

The King James Translation & Its Roots – Class 8a & 8b

I. LATIN VULGATE	2
II. THE MAZARIN BIBLE.....	4
III. WYCLIFFE TRANSLATION.....	4
IV. TYNDALE TRANSLATION	7
V. THE COVERDALE BIBLE	8
IV. THE MATTHEW’S BIBLE (1537)	8
CONCLUSION:.....	10
VII. THE TAVERNER'S BIBLE (1539).....	10
VIII. THE GREAT BIBLE (1539)	10
IX. THE GENEVA BIBLE (New Testament - 1557, whole Bible - 1560).....	12
X. THE BISHOPS BIBLE (1568)	14
XI. ROMAN CATHOLIC VERSION.....	14
XII. THE KING JAMES TRANSLATION of 1611, the 5th Revision of Tyndale.....	15

I. LATIN VULGATE

VULGATE means commons or current. "It is a version of the entire Bible into the Latin. At the Roman Catholic Council of Trent (1545-63), the name "Vulgate" was given to Jerome's Version as the standard, authoritative Bible of the Latin, or Roman Church, translated or edited by Jerome. It was made at the end of the 4th Century. The New Testament (383-384 A.D.) and the Old Testament (390"-405 A. D.).

A. THE NEED. The old Latin text had been copied and recopied many times by independent and unauthorized individuals who possessed a Greek manuscript and some familiarity with both languages. They were not scholars and their copies were filled with errors, additions, omissions, and changes due to hand copying, with scarcely any two alike. The Old Testament was a translation from a translation; not from the Hebrew.

Damascus (366-389) the Pope, as the Bishop of Rome had, by this time, come to be called, was interested in the Scriptures and a friend of Scholars. There was a need for a standard, authoritative text. Damascus called Jerome in 382 A.D., he went to Rome and, at Damascus' request, undertook the work.

B. JEROME. (Latin name, Eusebius Hieronymus). He was born at Stridon, Dalmatia, about 340-342 A.D. and died in Bethlehem in 420 A.D. His parents were supposed to be Christians and gave him a good classical education. He had a good foundation in Greek and began the collection of a library.

1. At Rome he studied Latin and Rhetoric under the best.

2. A short time later he went to Gaul, (France, and began a serious study of Theology.

3. He went to Antioch where, during an attack of fever, he had a dream which caused him to abandon his studies. In the dream he was summoned to judgment and asked who he was. His answer, "I am a Christian." A stern answer," said, "You are not Christian, for where your heart is there is your treasure."

4. From Antioch he went into a nearby desert and spent five (5) years (374-379 A.D.) in severe self-discipline and diligent study, including the Hebrew under a converted Jewish rabbi.

5. In 379 A.D., he returned to Antioch and then went to Constantinople where he probably continued his study in Greek.

6. In 382 A.D., he returned to Rome and became secretary and close friend of Pope Damascus and began the preparation for the Latin Vulgate.

7. At this time, he was an excellent Latin scholar and writer, a good Greek scholar, and fair at Hebrew.

C. THE TRANSLATION. In 383 A.D., he had revised the Gospels, somewhat sparingly, in order to avoid too much opposition. Early the next year (384) the remainder of the New Testament, more hastily revised, appeared.

1. In 384, Damascus died and Jerome had won the favor of several noble ladies in Rome by his plain preaching and attractive teaching of asceticism. One was Paula, a widow, and her 3 daughters. This teaching produced many enemies.

2. In 385 he, Paula, and one of her daughters left for Palestine after a season of study in Egypt under the famous teacher, Didymous the Blind, they settled in Bethlehem (386). Here they built a monastery in 389, over which Jerome ruled, and a nunnery, over which Paula ruled.
 3. A large library was collected for his use about this time.
 4. A Roman Psalter, having been much used and carelessly copied, needed a revision, and Jerome was urged to make it. Therefore arose about 387 A.D., the GALLICAN PSALTER, so-called because of its popularity in Gaul.
 5. About the same time he began his translation of the Old Testament from the Septuagint, as he has written. Only Job and Psalms have come down to us.
 6. His increasing study and knowledge of the Hebrew enabled him to realize the unsatisfactory condition of the existing Septuagint and Old Latin texts, therefore a revision from the Hebrew.
 7. He spent the next 15 years (390-405) in making a new revision, not an authorized, as by the King, but as a private enterprise. About halfway through he suffered a long illness, but in 398 he continued until the Old Testament was complete in 405 and died in Bethlehem in 420 A.D.
 8. Therefore the Latin Bible of Jerome, which came to be known as the Vulgate, was a composite work of four parts:
 - a. The Old Testament, except the Psalter, a translation from the original Hebrew. This is when the storm of indignation and opposition broke loose. In those days the Septuagint was considered inspired and authoritative. The Roman Church accused him of unlawful innovations, sacrilege, disturbing the peace of the church and shaking the foundations of her faith, etc. His hot temper and stinging words of his tongue and pen added fire to the flames. In his introductions to the various books he was neither slow nor mild in his replies to the "two-legged donkies", as he called the ignorant priests.
 - b. The Psalter, the Old Latin revised from the Septuagint. Note: (This is the Galilean Psalter, first used and widely circulated in Greek. It was revised from the Septuagint with the help of other Greek Versions. It was finally, under Pope Pius V (1566-72), adopted by the Roman Church and is embodied in the Vulgate.
 - c. The Gospels, the Old Latin, revised from the original Greek. Only important alterations were made, smaller blunders and inaccuracies were left uncorrected in order that, as far as possible, the familiar language they were used to would remain undisturbed. The remainder of the New Testament being still less changed provoked little opposition.
 - d. The remainder of the New Testament, the Old Latin more hastily and superficially revised.
- D. THE APOCRYPHA. Jerome did not desire to translate these books because they were not in the Hebrew Canon and he did not consider them canonical. He did yield after much pressure from friends and made a hasty translation.
- E. FINAL TRIUMPH. Gradually the opposition subsided. Augustine, who had previously refused to allow it to be read in the churches, now turned from criticism to praise.
1. Jerome died, sorely grieved by the fierce criticism of his work. What a shame this disappointed old man could not have lived a few more years to see the triumph of his translation. By the 7th Century, his translation was the Bible in use. The Latin Vulgate continued to be the Bible of Western Europe and North Africa and was the source of many

other translations, down to the time of the Reformation beginning in 1517. The Latin language and Latin Bible held sway for about 1,000 years over the Western world.

II. THE MAZARIN BIBLE.

Johann Gutenberg, of Mainz, Germany, is said to have invented the printing press (1450) and in 1454 he invented printing from moveable type. The first book from the press was the Latin Vulgate (1455) called the "Mazarin Bible". The reason was because copies of it were found in the library of Cardinal Mazarin at Paris.

III. WYCLIFFE TRANSLATION

- A. Wycliffe's Version is the first complete translation of the Bible into the English language from the Latin Vulgate. New Testament in 1380 and Old Testament in 1382.
- B. John Wycliffe, 1320-1384, was born in Yorkshire, England, and died in Lutterworth, Leicestershire.
- C. England was a Roman Catholic country at this time. Who would rule England--the King or the Pope? The Pope demanded payment from the King and Wycliffe took the people's side. As one of the King's chaplains he made a notable reply in 7 brief, vigorous statements denying all rights of the Pope to demand the people to pay tribute to the church.
- D. In Wycliffe's time it took a copyist 10 months to produce one copy of his Bible.
- E. The Wycliffe Bible is a manuscript Bible written before the invention of printing (1450).
- F. Wycliffe's Early Life:
 - 1. Graduated from Oxford University approximately 1351.
 - 2. (1356). Became Fellow of Merton Hall, Oxford.
 - 3. (1361). Master of Biblical College, Oxford.
 - 4. (1365) Warden of Canterbury Hall.
 - 5. (1367) Received degree of Doctor of Theology.
 - 6. (1374) Appointed Rector at Lutterworth, where he lived until his death.
 - 7. During all this time he was the most popular and greatest professor at Oxford, and his lectures were regularly attended.
- G. He was called the "Morning Star of the Reformation," also called the first Protestant.
- H. His opposition to the Papacy:
 - 1. In 1377 he issued a statement of "heresies" in 19 articles and laid it before the Pope. The Pope (Urban V) issued 5 bulls against him. A council was held in the Archbishop's palace at Lambeth and Wycliffe defended his position by Scripture. Government officials and the populace of London broke into the meeting, closing the conference and setting Wycliffe free.
 - 2. Wycliffe's Theology:
 - (1). He condemned one's trust in good works.

(2).He denounced the priest's power to pardon, the indulgences, and their absolutions.

(3).He called the sale of indulgences "a subtle merchandise of Antichrist's clerks to magnify their counterfeit powers and to get worldly goods and to cause men not to dread sin."

(4) Christ is the only Mediator.

(5).He was labeled "anathema" by the papacy for condemning the Eucharist teaching of transubstantiation. He committed the "unpardonable sin" by teaching that Christ's resurrected body remains in heaven and is not present in the element of the Eucharist.

I. He was brought to trial at Oxford in 1382 and the power of the papacy and his clerical enemies was so strong that he was expelled from the Oxford University. His teaching there was ended, but he was permitted to return to his quiet parsonage at Lutterworth until his death.

J. Wycliffe's Death: On December 28, 1384, while conducting a service in the Lutterworth Church, he was suddenly stricken with paralysis; probably from overwork. He was carried out and never spoke again. He died December 31, 1384. He was a great and brave scholar, patriot, and lover of the Gospel.

K. Wycliffe's Bible:

1. He believed in the right and duty of everyone to read the scriptures for themselves and the best way for the people to break the power of Romanism was to place a Bible in the hands of the people.

2. His translation was from the Latin Vulgate into English.

3. The New Testament was completed about 1380 and the Old Testament about 1382.

4. Part of the Old Testament was done by one of his disciples and fellow workers, one Nicholas de Hareford. He was suddenly summoned to London, charged with heresy, and excommunicated.

5. After Wycliffe's death, about 4 years in 1388, a revision was made of the whole Bible. It was the work of John Purvey, Wycliffe's former curate at Lutterworth.

6. It had wide circulation, was copied by hand, the rich paid sometimes as much as \$300.00 in our money for a copy.

7. One historian tells that a whole load of hay paid for the use of a complete New Testament for just one day.

L. Wycliffe's Influence and the Lollards.

1. He instituted and superintended an order of itinerant preachers who went from town to town throughout England, preaching, teaching, and reading the English Bible to the common people. They preached everywhere, passing out tracts and pamphlets.

2. Many were Oxford University grads and had caught Wycliffe's faith and zeal.

3. They were not church clergy but voluntary workers, working with the clergy where possible, otherwise working independently.

4. The nickname "Lollards" probably came from the old German "lollen" (to sing softly), referring their singing of Psalms and hymns, or from middle English "loller" (a vagabond).

5. Within 10 years after Wycliffe's death they become a power, attacking Romish doctrines practices and demanding the Parliament to make drastic reforms.
6. The Roman Church passed a series of laws against heresy and a period of torture and persecution was inaugurated.
7. Many godly men were imprisoned and put to death.

M. His Enemies, the Roman Church:

1. Here is a description of his death by one of his monk enemies:

"On the day of St. Thomas the Martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, John Wycliffe, the organ of the devil, the enemy of the church, the confusion of the common people, the idol of heretics, the looking glass of hypocrites, the messenger of schism, the sower of hatred, the storehouse of lies, the sink of flattery, was suddenly struck by the judgement of God, and had all his limbs seized with the palsy. That mouth which was to speak high things against God and against his saints or holy church, was miserable drawn aside, and afforded a frightful spectacle to the beholders; his tongue was speechless and his head shook, showing plainly that the curse which God had thundered forth against Cain was also inflicted on him."

2. Archbishop Arundel complained to the Pope of:

"...that old pestilent wretch, John Wycliffe, the son of the old serpent, the forerunner of Antichrist, who had completed his iniquity by inventing a new translation of the Scriptures. "

3. In 1415, the Council of Constance, which consigned John Huss and Jerome of Prague to a cruel death, demanded that the bones of the notorious heretic, Wycliffe, be taken out of consecrated ground and scattered at a distance from the sepulcher. No one was found to carry out the decree.
4. Thirteen years later (1428), 44 years after Wycliffe's death, Clement VIII ordered no further delay; the grave was torn up, his bones were burned and his ashes thrown into the River Swift.

N. Wycliffe's Influence Continued:

1. His words and fame went all over Europe.
2. His teaching spread to Bohemia and stirred John Huss and Jerome, whose martyrdom set all Bohemia on fire.
3. His was the only English Bible for 145 years.
4. Wycliffe's translation (English) exists in about 170 manuscript copies, of which 30 contain the original translation of 1382, and the remaining 140 Purvey's revision of 1388, all written before 1430.
5. In 1850, two English scholars, Forshall and Madden, after 22 years of labor on the 170 manuscripts published the entire Bible in 4 large quarto volumes.
6. An excellent reprint of the New Testament was made in 1879.

O. As a sample of his English, the following is a translation of the Lord's Prayer:

"Our Fadir that art in hevenes, hal ewid be thi name, Thi Kingdom comme to, Be thi wille done in heven so in erthe; Gyve to us this dai oure breed over other substance, and forgive to us oure dettis as we forgyven to oure detouris; and leede us not in to temptacioun, but delyvere us fro yvel".

IV. TYNDALE TRANSLATION

WILLIAM TYNDALE was born in 1484 and on Friday, October 6, 1536. he was executed. He was strangled while being tied to the stake, and then his body was burned. He was probably born in Gloucestershire, England, about 1484.

- A. His country had been evangelized by Wycliffe and his followers.
- B. He was skilled in Greek and Latin and studied Greek and Theology under the renowned New Testament scholar, Erasmus, who taught at Cambridge University from 1511-14. Erasmus' Greek New Testament appeared in 1516, but Tyndale wanted the people to have a translation in their own language, English.
- C. He left London and sailed to Hamburg, Germany, in May, 1524--an exile for his faith, never to see his homeland again.
- D. After a short stay he went to Wittenberg, where he visited Luther and saw the Reformation in full swing, seeing the people reading the Bible in their own language.
- E. Here he translated some of the New Testament using Erasmus' Greek Testament (3rd Edition 1522), his Latin translation, Luther's German translation.
- F. He proceeded to Cologne where his work was printed by some who had business connections with England. They could produce and transmit the books quickly and cheaply. 3,000 copies were to be printed.
- G. The city senate, devoted to Rome, found out about Tyndale's work and ordered the printers to stop. He left, went to Worms which was a thriving German city and strong for Luther and the Reformation.
- H. In October 1525 he reached the city and his New Testament was printed. Early in 1526 his New Testament began to pass into England, concealed in cases of merchandise, barrels, bolts of cloth, sacks of flour and corn, and every secret way possible. Approximately 18,000 copies were printed between 1525- 1528.
- I. He also wrote three other great works.
 1. "The Parable of the Wicked Mammon", a treatise on the doctrine of justification by faith.
 2. "The Practice of Prelates." He denounced King Henry VIII's divorce of Catherine in favor of Anne Boleyn who was the aunt of Charles V. She was friendly to the Reformers but her uncle, Charles V, was a strict Roman Catholic and hated Tyndale and the Reformers. Under him it was a crime punishable by torture, burning, or burial alive for anyone to read, purchase, or possess any New Testament books and for any lack of respect to the images and the Saints. Those in opposition were labeled "heretics."
 3. "Obedience of a Christian Man" - freedom of the country from the Pope and suppression of monasteries.
- J. At Antwerp, Germany, he spent his last 2 years. He was betrayed by a so-called friend while dining with him. He was arrested as a heretic. His house was confiscated of all his books and

possessions. He was taken to the Castle of Vilvorde, the great state prison of the low countries, 18 miles from Antwerp, and remained there 16 months until he was executed.

- K. While in prison he led to Christ the keeper, his daughter and others of his household. He was skilled in 7 languages: Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, English, and Dutch.
- L. Whatever language he was speaking you would have thought it was his native tongue.
- M. We scarcely realize the horrible cost in suffering and deprivation it was to a man with the great ambition to give the people the living Word in their own language. (Little do we know how much we owe to this great, heroic, scholarly, pure and unselfish martyr, William Tyndale.
- N. Before Tyndale's death he appointed his friend as literary executor. His name was John Rogers who had a B.A. degree from Cambridge. He published Tyndale's translation from Greek and Hebrew to English under the name of Thomas Matthew, which was known as the "Matthew's Bible".

V. THE COVERDALE BIBLE

- A. The first complete printed English Bible appeared just 10 years after Tyndale's first New Testament in 1535.
- B. MYLES COVERDALE, born 1488, probably in Yorkshire, died 1569 in London, England. He was not familiar with the original languages and his Bible was a translation of a translation, or a secondary translation, from German and Latin into English.
- C. While Tyndale was imprisoned, a Bible was printed at either Zurich or Antwerp, dated October 4, 1535, and then suddenly it appeared in England (the Coverdale Bible). The second edition was published in 1537 with the king's most gracious license.
- D. Coverdale's Bible was inaccurate in places as it was not translated from the originals; but, a compilation from various sources:
 - 1. Matthews Bible (1537),
 - 2. Luther's German Bible (1522),
 - 3. Latin Vulgate,
 - 4. Paganini's' Latin Bible (1528),
 - 5. The Swiss-German (Zurich) Bible by Zwingli and Judah (1529),
 - 6. Tyndale's or some additional Latin or German version.
- E. He was not so much a translator as a careful editor and compiler.
- F. He did not have the learning or the resourcefulness of Tyndale and he knew it. He did see the opportunity and the need, although not anxious for the work, yet he was willing to do his best.
- G. He was a noble character, not a leader but a follower. He was modest, gentle, and sympathetic, considering the opinions and interests of others.

IV. THE MATTHEW'S BIBLE (1537)

- A. The compiler was John Rogers, a B.A. at Cambridge in 1525.

- B. In 1534, he left England and went to Antwerp where he became friends with Tyndale. Before Tyndale was martyred, he had appointed his friend as his literary executor.
- C. He gathered all of Tyndale's work of translation into one volume. He furnished it with introductions, summaries of chapters, and some controversial marginal notes.
- D. It is known as the first Revision of the Tyndale Bible.
- E. He knew that if the name "William Tyndale," and that of his associate, should appear with the title, it would hinder the sale of the Bible by the King and Queen.
- F. He, therefore used the name "Thomas Matthew" and it became known as the "Matthews Bible".
- G. It is not known whether this was a pseudonym for John Rogers, or the name of a helper, or that of some merchant who backed the work financially.
- H. It is thought to have been printed at Antwerp and sent over to England in sheets, to be completed by the printers in London.
- I. It arrived at the London printers, Whitechurch and Grafton. Grafton handed it over to Cranmer (Bishop and advisor to Henry) who passed it on to Cromwell (Bishop and advisor to Henry).
- J. Let us recapitulate before we go further to see how Cranmer, Cromwell and Anne Boleyn's influence played an important part in getting the Matthews Bible authorized for sale by King Henry VIII.
 1. (1525?) Cardinal Wolsey, minister to King Henry was a strict Roman Catholic, as was Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, England, and Bishop Sir Thomas More.
 2. Charles V was emperor of the whole country, including Germany. He was a strict Roman Catholic also, and hated the Reformers. The city of Worms, Germany, was strong for Luther and the Reformers which the emperor had to put up with.
 3. Cardinal Wolsey died and Thomas Cromwell became chief advisor to Henry. (1530?)
 4. Cromwell agreed with Tyndale that the supremacy of the Pope should be suppressed. The king agreed.
 5. Cromwell had influenced King Henry VIII to ask Tyndale to come to England. -- Stephen Vaughan was sent to Germany to induce Tyndale to come back to England and write some more about the suppression of the pope.
 6. Cromwell had Henry read Tyndale's "Obedience of a Christian Man" which endorsed the freedom of the country from the Pope and suppression of monasteries. This was the reason the king wanted him to come and write some more. -- Tyndale declined.
 7. Meanwhile, Tyndale wrote "The Practice of the Prelates," which denounced Henry's divorce as a wicked attempt of the clergy to tamper with the Law of God.
 8. King Henry read it and his wrath was kindled against Tyndale. Vaughan was ordered to return to England and stop his pursuit of Tyndale's return.
 9. King Henry had previously divorced Catherine and married Anne Boleyn who was aunt of Charles V, Emperor over Germany.
 10. His new wife was sympathetic to Tyndale and the Reformers.

11. The papal supremacy was abolished by an Act of Parliament (1533?).
 12. Bishop Sir Thomas More and Bishop Fisher of Rochester, England, friends of the Papacy and enemies of Tyndale and the Reformers, were in prison awaiting execution.
 13. Anne Boleyn, who was against the Papacy and her uncle, Charles V, a strict Roman Catholic, put quite a strain between England and Germany.
- K. Cranmer told Cromwell "he thought it was the best translation he had yet seen." He wanted King Henry to license its circulation "until such time as we Bishops shall set forth a letter, which, I think, will not be till a day after doomsday."
 - L. Cromwell introduced it to the King and within a week or ten days he was able to announce that the king had AUTHORIZED THE SALE AND READING of the Matthews Bible within his realm.
 - M. Within a year after Tyndale's death, the king who despised him and his work had authorized the sale and reading of his Bible. This is amazing, considering it contained the offensive prologue and much other highly controversial matter, which, even yet, would be offensive to the king.
 - N. The Matthews Bible is the Tyndale Bible complete, as far as his translation went.
 - O. It is the first Tyndale Revision, and forms the real basis of almost all later revisions. This includes The Great Bible, the Bishops Bible, and the King James Translation. All of these came from Tyndale through the Matthews Bible.

CONCLUSION:

It is amazing that 11 years before, Tyndale's New Testament was publicly burned; now it is published under another name with the king's consent. This is "Amazing Grace" as we stand in awe. We realize "How Great Thou Art" as we seek "To God Be the Glory" with our lives.

VII. THE TAVERNER'S BIBLE (1539)

- A. Translator, Richard Taverner, an Oxford Scholar, a lawyer, and had a reputation as a Greek scholar.
- B. He was one of the company who suffered persecution at Oxford upon the first circulation of Tyndale's New Testament (1528).
- C. He was licensed to preach in the reign of Edward VI.
- D. The Old Testament is Matthews revision, with slight changes from the Vulgate. The New Testament revision shows marks of his Greek scholarship.
- E. The Bible was dedicated to King Henry VIII in dignified and courteous language. It appeared in 1539 in two volumes.
- F. It was reprinted only once, being superseded by the Great Bible which was circulated and used by Royal Authority.

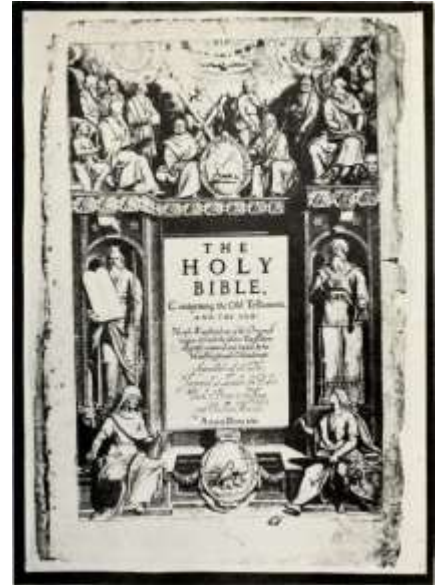
VIII. THE GREAT BIBLE (1539)

- A. The translator was Myles Coverdale who was assisted by efficient scholars in dealing with the original languages.

- B. The Translation. The Old Testament is based upon Matthews Bible and corrected by the Latin text (often inaccurate) of Munster (1535). The New Testament is Tyndale's revised by comparison with the Latin of Erasmus and the Vulgate.
1. This is a revision of Matthew's revision of Tyndale and Coverdale.
- C. The Purpose. Two English Bibles, Coverdale's and Matthew's were now being sold by authorization of the King (Henry VIII?).
1. Coverdale's Bible was inaccurate in places by not being translated from the originals, but was a compilation from different sources.
 2. The Matthews Bible contained a controversial prologue and notes which, in essence, were from the Bible of William Tyndale.
- D. The Fear. Cromwell was fearful that the Bishop (Gardiner) and his friends would unmask the pseudo-Matthews Bible and cause the king to investigate he prologue and controversial notes.
1. Cromwell, therefore, appealed to Coverdale to prepare another Bible, which would be free from objectionable notes and the offensive prologue.
- E. The Printing. England was not yet equipped for such beautiful and extensive work as was desired, so permission from the French king (Francis I) was secured and it would be printed in Paris, France.
1. Coverdale and Grafton went over to superintend the work.
 2. The Inquisition was on and soon after their arrival an order for confiscation came from the Inquisitor General, and the printer was arrested.
 3. Coverdale and Grafton fled back to London, England.
 4. Coverdale by shrewd management contacted the printer (Regnault) in Paris, and bought and transferred the presses, type, printer, etc. back to England.
 5. The first edition was ready for distribution in 1539.
- F. The Name. It was called the "Great Bible" because of its size and adornment.
1. The type page was 13 and 1/4 by 7 and 1/2 inches.
 2. It is also called the "Cranmer Bible" because Cranmer the preface to the second edition.
 3. It is also called the "Cromwell Bible" because Cromwell helped in its preparation
 4. Al so called the "Whitechurch Bible" from the name of one of its printers.
- G. Authorized by the King. King Henry VIII of England accepted and authorized the Bible, and Cromwell issued a Royal proclamation commanding that it be read publicly in every church in the land.
1. That a copy be placed in every church, accessible to anyone at any time who wished to read it, but could not afford to own a copy.
 2. The parson (preacher) was to "expressly provoke, stir, and exhort every person to read it."

H. The Frontispiece. The engraving by Holbein, as a frontispiece is of special interest.

1. It measures 14 by 9 inches and tells of the change that had taken place. (Note - in 3 years, 1536-1539, the Bible was forbidden, then secretly tolerated, then licensed, then commanded to be read!)
2. Above is the Savior, looking down on the King from the clouds.
3. From the Savior's mouth, two Latin scrolls, one containing the words of Isaiah 55:11, the other those of Acts 13:22.
4. King Henry is pictured kneeling bareheaded with his crown lying by his feet.



1. King James Title Page by Hans Holbein. Source: Wikipedia

5. He answers, "Thy word is a lantern unto my feet."
6. Immediately below the King who is seated upon his throne and holding in each hand a book on which is written "The Word of God."
7. One of these he is handing to Cranmer with the words "These things command and teach" (I Timothy 4:11).
8. The other he holds out to Cromwell and the nobles with the words "I make a decree that in all my kingdom men shall tremble and fear before the living God."
9. A third scroll, falling downward and over his feet, speaks to the Prelates. "Judge righteously, ye shall hear the small as well as the great (Deuteronomy 1:16,17).
10. Lower down Cranmer and Cromwell are distributing Bibles to kneeling priests and laymen, saying, "Feed the flock of God which is among you", and a preacher is expounding I Timothy 2: 1,2.
11. At the extreme left a prisoner at a jail window joins the cry of delight, as if he too, were delivered from a worse bondage.

I. Cromwell's work was done but his achievements and opposition to the Papacy caused a Roman Catholic reaction and rebellion throughout the kingdom. He was beheaded by the will of the reactionists in 1540.

IX. THE GENEVA BIBLE (New Testament - 1557, whole Bible - 1560)

A. THE TRANSLATOR was William Whittingham, an Englishman of great learning and related to John Calvin by marriage.

1. It was a revision of Tyndale's Bible with an introduction by Calvin.
2. It was the third revision of Tyndale's Bible.

B. THE HISTORICAL SITUATION - The last years of Henry VIII's reign were stormy ones.

1. The wholesale confiscation and destruction of images, shrines, and other symbols, the plundering of monasteries and monks, along with the wrecking of buildings connected with worship caused a Roman Catholic reaction and rebellion throughout the kingdom about 1540.
2. Cromwell was beheaded by the reactionists.
3. The king was in danger and forced to make some restorations. In 1543, all Tyndale Bibles were prohibited and all notes and controversial matter in the Matthews Bible were effaced. -- In 1546, Henry prohibited every Bible and New Testament, except the Great Bible, and it was confined to the upper class. There was an extensive burning of Bibles. Henry died in 1547.
4. After Henry's death, his son Edward VI reigned until his death in 1553. His reign was intensely Protestant. Bishops were removed and reformers took their place. The Roman Catholic rituals were abolished again, Clergymen were permitted to marry and all restriction of the reading of the Bible were removed.
5. "BLOODY MARY" (1553-1558). Next to reign was Mary, the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine, a strict Roman Catholic and fierce in her persecution of Protestants.
 - (a) She made England subject to the pope.
 - (b) She started the fires of martyrdom for all who opposed openly Roman Catholic teaching. It was a reign of terror.
 - (c) About 300 illustrious martyrs perished in the awful fires of Smithfield.
 - (d) Coverdale barely escaped.
 - (e) Cranmer was burned at the stake.
 - (f) Fortunately her reign was short and she died in 1558.
 - (g) The Geneva Bible was a result of the persecution under "Bloody Mary."
6. Next ELIZABETH became queen (1558-1603). She was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.
 - (a) At her coronation a copy of the Holy Scriptures (Verbum Veritatis, the Word of Truth) was presented to her.
 - (b) She graciously received it, kissed it, pressed it to her heart and promised to "diligently read therein."
 - (c) The Geneva Bible being so much better than the Great Bible, and was backed by great names such as Knox, Calvin, Beza, and others.
 - (d) It became very popular in England among the common people after it appeared in 1560 and Elizabeth gave her silent consent to its distribution and use.
 - (e) Her desire was to not favor either Papist or Reformers nor any party, but to be fair to all.
 - (f) It was issued as late as 1644 and ran through more than 160 editions.

C. THE TRANSLATION - The New Testament appeared in 1557 and was the product of one man, Willian Whittingham.

1. It was the revision of Tyndale's with an introduction by Calvin.
2. It was the first to use the division of the text into verses.
3. The Old Testament was based mainly upon the Great Bible.
4. The entire Bible (1560) was revised from a careful collation of the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, along with a comparison of the Latin versions and the standard French and German versions.
5. It was dedicated to Queen Elizabeth in bold and simple language without flattery or ridicule. It contained explanatory notes, but without controversial bitterness.

X. THE BISHOPS BIBLE (1568)

- A. THE OCCASION. The Geneva Bible gained widespread popularity and was undermining the authority of the Great Bible and the power of the bishops. Nonconformity was in the air.
 - a. Archbishop Parker and the bishops felt something should be done, so in 1564 he organized a revision committee containing 8 or 9 bishops, therefore the name "The Bishops Bible".
- B. THE TRANSLATION. The plan was to follow the Great Bible with attention to the Latin versions, avoid places of controversy, mark places not edifying so they could be passed over and to displace words which would offend good taste.
- C. THE RECEPTION. It was never popular and Elizabeth gave no attention to it nor her formal sanction or authority.
 1. It was cumbersome and costly, not suited for the general public nor satisfying to scholars.
 2. The work is described as "the most unsatisfactory and useless of all the old translations."
 3. 20 editions were issued, the last being in 1606.

XI. ROMAN CATHOLIC VERSION

A. The RHEIMS-DOUAY BIBLE

1. When Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in England, the Roman Party was forced into the background, many moved to France.
2. In 1568, William Allen of Oxford founded at Douay, in France, an English Roman Catholic college for the training of priests and any English Catholics who might desire a college education. Many refugees from England went there. Political troubles compelled the removal of the college from Douay to Rheims in 1578.
3. Allen projected a plan for an English Bible for English Catholics. It was carried out by Gregory Martin, an Oxford man, learned in the Hebrew and Greek and who renounced Protestantism.
4. In 1582, the entire translation was completed and the



2. Rheims-Douay Bible. Source: Wikipedia

New Testament was published in Rheims.

5. The Old Testament was delayed for lack of funds. In 1593 the college was forced to leave Rheims and was returned to Douay. In 1609-10 the Old Testament was published at Douay.

B. THE TRANSLATION.

1. The Douay Bible is a translation of a translation, or a secondary translation of the Latin Vulgate.
2. It is strongly fortified by controversial notes confirming and defending Roman Catholic teaching and practices, and attacking Protestant heresies.

C. THE CONTENTS. The Old Testament contains our 39 books plus 11 additional books, which are called the Apocrypha, making 50 in all.

1. The New Testament contains the same 27 as ours; but following are the added books termed by the Catholics

D. THE VALUE.

1. The translation is extremely literal. It often used Latinisms, which had not become anglicized and would require knowledge of Latin to understand them.
2. Its chief fault is its blind English. It contains some interpolations without comment.
3. The Psalms are especially defective and unsatisfactory.
4. The translation was made from the "Galilean Psalter" which was revised from the Septuagint, which was translated from the Hebrew. Therefore, we have Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English, or, a translation of a translation of a translation of the original!

E. GALLICAN PSALTER. It was first used and widely circulated in Gaul (France). It was revised from the Septuagint with the help of other Greek versions and contains some of Origen's symbols. It was, finally, under Pope Pius V (1566-72), adopted by the Roman Catholic Church and is embodied in the Vulgate. The ROMAN PSALTER, a slight revision from the Septuagint was used in Rome and Italy until replaced by the Gallican. The HEBREW PSALTER, translated from the Hebrew, the best of all, never became popular because it represented too many departures from the old, familiar versions.

XII. THE KING JAMES TRANSLATION of 1611, the 5th Revision of Tyndale.

A. HISTORY & BACKGROUND

1. Queen Elizabeth, 1558-1603, of England. After the death of Elizabeth, Presbyterian Scotland gave her king, James VI, to be also James I of England (1603-25), uniting the two realms. In 1604, a conference as called at Hampton Court by the Puritans asking for some changes in the church services and a new prayer book of Scriptures that did not have so many mistranslations. These were taken from the Great Bible and the Bishops Bible, but many were rendered and corrected in the Geneva Bible. Dr. Reynolds, President of the Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was the spokesman for the moderate Puritans. The question was: "Should they use the much-maligned Geneva Bible or should a new translation be made?"
2. None of the three Bibles then in use was accepted as the Bible of the English nation. 1. The Great Bible was antiquated and cumbersome, 2. The Geneva Bible, with its popular form was a favorite with the people in general, and even the clergy, but not with the King and the

government, because of its Puritan notes, 3. The Bishops Bible was an inferior production, disrespected by scholars, and unsuitable to the needs of the people. A new Bible was needed to unite the English people.

- B. The King went to work and on July 22, 1604, he announced the appointment of 54 men as translators. The list included Anglican churchmen, Puritan churchmen, linguists and theologians, laymen and divines. All these had the privilege of calling on any scholar outside of the list if they so desired. A list of 47 revisers has been preserved, the other 7 may have died or resigned before the work began.
- C. THE PERSONNEL. The revisers were organized into 6 groups. 1. two groups met a Westminster. One group had Genesis to 2 Kings and the other had Romans to Jude. 2. Two groups at Cambridge, one group had 1 Chronicles to Ecclesiastes and the other had the Apocrypha. 3. Of the two groups at Oxford, one had Isaiah to Malachi and the other had Matthew to Acts and Revelation. These men were the great Hebrew and Greek scholars of the day.
- D. THE PROCESS. Each reviser first made his own translation, then passed it on to be reviewed by each member of the group. When each group had completed a book it was sent to the other groups for their independent criticism. Therefore, each book went through the hands of the entire body of revisers.
- E. VALUE. This great work was planned in 1604, and probably the first three years were spent in preliminary work and private study. The work of the translation really began in 1607; it was finished and the Bible published in 1611. It is also known as the "Authorized Version" (A.V.).

It far surpassed its rivals in superiority because it was not the work of one single person or of one single school. It was the deliberate work of a large body of trained scholars and divines of all classes and opinions. It was a national undertaking, in which no one had any interest at heart, only that of producing the best possible translation of the Scriptures from the Hebrew and Greek texts.

- F. In 1997, approximately 810,000,000 copies had been printed into 300 languages since 1611.

As of today, January of 2018, the King James Translation of the Bible, after 417 years with 6 Billion copies printed and distributed, is still the best selling and most distributed book of all time. It was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, over a span of approximately 2,000 or more years, by more than 40 authors, including kings, prophets, poets, musicians, and fishermen.

Its books include letters, poetry, songs, legal documentation, eyewitness accounts, biographies, historical literature, and documents. It has been translated into 2,454 languages of the world's estimated 6,500 total languages.

THE KING JAMES TRANSLATION: STILL THE BEST!

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