



ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

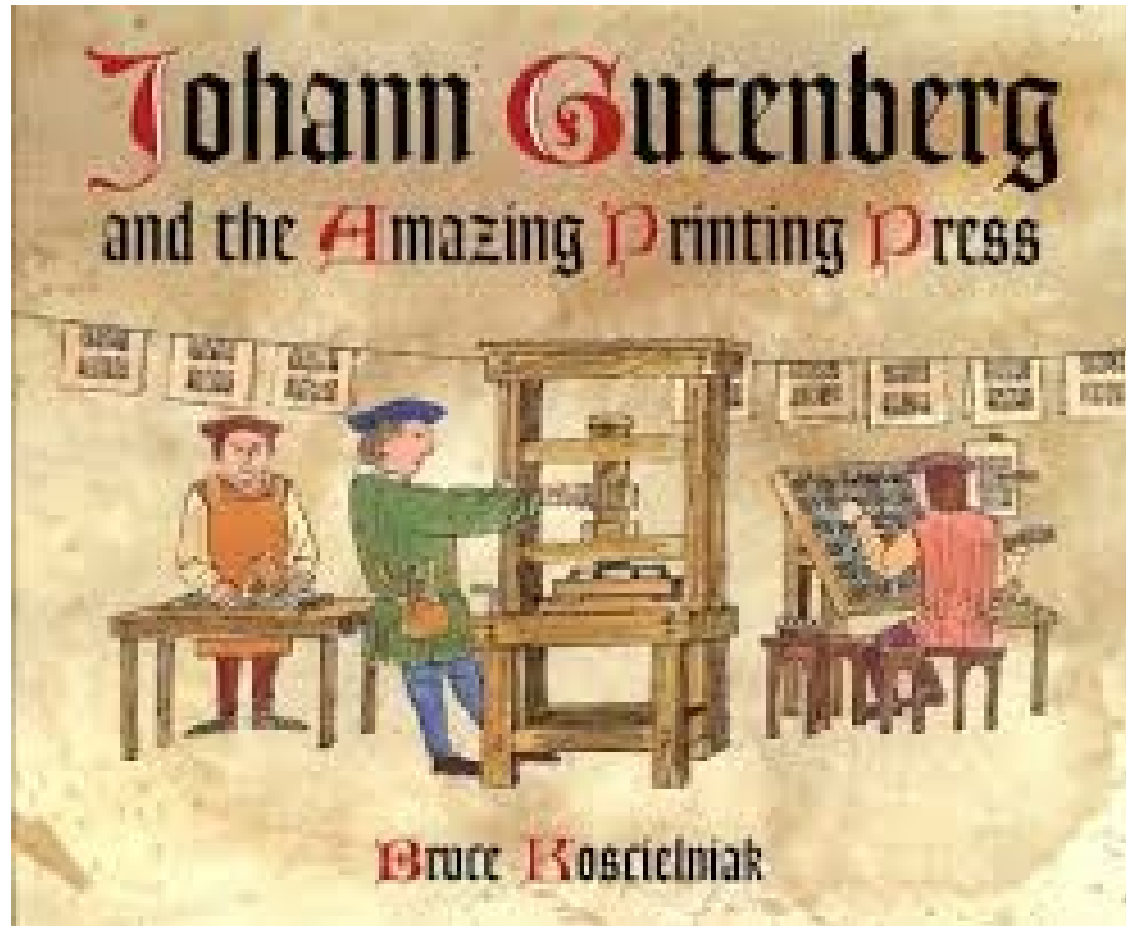
CHRISTIANITY REACHES BRITAIN

- Christianity reaches Britain—3rd Century
- First Bible was the Latin Vulgate
- Venerable Bede—a Bishop in the 7th Century with a gift of song turned parts of the Vulgate into song—into the Old English of the day

JOHN WYCLIFFE

- The right of every person, including common people, to read and interpret the Bible
- First Bible into English in 1382
- Condemned as a Heretic
- 45 years after his death his bones were exhumed, burned and thrown into the River Swift

EVERYTHING CHANGED IN 1454



THE GUTTENBERG BIBLE

- 180 copies were originally printed
- Not in *German*
- Not in English
- Latin Vulgate



1516—RENAISSANCE SCHOLAR

- Erasmus
- Published a *Greek New Testament*
- 3,300 copies thanks to the printing press!
- Became the standard *Greek Text* that served as the foundation of subsequent English translations including KJV

ERASMUS IN THE PREFACE

- I totally disagree with those who are unwilling that the Holy Scriptures, translated into the common tongue, should be read by the unlearned . . . I wish that even all women should read the *Gospel* and *St Paul's Epistles* . .

ERASMUS

- I wish that the farm worker might sing parts of them at the plow, that the weaver might hum them at the shuttle, and that the traveler might beguile the weariness of the way by reciting them.



WHY WOULD CHURCH LEADERS

- Not want people to have Scripture?
- Power
- If I control access to Scripture, I control the interpretation of Scripture
- That is why Bibles were chained to their stands in Medieval Churches



WILLIAM TYNDALE

- 150 years after John Wycliffe
- Anguished over corruption in the church
- And the Biblical illiteracy of his day
- Two distinct advantages
- Printing Press (6,000 copies of original—1,382 for Wycliffe, all by hand)
- Based his translation on Erasmus Gk NT
- In 1523 he requested the blessing of the Bishop of London

RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

- The Latin Scriptures should remain in the sole possession of the Clergy
- The Scriptures could only be interpreted by "the tongues of scholars"
- Tyndale's Response: "If God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause a boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scripture than you!"

NOT TO BE DENIED

- Tyndale fled to *Germany* and started printing his Bibles in *Cologne*
- Expelled from *Cologne* he went to *Worms* where he continued to print
- Smuggled them into *England* by hiding them in bales of cotton (1526)
- The Bishop of *London* ordered Bibles to be confiscated and burned

APPEAL TO THE KING

- Appealed to Henry VIII that he would write nothing more if he would approve his translation
- Henry VIII had been hailed as "Defender of the Faith" by Pope Leo for condemning Martin Luther
- The title continues for British Monarchs to this day!

ANOTHER MARTYR

- In 1535 he was captured and imprisoned
- On October 6, 1536 he was strangled and burned at the stake for heresy
- His dying prayer was for *God* to open the King of England's eyes!



FATHER OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

- 90% of his translation passed into the KJV
- 75% of his translation is found in the RSV



I'M HENRY VIII, I AM

- Defender of the Faith
- 1534 the Defender of the Faith became the Divider of the Faith (Anne Boleyn)
- Miles Coverdale, a colleague of Tyndale's published the Coverdale Bible in 1534
- Lacked skills in Biblical Languages and depended on Tyndale's translation

THE COVERDALE BIBLE

- The first complete Bible to be printed in English
- While never formally authorized by the King, he gave oral sanction to it.
- “If there be no heresies, then in *God's* name let it go abroad among our people”
- Coverdale added a dedication to Henry VIII!

SANCTIONED BY THE KING

- Henry VIII sanctioned the Thomas Matthew Bible in 1537
- John Rogers was another associate of Tyndale who translated under the name of Thomas Matthew
- It was largely Tyndale's translation!
- Not happy with either translation, Thomas Cromwell (vicar-general) commissioned a revision of both translations

THE GREAT BIBLE

- Named because of it's size!
- Pages were 15 by 9 inches
- No press in Britain could handle it so it was printed in Paris
- Picture of Henry VIII
- This was the first "Authorized Version"
- Cromwell condemned and executed in 1540
- Henry VIII then condemned the Tyndale and Coverdale versions in 1543

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

- Persecution of Protestants
- 300 Reformers executed including John Rogers
- Many fled to the continent, especially to Geneva where John Calvin was active
- Led by William Whittingham, a brother-in-law to Calvin, a revision of Matthew's Bible was produced

THE GENEVA BIBLE-1560

- Also called the "Breeches Bible"
- *Genesis 3: 7* "they sewed fig leaves together"
- *Geneva Bible* "they made breeches"
- First English Bible to employ verse divisions
- Extensive Marginal notes based on Calvinist interpretation

THE BIBLE OF SHAKESPEARE

- Bible of the Pilgrims
- Bible of John Bunyan
- Bible of the common man
- For 50 years it was the favorite Bible of the people of England & Scotland
- The Church of England never liked it because they did not control its translation (And it was Calvinistic!)



THE BISHOPS BIBLE-1568

- Queen Elizabeth I
- Geneva Bible was more popular than "The Authorized Version" (Great Bible)
- Church authorities didn't like the Calvinistic influence of the Geneva Bible
- A team of bishops were appointed to produce a new authorized version
- Never became very popular

KING JAMES VI OF SCOTLAND

- Detested the *Geneva Bible* for Political Reasons
- Marginal notes questioned the "Divine Right of Kings"
- 1603 became King of England (James I)
- Appointed 54 scholars from *Oxford, Cambridge, and Westminster Abbey*

KING JAMES VERSION-1611

- Careful rules were drawn up for the translation
- Readings from Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew's, the Great Bible, the Geneva Bible and the Bishops' Bible were used
- The best Hebrew and the Erasmus Greek text were used
- Not everyone was happy with the KJV

KING JAMES BIBLE

- *Guy Fawkes threatened the completion of the King James Bible when he led a plot to blow up King James, all of Parliament and the progress made on the King James Bible using 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden in the basement of Parliament. Fawkes was discovered and arrested before his plan could be carried out.*

KING JAMES BIBLE

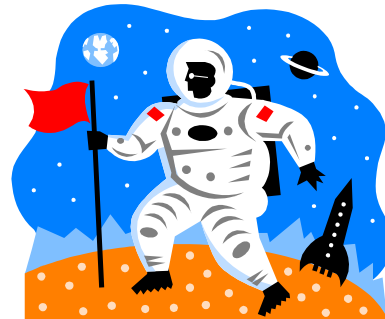
- It took the 54 scholars 7 years to complete the work
- It was not well received at first
- It has become the best selling book of all time
- Today's KJV is not the 1611 original, but the 1769 revision
- The KJV is the influential book in the history of the English language

THE BEAUTY OF THE LANGUAGE

- Psalm 23
- John 14: Rooms or Mansions?
- 1 Corinthians 13: Charity or Love?
- Liberty Bell: "Proclaim LIBERTY through all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof."
(Lev)
- United Nations: They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

FAMOUS QUOTES

- Samuel Morse: "What hath God wrought?" (Numbers 23: 23)
- Crew of Apollo 8 on Christmas Eve, 1968
- Read from Genesis 1



MODERN TRANSLATIONS

- RSV 1952, 1971
- NRSV 1989
- NKJV 1982
- NIV 1978, 1984, 2011
- NEB 1970
- Jerusalem Bible 1966, NJB 1985
- Common English Bible 2013

PARAPHRASE

- The Living Bible 1971
- Good News Bible (TEV) 1976, 1992
- Contemporary English Version 1995
- New Living Translation 1996, 2004, 2007
- The Message 2002
- www.biblegateway.com

THE HOLY, INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

- A Clarence Jordan story about "This Bible Stuff"

