

The original Bible, what we know as the Old Testament, was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. Later in 250 BC, it was translated into Greek (because Greek became the world language).

The New Testament was written originally in Greek. Later, the Catholics translated it into Latin (400 AD). By 1384 this Latin Vulgate was translated into English (Wycliffe Bible), and later in 1610, it was translated into the Douay Version (English Catholic Bible). Remember, the Catholic Church, led by the Pope, was what the world thought Christianity was.

Meanwhile, in 1530, the Tyndale Bible was translated from the original Greek manuscripts into English for those who were not real happy with the Pope; likewise, in 1535 came the Coverdale Bible. As the years progressed, so did the English language, as well as our understanding of ancient Greek words; accordingly, more Christians started reading the Bible for themselves instead of relying on the interpretation of the Catholic Church.

In Germany, Luther's Bible (German translation) was written in 1534, and the Protestant Christians (non-Catholic) started growing in number overseas. This led to the Geneva Bible in 1560, and finally, by order of King James, who wanted to sever Protestant Christians from the Pope, the famous King James Version of 1611 (which, of course is translated in the old English of that day).

By 1885, the English Revised Version was written to try to modernize the old English of the 1611 King James Version; In 1901, this led to the American Standard Version. The effort to keep up with the ever-changing English language produced the Revised Standard Version in 1952, the New American Standard and Jerusalem Bible in 1966, the New American Bible in 1970, the Living Bible in 1971 (the first paraphrased version --- not an accurate translation, but one man's attempt to put the Bible in a language that kids could understand), and the Good News Bible (written in 1966 and revised in 1971), which is also a paraphrased version, not a translation.

In 1979 Zondervan Bible Publishers published the New International Version (NIV), which was the first attempt to translate the original Greek manuscripts **directly** into the modern English language. For this version, the NIV text was printed along side the King James Version that most people still used; on the opposite page was printed the original Greek manuscript with a Greek Interlinear, so that for the first time, people could see for themselves what the original Greek manuscript said. The

Greek Interlinear gave people the ability to look up Greek words for themselves in order to check different translations and explanations for accuracy. **THIS IS THE BIBLE I HAVE USED SINCE 1979, AND IS ONE THAT I RECOMMEND.**

Since 1979, I have studied the original Greek manuscript, and when there is a question of whose translation is the most accurate, I look up the words in a Greek dictionary (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words is the easiest to use), and give the actual original Greek translation. After taking two years of Greek (just to learn the basics, so I could look words up), I learned quickly why there are so many translations. We do not always have one word in our English language that can accurately match the corresponding Greek word in the Bible. For instance: there are three different words in Greek for our word "love," and three different words in Greek for our word "hell." Most Greek words are "word pictures," and cannot be translated with just one English word. The best example of this can be found in my study guide on "Qualifications of Elders and Deacons."

Since 1979, there have been many other translations of the Bible, including the New King James Version (NKJV) of 1982 which got rid of the old English of the original 1611 version. Unfortunately, in 1990, the National Council of Churches, under pressure from the feminist lobby, decided to take out what they called "inherent bias of the English language toward the masculine gender." They have rewritten several passages in their New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible. The texts now refer to God as "Father and Mother." For example, for I Timothy 2:5, the original Greek translates to, "There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." The NRSV translates it, "There is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human." **I DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE BIBLE!** Even the New International Version has come out with a new NIV version that removes the masculine gender from the Bible.

So, the only accurate Bible is the original Greek manuscript! **That's why people still need real Preachers who have spent their lives studying, and are trained in the Greek to give you the most accurate translation possible.** I have spent my whole life studying the Bible, and I still learn something every day! That's why I'm doing this website!