

## History of the English Bible

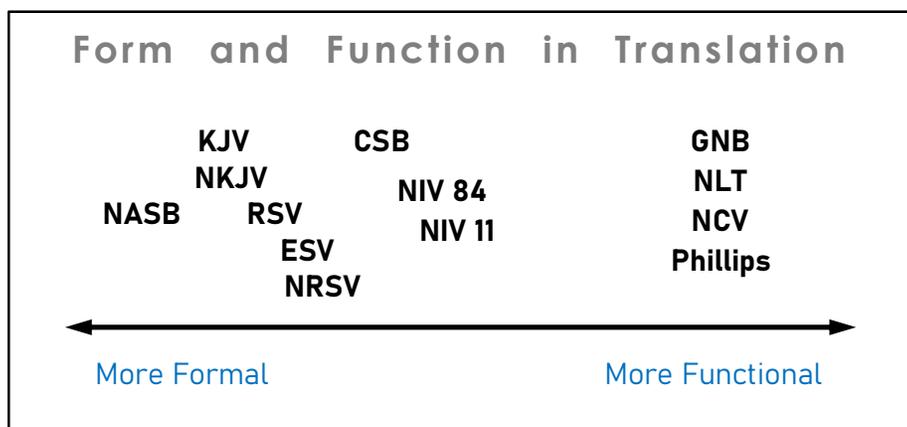
### Choosing a Good Bible

#### 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