

How We Got The Bible

**Can We Trust Our
English Versions?**



The Bible in the Common Tongue

Council of Toulouse in AD 1229



The Bible in the Common Tongue

- # **Council of Toulouse in AD 1229**
 - **45 canons passed for the extinction of heresy and the reestablishment of peace**
 - **14th canon forbade the Scriptures to the laity, or the translation of any portion of them into the common tongue.**
-

The Bible in the Common Tongue

“We also forbid the laity to possess any of the books of the Old or New Testaments, except, perhaps, the Psalter or Breviary for the Divine Offices, or the Hours of the Blessed Virgin, which some, out of devotion, wish to have; but having any of these books translated into the vulgar tongue, we strictly forbid.”

14th Canon, Council of Toulouse, AD 1229

English Versions of the Bible

- # How can we be confident that our English versions are trust-worthy, given that:
 - so much time has passed,
 - so many things have happened,
 - and given the difficulty of translating text from one language to another?
- # **A Good Question!**

English Versions of the Bible

#Some versions should **NOT** be trusted as careful translations

- **The New World Translation**

- **Because it was translated by the Jehovah's Witness organization and thus contains its bias**

- **Example of John 1:1**

English Versions of the Bible

#Some versions should NOT be trusted as careful translations

■ The New World Translation

**■ “In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was a god.”**

John 1:1

English Versions of the Bible

- #Some versions should **NOT** be trusted as careful translations
 - **The Living Bible: Paraphrased**
 - Because it was produced by **one man** (Kenneth Taylor)
 - It is a rephrasing of the Bible “thought for thought”
-

English Versions of the Bible

- #Some versions should **NOT** be trusted as careful translations
 - **The Living Bible: Paraphrased**
 - It is filled with faults and weaknesses reflecting his own biases
 - Examples: Eph. 2:3b; 1 Pet. 3:21a
-

English Versions of the Bible

- #Some versions should **NOT** be trusted as careful translations
 - **The Living Bible: Paraphrased**
 - “...We started out bad, being born with evil natures, and were under God’s anger just like everyone else.”

Eph. 2:3b

English Versions of the Bible

- #Some versions should **NOT** be trusted as careful translations
 - **The Living Bible: Paraphrased**
 - “In baptism we show that we have been saved...”

1 Pet. 3:21a

English Versions of the Bible

- # **Other versions should be used with careful judgment because of the purpose in their translations.**
 - **Several English versions were produced by committees of scholars, but their intent was a “meaning-for-meaning” translation rather than a “word-for-word” translation.**
-

English Versions of the Bible

- # **Other versions should be used with careful judgment because of the purpose in their translations.**
 - **Examples of these “meaning-for-meaning” translations are:**
 - **The New English Bible (NEB)**
 - **The New International Version (NIV)**
-

English Versions of the Bible

- # **The most trustworthy modern English versions are those:**
 - **Translated by a large committee of scholars from various backgrounds**
 - **Produced with the intent of giving the world an accurate “word-for-word” translation of the best available Greek and Hebrew texts**
-

English Versions of the Bible

Examples of these are the:

- **King James Version (KJV)**
 - **New King James Version (NKJV)**
 - **American Standard Version (ASV)**
 - **New American Standard Version (NASV)**
 - **English Standard Version (ESV)**
-

English Versions of the Bible

**# Please examine the Preface to
your English Bible. My NKJV:**

- **“Complete equivalence seeks to preserve *all* the information in the text.”**
 - **“...appropriate that all participating scholars sign a statement affirming their belief in the verbal and plenary inspiration of Scripture, and in the inerrancy of the original autographs.”**
-

English Versions of the Bible

Please examine the Preface to your English Bible. My NKJV:

- **“The New King James Version follows the historic precedent of the Authorized Version in maintaining a literal approach to translation, except where the idiom of the original language occasionally cannot be translated into our tongue.”**
-

English Versions of the Bible

But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

■ Old versus Modern English

■ “...yet what I shall choose, I wot not.”

King James Version (Phil. 1:22)

■ “...yet what I shall choose, I cannot tell.”

New King James Version (Phil. 1:22)

English Versions of the Bible

But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

- Different wording in English to represent the same Greek or Hebrew text

- “There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism...”

- New King James Version (1 Pet. 3:21)

- “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you...”

- New American Standard Version (1 Pet. 3:21)

English Versions of the Bible

But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

- **Variations in English texts because of**
 - **Many recent discoveries of ancient manuscripts and other documents**
 - **The relative importance given to these by the committees of scholars**
-

English Versions of the Bible

But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

- Different English texts in different versions

- Example: **Acts 8:37**

English Versions of the Bible

Acts 8:37

- **KJV** - “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
- **NKJV** - “*Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’”

*8:37 NU, M omit v. 37, It is found in Western texts, including the Latin tradition.

English Versions of the Bible

Acts 8:37

- **ASV** – Omits this verse in the text and puts it in a footnote as follows:
 - Some ancient authorities insert, wholly or in part, ver. 37 “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
-

English Versions of the Bible

Acts 8:37

- **NASV treats it as follows:**
- “[¹And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’]”

1 Early mss do not contain this v

English Versions of the Bible

But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

■ Different English texts in different versions

■ Another example: 1 John 5:7-8

English Versions of the Bible

I John 5:7-8

- **KJV** - “7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

English Versions of the Bible

I John 5:7-8

- **NKJV** - “7 For there are three who bear *witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one.
8 And there are three that bear witness on earth; the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.”
*5:7 NU, M omit the rest of v. 7 and through *on earth* of v. 8, a passage found in only 4 or 5 very late Greek mss.
-

English Versions of the Bible

I John 5:7-8

- **ASV** – “7 And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth. 8 For there are three who bear witness, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and the three agree in one.”

No footnote

English Versions of the Bible

I John 5:7-8

- **NASV** – “7 And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth. 8 For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”

No footnote

English Versions of the Bible

But even these English versions present the Bible student with differences.

- Different English texts in different versions

- A third example: **Mark 16:9-20**

English Versions of the Bible

Mark 16:9-20

- **KJV** – “9 Now when *Jesus* was risen ... 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

No reference to any textual issues

English Versions of the Bible

Mark 16:9-20

- **NKJV** – “9 Now when *He* rose ... 20 And they went out, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. *Amen.”

*16:20 Vv 9-20 are bracketed in NU as not original. They are lacking in Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus, although nearly all other mss. of Mark contain them.

English Versions of the Bible

Mark 16:9-20

- **ASV** – “9 Now when he was risen ... 20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.”

Marginal note: The two oldest Greek manuscripts, and some other authorities, omit from ver. 9 to the end. Some other authorities have a different ending to the Gospel.

English Versions of the Bible

Mark 16:9-20

- **NASV** – “9 (Now after He had risen ... 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.)”

Marginal note: Some of the oldest mss. omit from verse 9 through 20. Many mss. add: *Amen*

English Versions of the New Testament

- # In our next lesson, we will focus on the New Testament as we deal with the question of **variations in the text** of our English versions of the Bible.
 - # There are variations in text of our English versions of the New Testament because there are **variations in the extant Greek manuscripts and versions of the New Testament.**
-

English Versions of the New Testament

- # **There are variations in text of our English versions of the New Testament because there are variations in the extant Greek manuscripts and versions of the New Testament.**
 - # **There are more fundamentals about this subject that every Christian should know. We will see you at the next lesson!**
-

English Versions of the Bible

**“...The word of the
Lord endures
forever.”**

1 Peter 1:25
