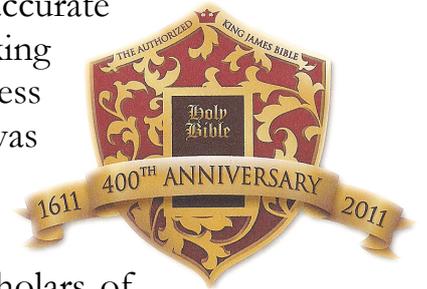
# The Path to the King James Bible of 1611



**Celebrating its  
400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

# The Path To The King James Bible

The year, 2011 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the King James Authorized Version of the Bible. The clergy in England approached their new king, James I from Scotland, and announced in 1604 their desire for an accurate translation of the Bible that would be for the English speaking peoples everywhere, without religious agenda, and would express the words of Scripture in the simplest of ways. This request was granted and personally financed by King James.



This translation of the Holy Scriptures was the result of the combined effort of forty seven of the greatest Biblical scholars of the day. These men knew dozens of languages and loved the Bible! They preached it, and memorized it, and knew it was the answer to all the world's problems. They took into consideration all the English translations that had been done before them: The Tyndale New Testament, The Coverdale Bible, The Matthews Bible, The Great Bible, The Geneva Bible, and the Rheims New Testament. They worked from the recently published "Bishop's Bible" of 1568. They had access to a great number of ancient manuscripts and early writings of the church fathers, including Official Greek and Hebrew texts.

King James went through great efforts to guard the 1611 translation from errors. Please note the following:

1. Rather than working together all at one location, these men were divided into six separate groups, which worked at three separate locations. There were two at Westminster, two at Oxford University, and two at Cambridge University.
2. Each group was given a selected portion of Scripture to translate.
3. Each scholar made his own translation of a book, and then passed it on to be reviewed by each member of his group.
4. The whole group then went over the book together.
5. Once a group had completed reviewing a book of the Bible, they sent it to be reviewed by the other five groups.
6. All objectionable and questionable translating was marked and noted, and then it was returned to the original group for consideration.
7. A special committee was then formed by selecting one leader from each group. This committee worked out all of the remaining differences and presented a finished copy for the printers in 1611.
8. This means that every word of the King James Bible had to pass at least FOURTEEN examinations before going to press.
9. Throughout this entire process, many learned scholars of the land were called upon for their recommendations, and the churches were kept informed of the progress.

In 1610 the work went to press, and in 1611 the first of the huge (16 inch tall) pulpit folios known today as "The 1611 King James Bible" came off the printing press.

It was translated at a time when the English language was "at its height." English is now a global language and nearly 33% of the world's population (approximately two bil-

lion people) can speak English. The teaching of English is now required in most nations of the world. The English language has developed over a period of seven centuries. By the year 1611 English had coalesced into what we know today as the English language.

### **Biblical scholars and language historians alike agree on the preeminence of the King James Version.**

*“Often referred to as ‘the only classic ever created by a committee,’ its uniform excellence and beauty caused it from the start to be acknowledged as a masterpiece, an outstanding literary work whose great popularity persists to the present day.”* (Adventures in English Literature, 1989)

Charles Dickens called the New Testament *"the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world."*

Jonathan Swift, writing in 1712, believed the King James Bible, *"being perpetually read in churches, have proved a kind of standard for language, especially to the common people."*

Sir Thomas Henry Hall Caine, a novelist and playwright, has said of himself: *"I think I know my Bible as few literary men know it. There is no book in the world like it, and the finest novels ever written fall far short in interest of any one of the stories it tells. Whatever strong situations I have in my books are not of my creation, but are taken from the Bible."*

English Author and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg says, *"since 1611 it [the King James Bible] has flooded over the world"*. He says it *"let loose a deluge of knowledge unlike anything that had happened before in human history"*. Speaking of the 47 men who worked for 7 years to translate the King James Bible, he concludes, *"because of them we speak out of that book still, every day of our lives"*.

The US statesman Daniel Webster said: *"If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures."*

Equally celebrated as a British orator, TB Macaulay said that the translation demonstrated *"the whole extent of [the] beauty and power"* of the English language.

### **Not every new Bible available today is of the same calibre of the King James Bible.**

Though many translations are now permitted in churches, some cling to the King James Bible. The Scriptures may be available in dozens of languages at the click of a mouse, but legions of today's readers, believer and nonbeliever alike, find more comfort in *"For dust thou art, and to dust shalt thou return"* than in the modern Good News Bible's *"you were made of soil, and you will become soil again."*

The King James translators took the view that the best translation was a literal one, so instead of adapting Hebrew and Greek to English forms of speaking, they simply translated it literally. These “Biblical” ways of expressing yourself became accepted as normal English. Examples include: *"to set one's teeth on edge"*, *"by the skin of one's teeth"*, *"the land of the living"* and *"from strength to strength"*. Newer Bibles only use words already in our language, and rarely move their readers to wonder, *"at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth."*

## The Path to the King James Bible

The Bible is the oldest book in the world. It has been read by more people and translated into more languages than any other book, and holds the distinction of being the first book ever printed on a press. It has altered the events and course of history more than any other piece of literature. The Bible has changed nations as it entered into chaotic warlike tribes and produced civilized nations. This one book has defended beleaguered women and freed slaves, teaching that all are to be treated as equals.

The Bible has been quoted more than the writings of Shakespeare or Milton. Its poetic language is unsurpassed giving us phrases like “apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

### Its Inspiration....

God used average ordinary men to pen the words recorded in the Bible. God could have dropped a perfect Bible down from the skies, complete with black leather and gold edged pages, even with maps in the back. Yet, He didn't do that. Instead He chose 40 men, some of whom were farmers, shepherds, prophets, kings and fishermen to write what He had to say. Though all were from different backgrounds and locations, they all had one thing in common: God's Holy Spirit was supernaturally communicating His Word to them to record for all ages. The Bible says in 2 Peter 1:21, *“the Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

In simple words, God inspired the Bible; that is He directed the thoughts of men such as Moses, David, and Paul and guided their writing. The word INSPIRATION literally means “breathed out by God.” God breathed or impressed upon the minds of the writers His words. God did not allow the humanity of the writers to get in the way of making an inerrant, infallible, perfect Bible. The Lord enabled these writers to write down the words perfectly. It is like the guiding of a Biro to write out words. God guided the men to write His words, perfectly! Not one word of the scriptures penned by those writers unto this day has been corrupted or compromised in our King James Bible.

Realize as you read through the Bible that the Lord used men with different personalities. Luke, for example, was a physician and so takes time to explain things medically. In the Psalms we observe David's knowledge, experience and affection for sheep as a shepherd. God used the different men in their writing styles, personalities, and backgrounds as part of His great plan. We ultimately come to the conclusion that God used men to record His words, and these words convey to this world His message of Salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

### Its Preservation...

The Bible was written a long time ago. The oldest Book in the Bible is the Book of Job, and is around 3,900 years old. Moses wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy about 3,500 years ago! Thousands of years have passed as the scriptures were copied by hand and by printing press. God promised He would preserve His words. That is in spite of attacks by religious intolerance and even poor copying. Jesus personally promised in Luke 21:33 that, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”* King David said in Psalm 12:6,7 says, *“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”* So, His words are still available to people today, if they will only want them!



### Proven by Fulfilled Prophecies

The remarkable evidence of fulfilled prophecy is just one case in point. Hundreds of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, specifically and meticulously, often long after the prophetic writer had passed away.

For example, the prophet Daniel predicted in 538 BC (Daniel 9:24-27) that the Messiah would come as Israel's Prince 483 years after the Jews were given authority to rebuild Jerusalem, which was then in ruins. This was clearly and definitely fulfilled, both by the permission to rebuild Jerusalem, and then by the arrival on Palm Sunday of Jesus into Jerusalem!

There are loads of prophecies dealing with individual nations and cities and with the course of history in general, all of which have been literally fulfilled. More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled by Christ Himself at His first coming. Other prophecies deal with the spread of Christianity, as well as various false religions, and many other subjects.

There is no other book, ancient or modern, like this. The vague, and usually erroneous, prophecies of people like Nostradamus, and others like them are not in the same category at all, and neither are other religious books such as the Koran, the Confucian Analects, the Book of Mormon and similar religious writings. Only the Bible manifests this remarkable prophetic evidence, and it does so on such a tremendous scale as to render completely absurd any explanation other than divine revelation.

### Proven by Unique Historical Accuracy

The historical accuracy of the Scriptures is far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations. Archaeological confirmations of the Biblical record have been almost innumerable in the last century. Dr. Nelson Glueck, probably the greatest modern authority on Israeli archaeology, has said: "*No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.*"

### Proven by Scientific Accuracy

Another striking evidence of supernatural inspiration is found in the fact that many of the principles of modern science were recorded as facts of nature in the Bible long before scientist confirmed them experimentally. A sampling of these would include:

- Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- The infinite extent of the visible universe (Isaiah 55:9)
- Law of conservation of mass and energy (2 Peter 3:7)
- The Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- Infinite number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)
- Law of increasing entropy – Second law of Thermodynamics (Psalm 102:25-27)
- Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)
- Atmospheric circulation (Ecclesiastes 1:6)
- Gravitational field (Job 26:7)
- and many others.

These are not stated in the technical jargon of modern science, of course, but in terms of the basic world of man's everyday experience; nevertheless, they are completely in accord with the most modern scientific facts.

**Take the time to search out the facts behind the Bible for yourself!**

# History of the Translation of the Bible

1,900-400 BC	The 32 Hebrew Prophets wrote the Books of the <b>Old Testament</b> .
35 – 95 AD	The Greek-speaking apostles and prophets write the <b>New Testament</b> immediately following the resurrection of Jesus, and sending it all over the world.
150 AD	The <b>Old Latin Bible</b> – the Itala. This was the first complete Bible with both the Old Testament and New Testament bound together in one Book.
150	The <b>Peshitta</b> (Syrian Copy).
177	The <b>Gallic Bible</b> was spreading all over southern France.
360	<b>Gothic</b> Translation by Ulfilas was being spread across ancient Germany.
400	The <b>Old Syriac</b> was spreading through Egypt, Armenia, India and China!
735	<b>Anglo-Saxon Bible</b> was being copied and preached all over England.
	<b>God Iufode middan-eard, swa paet he sealde his áncennedan Sunu, paet nán ne forweord pe on hine gelyfd, ac haebbe paet ece lif.</b> (Anglo-Saxon, 990 AD)
800	The <b>Book of Kells</b> containing the four Gospels was written and illuminated.
1384	The <b>Wycliffe Bible</b> was being hand copied and passed around England.
	<b>For God louede so the world, that he ʒaf his oon bigetun sone, that ech man that bileueth in him perische not, but haue euerlastyng lyf.</b> (Wycliffe 1384)
1450	<b>Johannes Gutenberg</b> created a printing plate with moveable type, and for the first time printed an entire Bible quickly and cheaply!
1522-1534	<b>Martin Luther's Bible</b> was completed and distributed all over Germany.
	<b>Denn also hat Gott die Welt geliebt, das ser seinen eingeborenen Sohn gab, damit alle, die an ihn glauben, nicht verloren warden, sondern das ewige Leben haden</b>
1525	William <b>Tyndale's New Testament</b> was completed, and tens of thousands were printed and sent all over England!
	<b>For God so loveth the world, that he hath given his only son, that none that believe in him, should perish: but should have everlasting life.</b>
1535	The <b>Miles Coverdale Bible</b> completed Tyndale's attempt at publishing an entire Bible in English.
	<b>For God so loued the worlde, that he gaue his onely sonne, that who so euer beleueth in hi, shulde not perishe, but haue euerlasting life.</b> (Coverdale, 1535)
1537	The <b>Matthew's Bible</b> (John Rogers) improved on the Coverdale Bible.
1539	<b>The Great Bible</b> was published
1560	<b>Geneva Bible</b> was published in Switzerland during Bloody Mary's reign.
	<b>For God so loued the worlde, that hee hath giuen his onely begotten Sonne, that whosoever beleueth in him, should not perish, but haue euerlasting life.</b>
1568	<b>The Bishop's Bible</b> was published to improve on the Geneva Bible.
	<b>For God so loued the worlde, that he gaue his only begotten sonne, that whosoever beleueth in hym, shoulde not perishe, but haue euerlastyng lyfe.</b> (Bishops 1568)
1610	The Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Version was published.
	<b>For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son: that whosoever believeth in him may not perish, but may have life everlasting.</b> (Douay-Rheims)
1611	<b>The King James Bible</b> was completed and published.
	<b>For God so loued ye world, that he gaue his only begotten Sonne: that whosoever beleueth in him, should not perish, but haue euerlasting life.</b> (KJV 1611)
1769	Final update of King James Bible. It is the KJV people own and read today!
	<b>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.</b> (KJV today)

# HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

## 1900 BC – 400 BC

- The Old Testament of the Bible was mainly written in Hebrew.
- 32 men wrote the 39 Books of the Old Testament.
- The oldest Hebrew Scriptures come from the Dead Sea Scrolls of 100 BC.
- There are over 70,000 Hebrew manuscripts still around.
- Hebrew is read from right to left..
- Scrolls were made out of animal skins.



This is what the Bible looked like that Jesus read in the synagogue in Luke 4:16-21.



Contrary to popular opinion that the Hebrew Scriptures have become corrupt by a case of “Chinese Whispers”, these books are the most meticulously preserved writings of all history. It was the full-time job of a certain group of Jews called scribes to accurately recreate copies and they followed very precise rules and procedures to accomplish this. A testimony to the success of their work is found in the word for word accuracy of the Isaiah Scroll found in the caves of Qumran, 13 miles from Jerusalem. Previous to this discovery in 1947, the oldest copies dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Independent analysis of the scroll date it to about 100 BC!

- The Hebrew language has 22 consonants and NO vowels! Genesis 1:1 would read like this (*if it was written in English without vowels*):

**NTHBGNNGGDCRDTTHHVNNDTHRTH**

- The English language traces its roots back through Latin and Greek, all the way back to Hebrew. The whole world actually spoke Hebrew prior to the division of languages at the Tower of Babel.
- The Hebrew Old Testament contains 24 books. This is because 1 and 2 Samuel are one book, Chronicles and Kings are one, Ezra-Nehemiah one, and the 12 Minor Prophets are considered one book also.
- The Jews were responsible for deciding what books were part of the Old Testament.

## GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

37 AD – 95 AD

- This is the language of the New Testament.
- Jesus spoke both Hebrew and Greek.
- 8 men wrote the 27 Books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, and Jude.
- Over 5,366 Greek manuscripts still exist after 2,000 years!

The Greek language of Jesus' day, was very advanced, and was the language of the Western World surrounding Israel.

The Old Testament of the Bible was mainly written in the language of the Jews – Hebrew. But the world of Gentiles spoke Greek, as did even Jesus as well as all Jews. So God moved in the hearts and minds of men to pen His words in the language of the world – Greek.

The Greek New Testament was written by eight men (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, and Jude), starting with Matthew writing in 37AD right after the resurrection, and finishing with the Apostle John penning *the Revelation* in 95 AD.

At first the New Testament Scriptures were written on sheets of papyrus (an early form of paper) made from plants that grew near rivers, and then later on vellum, which came from animal skin. Papyrus usually disintegrated within a few hundred years, but vellum would last thousands of years when protected.

All copies of the New Testament were written and copied by hand. Those copies were used to make more copies, and then more copies, until the message of the Bible was carried deep into Africa, far into China and India, and even up into Northern Europe by the end of the First Century!

Today, there are 5,366 pieces of papyrus and vellum that still remain, containing the New Testament Scriptures. Some 1,000 years old, but many almost 2,000 years old! In 1934 Historians discovered in Egypt the John Rayland Fragment of the Gospel of John. Although this was not the original Greek text, it certainly is the oldest copy of a Greek manuscript, and dates back to 100AD. The Chester Beatty manuscripts contain most of the New Testament and are dated mid-200's AD. The Bodmer Papyri II collection includes the first fourteen chapters of the Gospel of John and much of the last seven chapters. It dates from earlier than 200 AD.

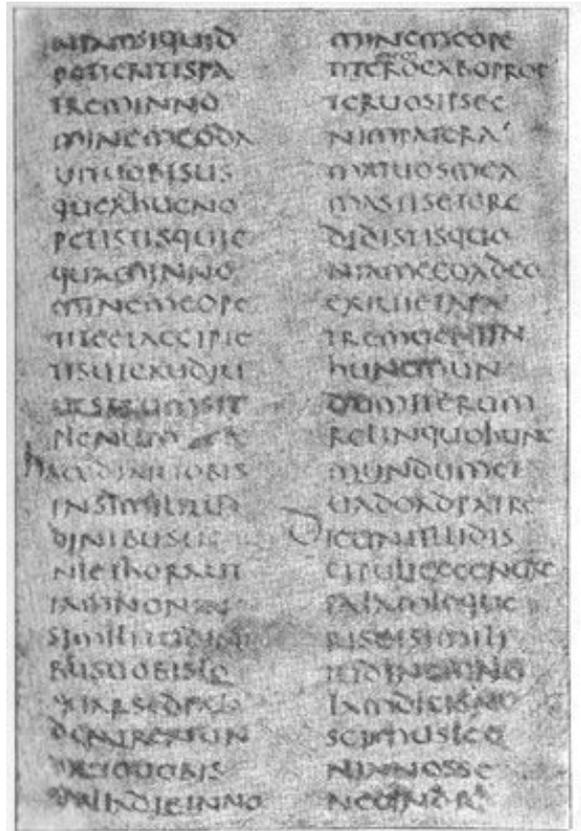


### John 3:16 in New Testament Greek

οὕτω γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

## THE OLD LATIN 160 AD – 405 AD

- The Bible was first translated into the Latin language - the language of the world in 160 AD.
- It was the first time both Old and New Testaments were put together into one Book – and called the Bible!
- Every page of Scripture was hand copied.
- Christians took these old Latin Scriptures all over the world.
- Jerome in the 4<sup>th</sup> century retranslated the Hebrew and Greek into a more modern Latin, but inserted many Catholic dogmas into the translation.



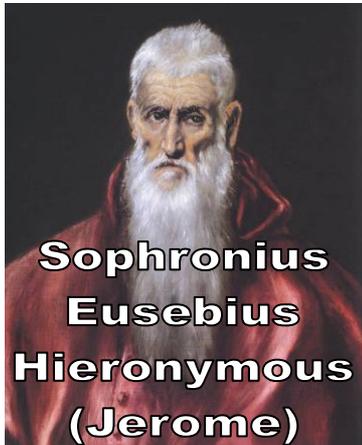
The Old Latin was better than the new Latin. Many of Jerome's Latin Scriptures were clearly not translated from the Hebrew or Greek Scriptures, like:

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said:

*Give us this day our daily bread.* (Matthew 6:11).

On the other hand, the Latin Vulgate tells us:

*Give us this day our supersubstantial bread.* (Latin Vulgate)



The great prophecy of Genesis chapter 3:15 where the Lord God promised that **the seed** of the woman would crush the serpents head:

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

The Latin Vulgate Version changes the word HE to SHE:

*I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.* (Latin Vulgate Version).

Psalm 23:5 in the King James Bible says,

*Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

The Latin Vulgate says,

*Thou hast anointed my head with oil; and my chalice which inebreateth me, how goodly is it!*

John the Baptist in Matthew 3:2 says,

KJV *Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Vulgate *Do penance: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Unlike Jerome's Latin Vulgate, the Old Latin texts were true to the original Greek and Hebrew, and helped in the translation of the King James Bible of 1611.

## THE BOOK OF KELLS

800 AD

- Written in Latin.
- 340 pages.
- Contains the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Extravagantly decorated.
- Part of the Celtic effort to make copies of the Bible.
- In the end, it became only a decorated ornament.

To most people, the Book of Kells is just an elaborately beautiful work of medieval art – nothing more. Yet between its carefully painted lettering and creatures rests the very words of Scripture in Latin!

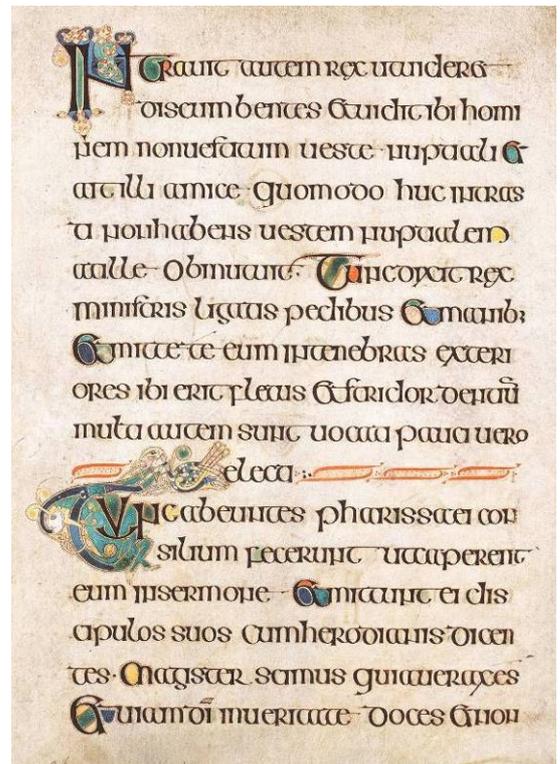
During the Dark Ages (500-1400 AD), most of the continent of Europe was controlled by fears, superstitions, and ignorance. Learning was only centred in the largest cities, and most countries only regularly experienced war and disease. But the Bible was still being copied and distributed even in this trying of times.

All the way up in Scotland, a monastery on the island of Iona was founded in 563 by the monk Columba, also known as Colm Cille, who had been exiled from his native Ireland. The monastery was hugely successful, and played a crucial role in the conversion to Christianity of the Picts of present-day Scotland in the late 6th century and of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria in 635. A large number of similar institutions were founded, and Iona became the centre of one of the most important monastic systems in Great Britain and Ireland. Its scriptorium (rooms where documents were carefully hand copied) produced many highly important documents, especially copies of the Scriptures. Those pages of Scripture over time became more popular when they were decorated, than when they were accurate, and so the Scriptures became more and more works of art!

Around 800 AD, the Book of Kells was created in Iona. The text of the Gospels is largely drawn from Jerome's Latin Vulgate, but it also includes several passages drawn from the earlier versions of the Bible known as the Old Latin. It is a masterwork of calligraphy and represents the pinnacle of Celtic Artwork.

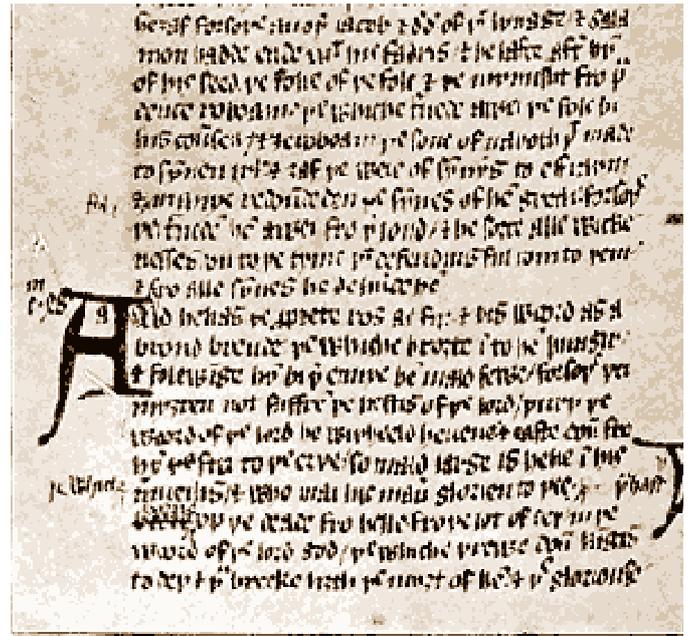
Because of all the artwork, it is considered to be the most beautiful book of all time. It certainly is the most studied book of all time. Half a million people go to see it every year in Trinity College in Dublin. It uses highly advanced inks from as far away as Mesopotamia, and the artwork shows familiarity with design from Africa, eastern Europe, England, and Ireland.

Due to attacks against Scotland by Vikings during the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the book was moved to Ireland to the place it takes its name from - the Abbey of Kells, in County Meath. Today, in Dublin, it is treated as Ireland's national treasure, not knowing that it is the **words** that it contains that are the priceless "*words of eternal life*" (John 6:68)!



## JOHN WYCLIFFE BIBLE 1382-1395 AD

- Most people at the time never heard the Bible in English, only in Latin.
- Wycliffe said, “*Christ and his apostles taught the people in that tongue that was best known to them. Why should men not do so now?*”
- No printing presses existed yet, so every Bible was hand-copied.
- He spoke and wrote in Middle English. One of the most famous Scriptures in the Bible is John 3:16, which looked like the following:



“*For God louede so the world, that he gaf his oon bigetun sone, that ech man that bileueth in him perische not, but haue euerlastynge lijf.*” (English in 1384)  
“For God loved so the world, that he gave his own begotten son, that each man that believeth in him perish not, but have everlasting life.”

The first hand-written English language Bible manuscripts were produced in the 1380's AD by John Wycliffe, an Oxford professor, scholar, and theologian.

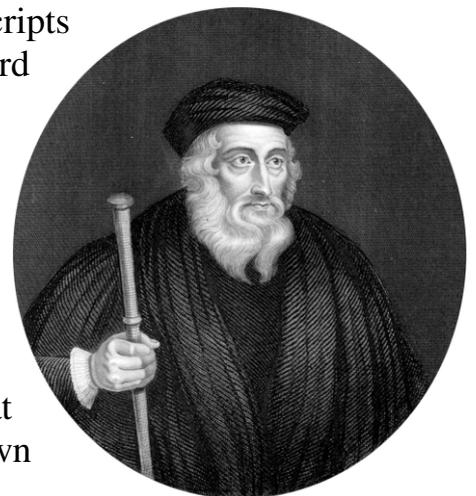
Wycliffe, was well-known throughout Europe for his opposition to the teaching of the organized Church, which he believed to be contrary to the Bible.

He was an Oxford Scholar and teacher, but loved to pastor and teach people the Bible.

His fundamental belief was that the Church should be poor, as in the days of the apostles. He firmly believed that all peoples should be able to read the Bible in their own language.

With the help of his followers, called the Lollards, and his assistant name Purvey, and many other faithful scribes, Wycliffe produced dozens of English language hand-written copies of the scriptures. They were translated out of the Latin Vulgate, which was the only source of Scripture available to Wycliffe.

Pope Martin V was so infuriated by his teachings and especially his translation of the Bible into English, that even 44 years after Wycliffe had died, he ordered the bones to be dug-up, crushed, and scattered in the river!



## THE GUTENBERG BIBLE

1450 AD

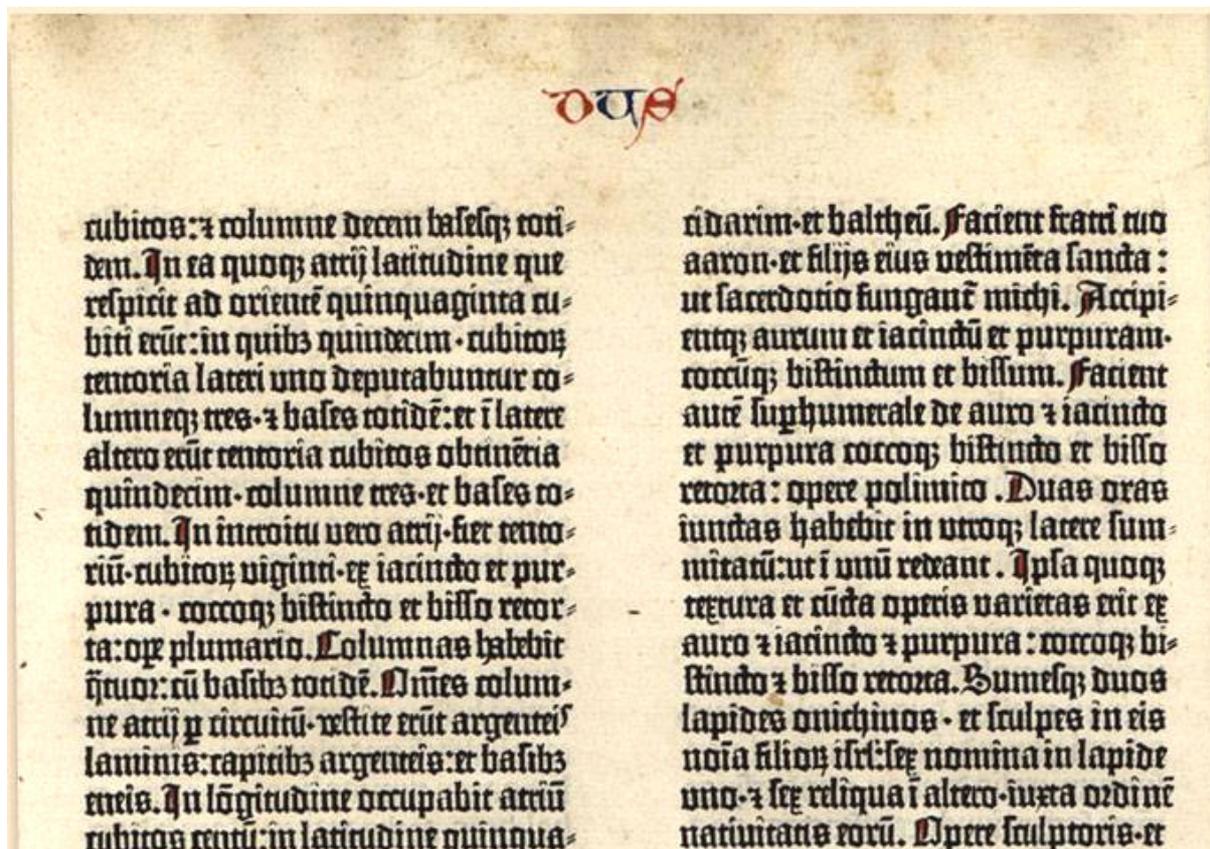
- Johannes Gutenberg invented metal, moveable type printing press
- Invented oil-based inks
- Could now print very cheaply and quickly
- First book printed was the Bible
- Began the printing revolution!



Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 1450's, and the first book to ever be printed was a Latin language Bible, printed in Mainz, Germany.

Gutenberg's Bibles were surprisingly beautiful, as each leaf Gutenberg printed was later colourfully hand-illuminated.

Born as "Johann Gensfleisch" (John Gooseflesh), he preferred to be known as "Johann Gutenberg" (John Beautiful Mountain). Ironically, though he had created what many believe to be the most important invention in history, Gutenberg was a victim of unscrupulous business associates who took control of his business and left him in poverty. Nevertheless, the invention of the movable-type printing press meant that Bibles and books could finally be effectively produced in large quantities in a short period of time. This was the beginning of the end of the Dark Ages, and the start of Bible publishing all throughout Europe!.



## WILLIAM TYNDALE'S NEW TESTAMENT 1526 AD

- Tyndale knew Greek, Latin, Hebrew, German, Spanish and French
- 75% of the King James Bible came from Tyndale.
- He was burnt at the stake just for translating the Scriptures into English.

*"I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!"*

His last words were, *"Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"*

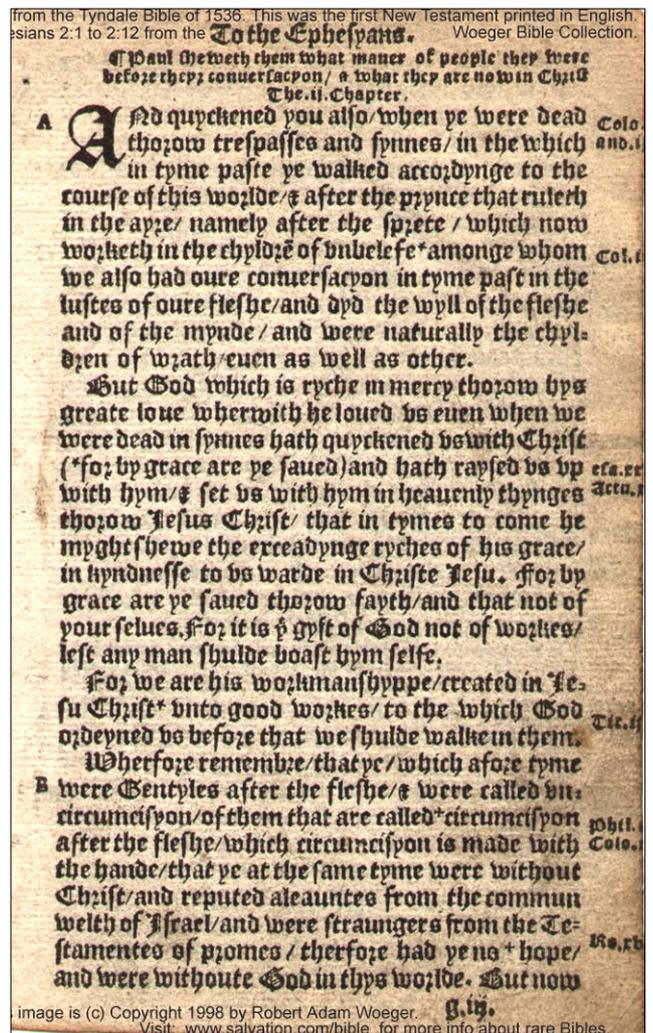
William Tyndale holds the distinction of being the first man to ever print the New Testament in the English language. Tyndale was a true scholar and a genius, so fluent in eight languages that it was said one would think any one of them to be his native tongue. He is frequently referred to as the "Architect of the English Language", (even more so than William Shakespeare) as so many of the phrases Tyndale coined are still in our language today.

Tyndale showed up on Martin Luther's doorstep in Germany in 1525, and by year's end had translated the entire New Testament into English. Tyndale had been forced to flee England, because of the wide-spread rumour that his English New Testament project was underway, causing inquisitors and bounty hunters to be constantly on Tyndale's trail to arrest him and prevent his project.



God foiled their plans, and in 1525-1526 the Tyndale New Testament became the first printed edition of the scripture in the English language. Subsequent printings of the Tyndale New Testament in the 1530's were often elaborately illustrated.

As soon as the Bishop could confiscate the new Bibles, he would have them burned! Yet copies of Tyndale's New Testament trickled through the barriers and actually ended up in the bedroom of King Henry VIII. The more the King and Bishop resisted its distribution, the more fascinated the public at large became. The Church declared it contained thousands of errors as they torched hundreds of New Testaments



## The Path to the King James Bible

confiscated by the clergy, while in fact, they burned them because they could find no errors at all. A person risked their own death by burning if they were caught in mere possession of Tyndale's "forbidden book".

To the Church of the day, it was rightly feared that having God's Word available to the public in the language of the common man, English, would have meant disaster to the Church. No longer would they control access to the scriptures. No longer would people just believe what was taught. If people were able to read the Bible in their own tongue, the church's income and power would soon crumble. They could not possibly continue to get away with selling indulgences (the forgiveness of sins) or selling the release of loved ones from a church-manufactured "Purgatory". People would begin to challenge the church's authority if the church were exposed as frauds and thieves. The contradictions between what God's Word said, and what the priests taught, would open the public's eyes and the truth would set them free from the grip of fear that the institutional church held. The salvation that is through faith, and not works or donations, would finally be understood. The need for priests would vanish through the Bible's teaching of the priesthood of all believers. The veneration of church-canonized Saints and even Mary would be called into question. The availability of the scriptures in English was the biggest threat imaginable to the Church. And neither side would give up without a fight.

Tyndale's flight was an inspiration to freedom-loving English-speaking men who drew courage from the 11 years that he was hunted. Books and Bibles flowed into England in bales of cotton and sacks of flour. Ironically, Tyndale's biggest customer was the King's men, who would buy up every copy available to burn them... with Tyndale using their money to print even more!

In the end, Tyndale was caught: betrayed by an Englishman that he had befriended. Tyndale was imprisoned for 500 days before he was strangled and burned at the stake in 1536.



Tyndale's last words were, "*Oh Lord, open the King of England's eyes*". This prayer would be answered just three years later in 1539, when King Henry VIII finally allowed, and even funded, the printing of an English Bible known as "**The Great Bible**".

William Tyndale was willing to give his life that English speaking people could have the Word of God in a language they were able to understand.

Today, there are only two known copies left of Tyndale's 1525-26 First Edition. Any copies printed prior to 1570 are extremely valuable.

What would you be willing to go through to just own a Bible in your own language? William Tyndale died so that you could not only have your own copy, but freely read it and live it!

# THE COVERDALE BIBLE

## 1535 AD



- The first complete printed translation into English
- The first officially approved translation into English (all others were illegal)
- The Old Testament was translated mainly from Luther's German Bible
- Coverdale was also involved in helping translate the Great Bible of 1539.

Miles Coverdale was a student of William Tyndale, and after the death of Tyndale, finished translating the Old Testament making use of Luther's German text and the Latin as sources. In 1535 he combined Tyndale's New Testament along with his completed Old Testament, and printed the first complete Bible in the English language.

Unlike Tyndale, Coverdale managed to gain the approval of both ecclesiastical and royal authorities in order to get the Bible translation published. He also influenced later English translations by separating the Apocryphal writings, previously interspersed in the Old Testament, and placed them as a group between the Old and New Testaments. This took Bible translations one step closer to being simple, honest translations of scripture only. Coverdale escaped the intense persecution that followed translators of that day and lived to the good age of 80.

### Some of Coverdale's translation:

Psalm 1:1

*"O Blessed is the man, that goeth not in the councell of the ungodly: that abydeth not in the waye off sinners, or syteth not in the seate of the scornfull."*

Psalm 22:1-3 (Chapter 23 in KJV)

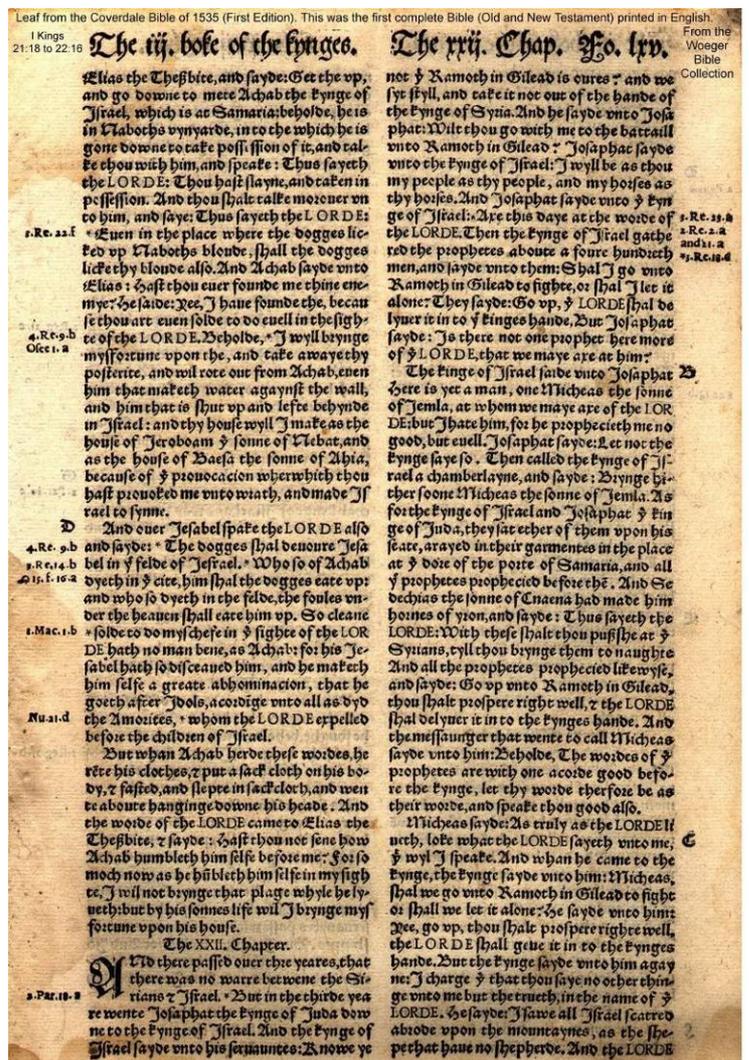
*"The Lorde is my shepherd, I can want nothing. He feedeth me in a green pasture, and leadeth me to a fresh water. He quickeneth my soul, and bringeth me forth in the way of rightness for his name sake."*

Isaiah 53:6

*"As for us, we go all astraye (like shepe), every one turneth his owne waye."*

Jeremiah 17:1

*"Graven upon the edge of your altars with a pen of iron and with an adamant claw."*



# THE MATTHEWS BIBLE

1537 AD

- It is the completion of the Bible that William Tyndale began.
- Translated by John Rogers.
- Used Tyndale's New Testament and Miles Coverdale's Old Testament.
- Licensed by King Henry VIII.
- A better English Bible than the Coverdale Bible of 1535.

The Matthew's Bible brings together the work of two giants of sixteenth century English Bible translation: William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale. They both shared a vision of making the Holy Scriptures available to ordinary believers during a time when kings and popes alike opposed translating them into English.

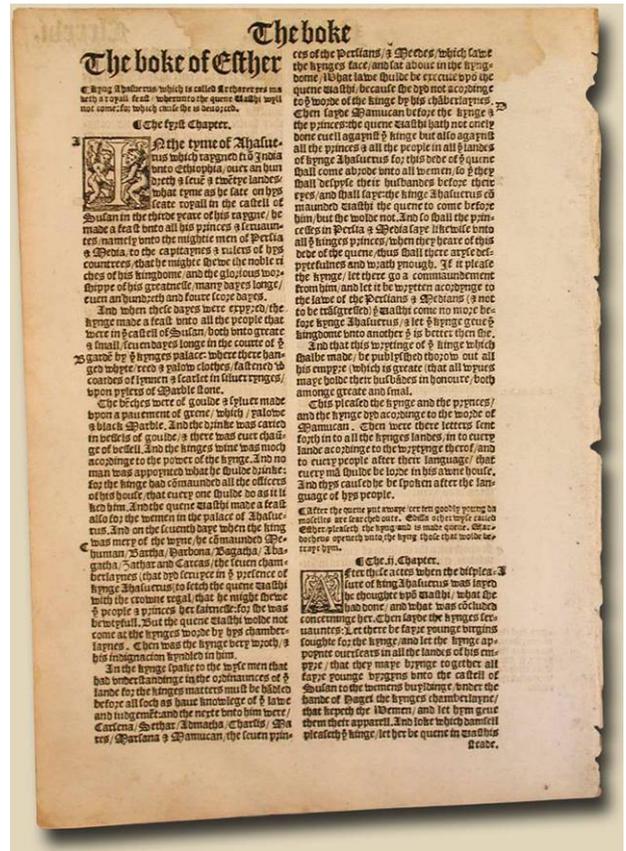
While Miles Coverdale worked on his translation using Tyndale's New Testament, another version was being prepared titled the "Matthew's Bible" since its compiler, pastor John Rogers, knew that having your name associated with a Bible meant burning at a stake like Tyndale's fate, which is exactly what ended up happening!

John Rogers finished and published his English Bible within a year of Tyndale's execution. He completed the translation work of Tyndale by combining Tyndale's Pentateuch and New Testament (1534-1535 edition) and Coverdale's Bible and some of Roger's own translation of the text, producing the second complete English Bible in 1537.

The Matthew's Bible has the honour of being the first English translation to circulate

freely from the time of John Wycliffe.

How thankful we should be that we have the Word of God! How thankful we should be that people such as William Tyndale, Miles Coverdale, and John Rogers lived and laboured so that we could enjoy the wonderful words of life. May the story behind the Matthew's Bible encourage us to read the Word of God with diligence to understand God's purpose and will for us!



# THE GREAT BIBLE

## 1538 AD

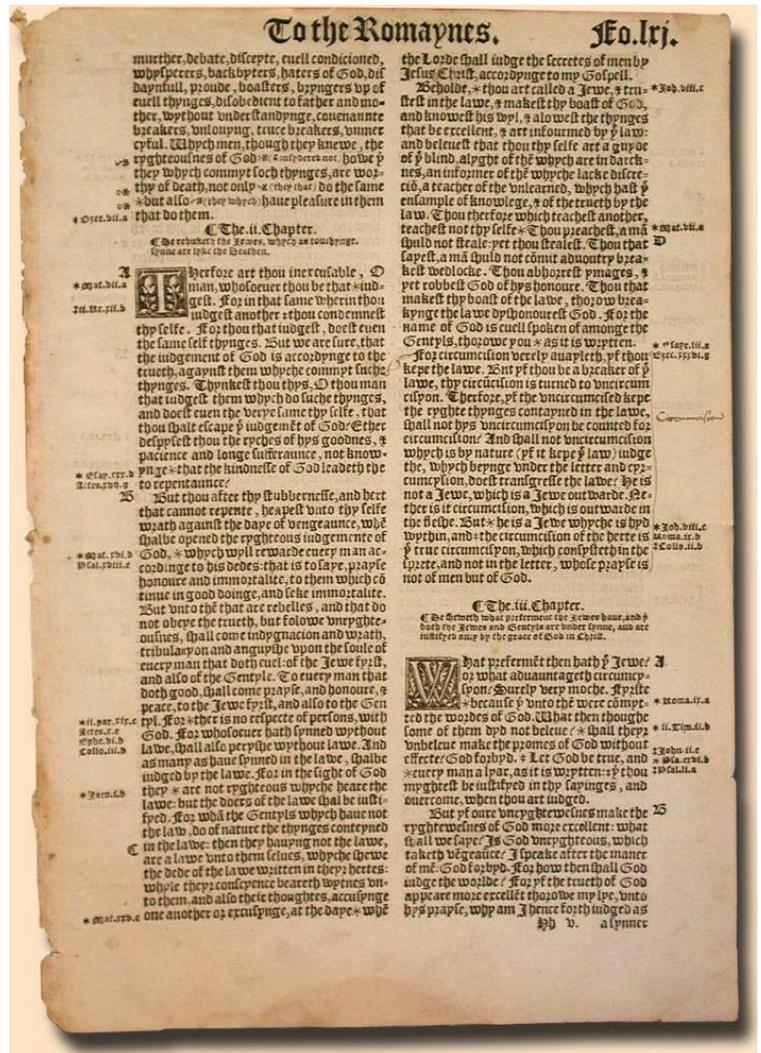
- A revision of the Matthew's Bible.
- Called "Great" because it was large in size.
- Given to every church so everyone could read it.
- King Henry VIII approved of it.
- The Inquisition sought out and destroyed most copies.

In 1539, Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, hired Miles Coverdale at the bequest of King Henry VIII to publish the "Great Bible".

It became the first English Bible authorized for public use, as it was distributed to every church, chained to the pulpit, and a reader was even provided so that the illiterate could hear the Word of God in plain English.

This Bible was known as the Great Bible due to its great size: a large pulpit folio measuring over 14 inches tall. Seven editions of this version were printed between April of 1539 and December of 1541.

It would seem that William Tyndale's last wish had been granted... just three years after his martyrdom.



# GENEVA BIBLE 1560 AD

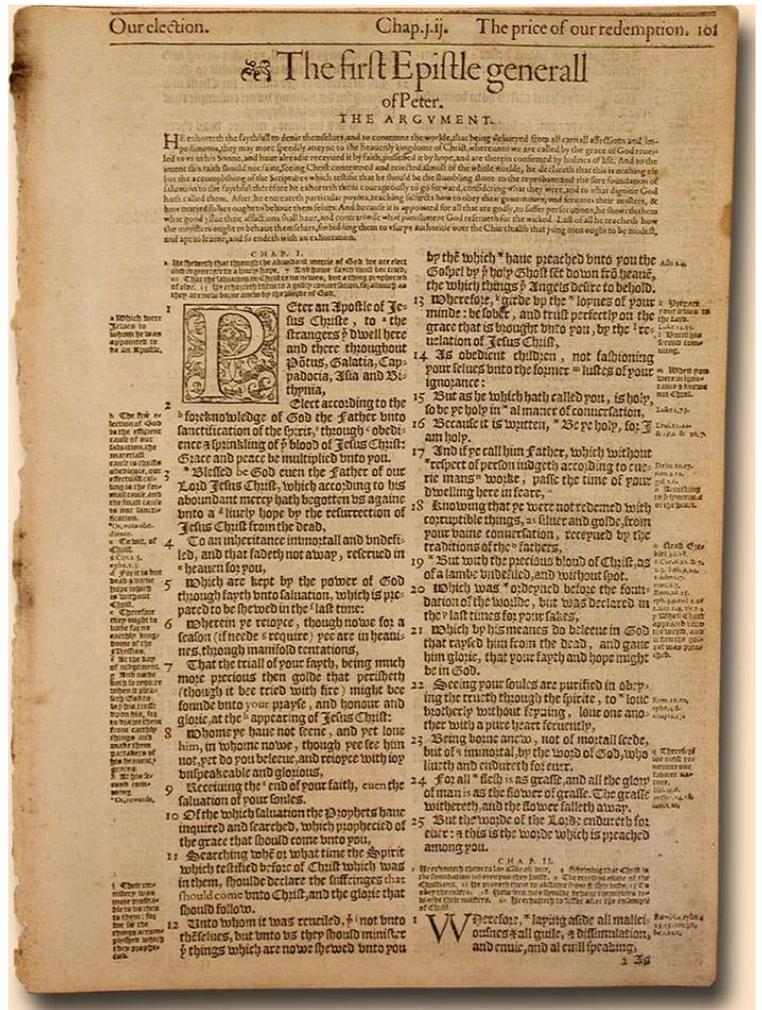
- Published During the reign of Bloody Queen Mary.
- First Bible translated by a team of scholars.
- Printed in easy to read Roman Font.
- The first Bible to include verse numbers.
- A Puritan Bible.
- Most popular Bible until the KJV of 1611.

The Geneva Bible (also known as the “Breeches” Bible) was the Bible of the Protestant Reformation. It was originally produced in 1560, more than 50 years before the King James Bible, and it remained the most popular English language Bible among the people until a few decades after the introduction of the King James Bible.

The Geneva Bible was first produced in Geneva, Switzerland, by refugees from England, fleeing the persecution of Bible believers by Catholic Queen “Bloody” Mary. Many copies were smuggled back into England at great personal risk. In later years, when Protestant-friendly Queen Elizabeth took the throne, printing of the Geneva Bible moved back to England.

The Geneva Bible was produced by John Calvin, John Knox, Myles Coverdale, John Foxe, and other Reformers. It is this version of the Bible that William Shakespeare quotes from hundreds of times in his plays, and it was the first English Bible to offer a plain roman-style type font in its printings. Roman font is the style of font that we still use today in most of our writing and communication. The simpler Roman-type was much easier to read than the Gothic style font used in the other Bibles.

The Geneva Bible was the first Bible taken to America, brought over on the Mayflower ship with the Pilgrim. The Geneva Bible was also the first English Bible to break the chapters of scripture into numbered verses, and it was the first true “Study Bible” offering extensive commentary notes in the margins. It was the Bible that most people owned and read at home.



# THE BISHOPS BIBLE

1568 AD

- Translated mainly by Church of England Bishops.
- Uses lofty and majestic language.
- Not very clear or easy to understand like Tyndale's Bible had been.
- Generally not liked.

Except for the Geneva Bible, the other English Bibles had been largely the work of individual translators. This sometimes allowed personal viewpoints to creep into the way the Scriptures were translated.

In 1561, three years after Elizabeth I ascended the throne, Archbishop Parker submitted a proposal for a new translation in opposition to the Geneva Bible because of its strong wording against kings and the Church. So a group of Church of England Bishops were assembled to prepare a new version, which was to have "*no bitter or controversial annotations to the text.*" The result was the Bishop's Bible, first printed in 1568.

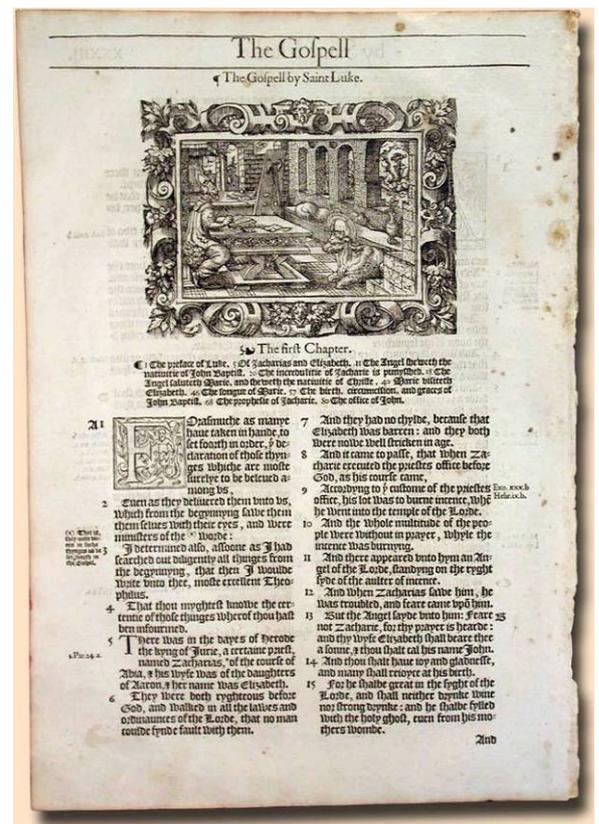
The Great Bible was the basis for this new version. Unfortunately, none of the Bishops were Hebrew scholars. so they had to make use of the Latin texts of the Hebrew Bible. This meant that the Bishops Bible required many corrections and revisions.

Another problem with this Bible was the fact that it used more "ecclesiastical" language (making it sound churchy), and making the wording of the Psalms impossible to sing. That meant that the Bishops Bible was never popular enough to be read at home. It was only read at church, and that, as little as possible.

The translators of the King James Version were instructed to take the 1602 edition of the Bishops' Bible as their basis, although several other existing translations were taken into account. After it was published in 1611, the King James Version soon took the Bishops' Bible's place as the de facto standard of the Church of England.

Note Psalm 23:1-4 between the Bishop's Bible and the King James Bible

<p>1 God is my shepherde, therefore I can lacke nothyng:                  2 he wyll cause me to repose my selfe in pasture full of grasse, and he wyll leade me vnto calme waters.                  3 He wyll conuert my soule: he wyll bring me forth into the pathes of righteousnesse for his name sake.                  4 Yea though I walke through the valley of the shadowe of death, I wyll feare no euill: for thou art with me, thy rodde and thy staffe be the thynges that do comfort me.</p>	<p>1 The Lord is my shepheard, I shall not want.                  2 He maketh me to lie downe in greene pastures: he leadeth mee beside the still waters.                  3 He restoreth my soule: he leadeth me in the pathes of righteousnes, for his names sake.                  4 Yea though I walke through the valley of the shadowe of death, I will feare no euill: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staffe, they comfort me.</p>
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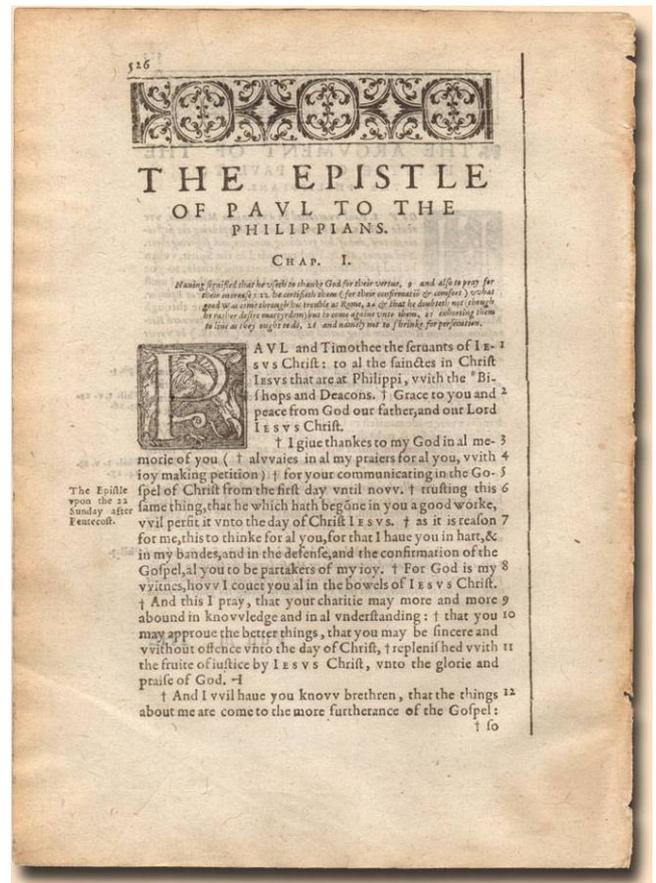
## THE DOUAY-RHEIMS 1609 AD

- Translated by Roman Catholic Bishops.
- An English translation of Jerome's Latin translation of the Hebrew and Greek.
- Written to support Catholic teachings instead of just declaring what Scriptures said in English.
- The basis for all Catholic Bibles today.
- Still contains the Apocryphal Books that were removed by all the other English Bibles.

While the Anglicans were printing their Great, Bishops, and King James Bibles, and the Protestants were printing their Geneva Bibles, the Roman Catholics in 1582 finally give up, retracting their official policy of "kill anyone who prints the Bible in English" which they held to for over 1,000 years, and translated their own version of the Bible into English.

Translated exclusively from the Latin Vulgate (the only source text accepted by the Roman Catholic Church, in spite of the fact that the original scriptures were in Hebrew and Greek) this work was done at the College of Rheims in France. This first press run of the scriptures to ever be authorized as "acceptable" by the Roman Catholic Church was published in 1582. The Roman Catholic Church did not complete its authorized translation of the Old Testament until 28 years later in 1610, with the Douay Old Testament. Often, one will hear of the two printings referred to collectively as "**The Douay-Rheims.**"

When the Rheims translation was published, there was an outcry from both the Anglican and the Protestant Churches, concerning how grossly inaccurate it was. The problem was, that while the Anglicans and Protestants were using the original Hebrew and Greek to do their translations, the Catholics were using only the "Latin Vulgate" to do their English translations, and even then, they were altering the translation to reflect more kindly upon Roman Catholic teachings. Sometimes these examples were so glaringly obvious as to almost be laughable. For example, the passage in the Lord's Prayer in which Jesus says "*Give us this day, our daily bread*" is rendered "*Give us this day, our super-substantiated bread*" (!) This was done to emphasize the supposed scriptural legitimacy of the elements of the Lord's Supper (the Eucharist) literally becoming the flesh of Jesus (transubstantiation). Psalm 23



## KING JAMES BIBLE

1611 AD



- Team of 47 Bible Scholars worked for 7 years to translate.
- They translated and reviewed each and every word at total of 14 times!
- The final edition was published in 1769 with only minor spelling changes.
- 2011 is the 400th anniversary
- Over 1 billion copies of the King James Bible have printed since 1611.

### The Millenary Petition.

In 1604, the “Millenary Petition,” signed by 1,000 Puritan clergymen, was presented to King James VI of Scotland as he came to England to be its new king. The Petition called upon King James to allow certain changes in church

services and government, such as the elimination of the “sign of the cross,” elaborate priestly garments, and wedding rings, etc. and stricter church discipline. King James arranged for a meeting of the Puritan Scholars as well as Church of England Bishops at Hampton Court, January 14-18, 1604 A.D. to settle (as he saw it) “things pretended to be amiss in the Church.”

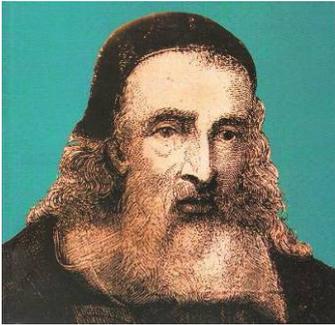
**Dr. John Reynolds** (1549-1607 A.D.) was the main speaker on behalf of the Puritans. Only one suggestion from Dr. John Reynolds caught the attention of the king. It was, “That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England, in time of divine service.” It was this suggestion which led to the translation and universal publication of the Authorized, King James Version. The King was well aware that the Great Bible was too cumbersome; the Geneva Bible was too controversial; and the Bishops Bible was too careless. So, on July 22, 1604. King James announced he had selected **54** men to translate the new Bible. The qualification required of each man was that he was a proven Biblical scholar.

### Jesuit Attempts To Destroy The Translation.

In 1605 A.D. a Jesuit plot to assassinate the King by blowing up the House of Lords on its opening was uncovered. Eight men, including the traitor Guy Fawkes were captured and executed. If he had succeeded, all of history definitely would have been different, including the publication of the greatest work of English literature of all time, the King James Bible!

# THE BIBLE IN IRISH

## 1602 – 1648 AD



William Bedell

### The Gospel of John 3:16 in 1648 Irish looks like:

16 ¶ Oíu is mar so do ghrádhúigh  
Dia an domhan, go dtug sé a éing-  
hein Mheic [féin], ionnus gidh bé chreideas  
ann, nach rachadh sé a  
mugha, achd go mbeith an bheatha shiorruidhe aige.

“Oír is mar so do ghrádhúigh Dia an domhan, go dtug sé a éing-  
hein Mheic fein, ionnus gidh bé chreideas ann, nach rachadh sé a  
mugha, achd go mbeith an bheatha shiorruidhe aige.”

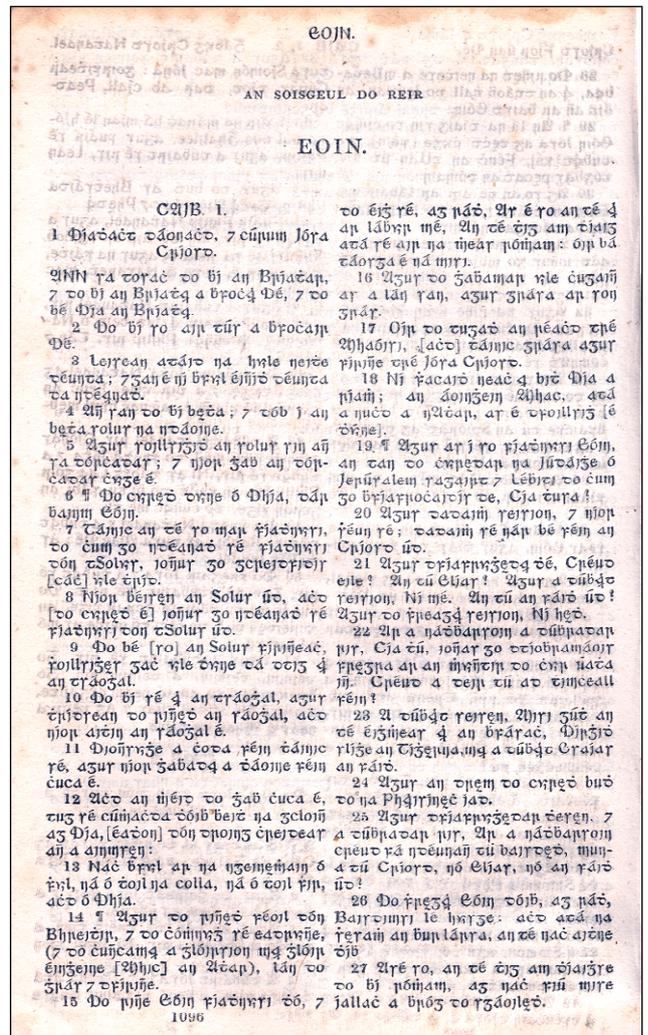
- New Testament translated in 1602 by William O’Donnell
- Old Testament translated in 1648 by William Bedell
- Was sold for only 25 Schillings
- Most copies were burned by priests

The first Irish translation of the New Testament was begun by Nicholas Walsh, Bishop of Ossory, who worked on it until his untimely death in 1585. The work was continued by John Kearny, his assistant, and Dr. Nehemiah Donellan, Archbishop of Tuam, and it was finally completed by **William O'Domhnuill** (William Daniell, Archbishop of Tuam in succession to Donellan). Their work was printed in 1602.

In 1627, **William Bedell** arrived in Ireland to become Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.

In 1629, as Bishop of Kilmore and Ardagh, he required that all pastors spoke Irish to their congregations, and he commissioned the translation of the Old Testament of the Bible into the Irish Language, with the help of an Irish rector named Muircheartach Ó Cionga.

He was against abuse, no matter where it came, and stood with the Catholic tenants of Kilmore against the excesses of Dr Alan Cooke, the incumbent chancellor of the diocese. This proved to be his ruin, for when the 1641 rebellion broke out, William Bedell was arrested, and became ill under the poor conditions of his imprisonment. He died on 7 February 1642 and was buried next to his wife Leah at Kilmore, where he received an honourable funeral in the presence of his O'Raghallaigh (O'Reilly) captors. At his funeral, a Roman Catholic priest, Father Farrelly, was heard to say, "May my soul be with Beddell's".



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## The Influence of the King James Bible on Modern English

No other book, or indeed any piece of culture, seems to have influenced the English language as much as the King James Bible. Its use of phrases have permeated our everyday language whether or not we've ever opened a copy. Have you ever said...

**We don't see eye to eye** (Isaiah 52:8)  
**There's no rest for the wicked** (Isaiah 48:22)  
**You took the word's out of my mouth** (2 Samuel 14:3)  
**By the skin of your teeth!** (Job 19:20)  
**By the sweat of your brow!** (Genesis 3:16)  
**My heart's desire** (Psalm 21:2)  
**By the strait and narrow** (Matthew 7:14)  
**The root of the matter** (Job 19:28)  
**From strength to strength** (Psalm 84:7)  
**God forbid!** (Genesis 44:7)  
**Go the extra mile** (Matthew 5:41)  
**Don't miss the boat** (Genesis 7)  
**Holy smoke** (Exodus 19:16-18)  
**Holy cow** (Exodus 32:8)  
**Apple of his eye** (Deuteronomy 32:10)  
**I'll show you a thing or two** (1 Samuel 14:12)  
**You haven't heard the half of it** (2 Chronicles 9:6)  
**It's water under the bridge** (Job 11:16)  
**Lay me down to sleep** (Psalm 4:8)  
**Spare the rod, spoil the child** (Proverbs 13:24)  
**Money talks** (Ecclesiastes 10:19)

### Did you know?

1. The entire Bible can be read through in just **72** hours at normal reading speed!
2. The whole world had at least a portion of Bible in their language by 300 AD.
3. After the Dark Ages faded, the whole world got the Bible AGAIN by 1900.
4. The Bible is ONE Book made up of **66** separate books.
5. The Bible is divided into two main sections: **Old** and **New Testaments**.
6. It has **1,189** Chapters, **31,102** Verses, and **783,137** Words.
7. There are **1,260** Promises given in the Bible, and **6,468** Commands.
8. Number of questions: **3,294**.
9. Fulfilled prophecy: **3,268** verses. Yet to be fulfilled prophecies: **3,140** verses.
10. It was written for BOTH the heart and mind.
11. It is written in 6<sup>th</sup> class level of English.
12. It uses only about 6,000 English words, while Shakespeare used 21,000 words!
13. The Bible is perfectly accurate in all areas it writes about: history, science, people, places, and even about the future!
14. The Bible can do you no good unless it is read and obeyed!
15. It is the number one continuous best seller in the literary field year after year. Over **6 billion copies** have been printed since 1815!

# **The King James Bible**

## *The Greatest Translation of the Bible in English*

**Why is the King James Bible the greatest Book of all time?**

**1. Because of where it came from.**

The King James Bible is not an English book. It is an English translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, and the Greek New Testament. It's the word of God, not men.

**2. Because it was translated correctly.**

47 of the greatest Biblical scholars of all time, worked full time for 7 years together as a team, to produce this Bible.

**3. Because it was translated honestly.**

This Bible was translated without Protestant, Catholic or any denominational agenda. It was simply a true translation of the word of God from Hebrew and Greek into English.

**4. Because it was translated for reading and meditation.**

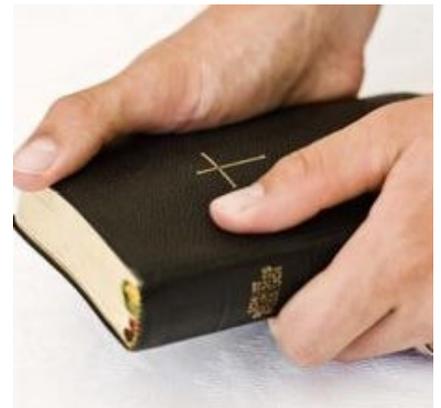
The King James Bible was translated so anyone with a primary education reading level could read it, and could easily memorise it and meditate on it – which is the purpose of a Bible.

**5. Because it is still the most quoted Book of all time.**

Even though it is 400 years old, its unique phrases and words are still used in every form of media and publication throughout the English speaking world. It is still the definitive standard of the English language.

**6. Because of its effect on peoples and nations.**

No other translation of the Bible has had such an effect on the literature, the government, the churches, and the lives of ordinary people, as the King James Bible. It is still THE greatest work of the English language of all time!



*An Informative Pamphlet from*

**Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig**

Meeting in the Westgate Foundation, located next to the Oriel House

Every Sunday at 10.30am and again at 7pm

Wednesday evening Prayer and Bible Study at 7pm

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