The English Bible

Can you tell me where my Bible came from?

It is important for us to understand the value of God's word
- source of faith (Rom 10:17)
- purpose is to save us (Jn 20:31)
- what will judge us (Jn 12:48)
- product where we know what is right and wrong (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Where God placed the Bible
Above spiritual gifts (1 Cor 13:9-10)
Above voice of apostles and angels (Gal 1:8)

The word "Scripture" means graphics or writing. It came to be known only as God's sacred word
- The word "Scripture" is only found in the NT

Lk 24:27
MT 21:42; 22:29; Lk 4:21
Acts 8:35; 17:2
2 Pet 3:16

The process of "Translating" is very old: Septuagint (OT Hebrew to Greek) during the period between the testaments
- Translation: meaning from one language to another
- Transliteration: letter for letter

1. From the original languages (Hebrew & Greek) the Bible was first translated into Latin
- By the year A.D. 200 the Bible was translated into 7 languages (today the Bible is in 3500 languages)

2. Jerome in A.D. 383 translated the Bible into Latin (using older Latin versions and manuscripts)
   - for 1200 years this was the standard Bible of the Western world
   - 1546 the Council of Trent made this the official Bible of the Catholic Church

Three Significant Events to Understand

1. Until the 14th century England had no Bible in the common language
   - Bibles were in Latin and only the clergy and wealthy had access
   - It commonly took ten months to two years to produce a Bible by hand and at a cost of a year's wage
   - Worship services were in Latin, which the common man did not understand
2. The changing monarchy in England swung from Catholicism to Protestantism (beginning of Reformation movement)
3. The invention of the Gutenberg press in 1450 made the production of Bible both rapid and affordable

Chapters were added in 13th century
Verses in the 16th century
- Geneva Bible (1560) was first English Bible to use the chapters and verses

The order of the books of the Bible were not uniform until the mass printing done on printing presses
- Lk 24:27

English Translations of the Bible

The first English translation of the Bible was made by John Wycliffe (1382)

- It was based upon the Latin Vulgate

The early English translators fought a powerful and corrupt Catholic church that opposed an English translation.

John Wycliffe (1320-1384) had five Catholic "bulls" written against him for heresy. He died peacefully but 44 years later his bones were exhumed and burned and the ashes scattered in a river.

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was arrested for heresy, tried and strangled to death. Afterwards his body was burned at the stake.

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

1525: Tyndale Bible: based upon Martin Luther's 1524 German translation and Latin Vulgate
1535: Coverdale Bible
1539: Great Bible: revision of the Coverdale Bible
1560: Geneva Bible: revision of Tyndale and Great Bible
1611: King James Bible: official Anglican Bible– revision of Tyndale (83% of the NT is Tyndale's)
1885: Revised Standard Version: used the Westcott & Hort Greek Text)
1901: American Standard
1964: New American Standard
1973: New International Version
2001: English Standard Version

Difficulties

KJV: Easter instead of Passover (Acts 12:4); Hell instead of Hades (Lk 16:23; Acts 2:31)
NIV: Hell instead of Hades (Lk 16:23); Calvinistic influence (Ps 51:5)
NAS: immorality instead of fornication (Mt 19:9); premillennial thought (Rev 5:10)
ESV: "and were not a little comforted" (Acts 20:12) - The ESV tends to be clumsy (Lk 2:36)

UNDERSTANDING MARGINAL NOTES

"Marginal notes" are those numbers, verses and words found in the "margins" of your Bible. These can be very helpful in studying your Bible. It helps to understand what some of these things mean. Also, it is important to remember that these are put in by the publishers of the Bible. They are NOT inspired by God.

- The **NUMBER** represents the corresponding verse number
- The **SMALL LETTERS** correspond to a word in the verse. The verse in the margin has a similar word as the "lettered" word in the verse.
- **SMALLER NUMBERS** correspond to a translating note.
- The abbreviation "Lit." means "literally."
- Some notes help explain TIME, WEIGHTS, MEASUREMENTS
- The abbreviation "MSS" refers to manuscripts. Some of the oldest manuscripts are not complete. For accuracy sake, this is identified.

Mark 15:16-29

Words in italics are placed there by translators to make a smoother reading

21 [a]Mark 15:21; *Matt 27:32; Luke 23:26* [b]Rom 16:13

22 [a]Mark 15:22-32; *Matt 27:33-44; Luke 23:33-43; John 19:17-24* [b]Luke 23:33; John 19:17

23 [a]Matt 27:34

24 [1]Lit *a lot upon* [2]Lit *who should take what* [a]Ps 22:18; John 19:24

25 [1]I.e. 9 a.m. [2]Lit *and* [a]Mark 15:33

26 [1]Lit *had been inscribed* [a]Matt 27:37

28 [1]Early mss do not contain this v

29 [1]Or *blaspheming* [a]Ps 22:7; 109:25; Matt 27:39 [b]Mark 14:58; John 2:19

16 [a]The soldiers took Him away into [b]the [1]palace (that is, t
c
Jews!"
19 They kept beati head with a [1]reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling a ing before Him.
20 After they had ed Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His *own* garments on Him. And they *led Him out to crucify Him.
21 [a]They *pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and [b]Rufus), to bear His cross.

The Crucifixion

22 [a]Then they *brought Him to the place [b]Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.
23 They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it.
24 And they *crucified Him, and *[a]divided up His garments among themselves, casting [1]lots for them *to decide* [2]what each man should take.
25 It was the [1][a]third hour [2]when they crucified Him.
26 The inscription of the charge against Him [1]read, "[a]THE KING OF THE JEWS."
27 They *crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left.
28 [[1]And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."]
29 Those passing by were [1]hurling abuse at Him, [a]wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who *are going to* [b]destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

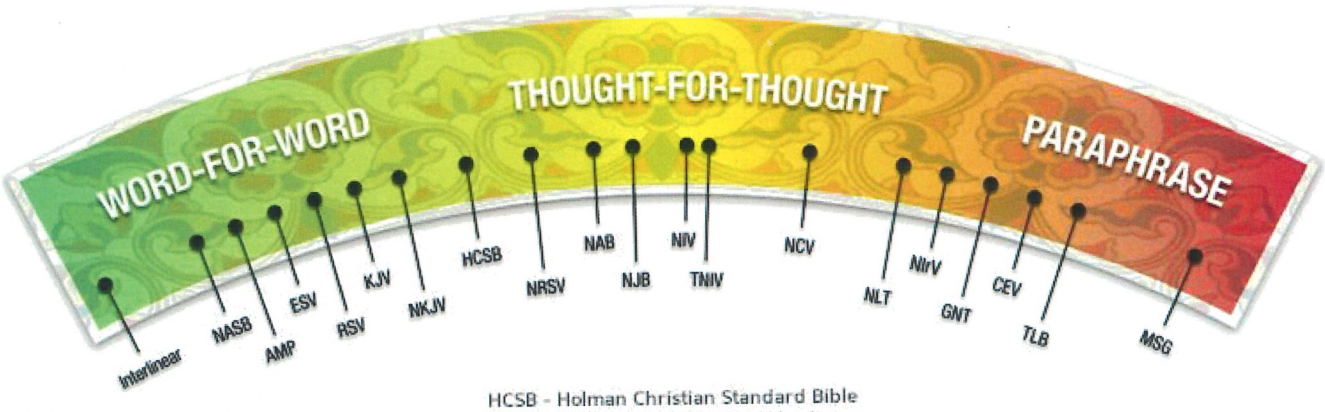
UNDERSTANDING TRANSLATIONS

Not all Bibles are the same. There are TRANSLATIONS and PARAPHASES. A translation takes a word or thought from one language and converts it into a different language. One of the first translations was the Septuagint. It was made during "the Silent Years" of the Bible, between Malachi and Matthew. It took the Hebrew Old Testament and translated it into the Greek language. Jesus often quoted from the Septuagint. After that, Latin translations became very dominate. Today, the Bible is translated into most languages. Translations are made from looking at earlier translations, manuscripts, and original language.

- There are two types of translations.
  (1) word for word translations
  (2) thought for thought translations

- A PARAHRASE is telling the story in our own words.
  Paraphrases use a very common and street language but are not very accurate

Types of Bible Translations



NASB - New American Standard Bible
AMP - Amplified Bible
ESV - English Standard Version
RSV - Revised Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
NKJV - New King James Version

HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
NAB - New American Bible
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
NIV - New International Version
TNIV - Today's New International Version
NCV - New Century Version
NLT - New Living Translation

NIrV - New International Reader's Version
GNT - Good News Translation
(also Good News Bible)
CEV - Contemporary English Version
TLB - The Living Bible
MSG - The Message