

History of the English Bible

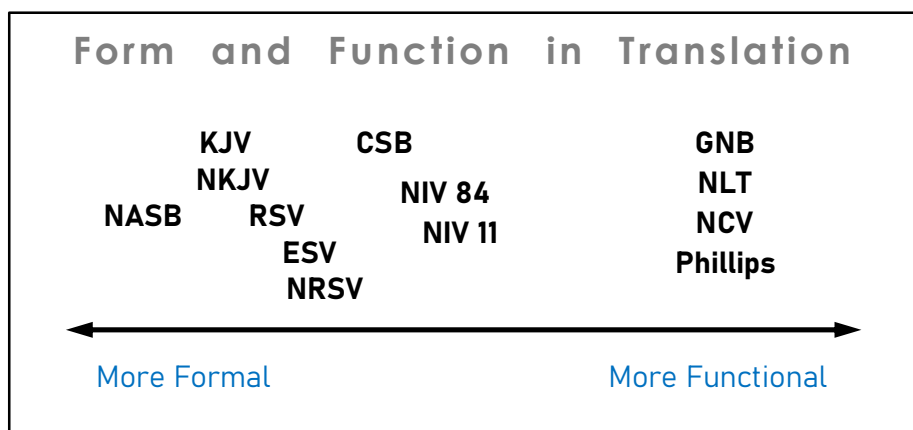
Choosing a Good Bible

Why are there so many English Bible versions?

- English, like every other language, continues to _____.
- Scholars continue to _____ our understanding of the text of both OT and NT.
- Publishing is a _____, and can be profitable.
- Some people have a theological or political axe to grind.

What kinds of English Bibles are out there?

It may also be noted that translation is an art. Versions usually fall somewhere along the spectrum of _____ to _____.



Actual English Versions (not editions or printings with commentary)

- Formal or mediating (NAS, ESV, CSB, NIV) – all of these operate on a range of formal to functional, with some being mediating.
- Functional/paraphrase (Good News Tr, New Living Tr, Living Bible, Contemporary English Version, The Message).
- One-man translations (Pure Word, Cottonpatch).
- Politically oriented versions (feminism, gender neutral, New World Translation).

Study Bibles

Study Bibles are based on a version (see above), but supplement it with notes, commentary, maps, pictures, introductions, and study aids.

Speaking of study Bibles . . .

How are study Bibles helpful?

- They can provide _____ that is helpful: introductions, dates, outlines, background, maps.
- _____ can be particularly helpful, for related passages, but particularly for NT quotes of the OT.

Are there drawbacks to using a study Bible?

- They can provide an answer _____, preventing the reader from having to think for themselves about the meaning of a difficult passage.
- They can provide a _____ answer that fits a particular theological system, which may or may not be correct.
- Because opinions are printed on the same page as Gods' Word, they can too easily be taken as _____ interpretations.

Things to look for in a personal Bible:

- A translation that balances _____.
- A format that is _____ and _____.
- _____ text; maps and concordance can be helpful.

Things to avoid:

- Versions that are _____.
- _____ Bibles, at least as a primary Bible.
- _____ editions.

A sampling of Bibles that meet most of these criteria:

Version	Col	Par	Maps	Red	Binding	Font	ISBN	Price
NAS Side-column	1	Ver	Y	N	Leathertex	11	1581351585	\$30
NAS Side-column	1	Ver	Y	N	Calfskin	11	1581351607	\$110
NAS UltraThin	2	Ver	Y	N	Leather	9.5	1581351313	\$35
ESV Heirloom	2	Ver	N	N	Goatskin	8.5	1433564564	\$120
NIV Heritage	1	Par	Y	N	Goatskin	10	0310450756	\$95
CSB Ultrathin	2	Par	Y	N	Leather	9.5	1433648431	\$75