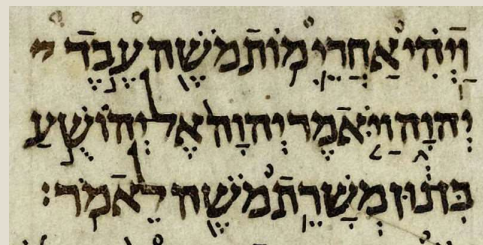


History of Biblical Translating

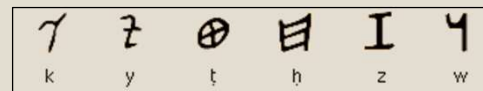
1

Old Testament Autographs

- Old Testament languages:
 - Hebrew
 - Aramaic
- Dates:
 - Oldest autograph:
 - ✦ Writings of Moses, approximately 1500 BC
 - Newest autograph:
 - ✦ Malachi, approximately 400 BC



Hebrew manuscript fragment



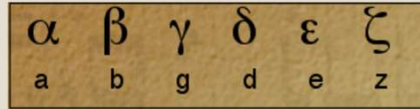
Aramaic letters

2

New Testament Autographs

- New Testament language:

- *Koine* (common) Greek



Greek letters

- Dates:

- Oldest autograph:
 - ✦ Galatians, approximately 48 AD
- Newest autograph:
 - ✦ Revelation, approximately 90-95 AD

3

Manuscripts

- No autographs survive today

- Copied by hand on:

- Leather
- Papyrus
- Vellum (calf or antelope skin)
- Parchment (goat or sheep skin)

- Greek Uncial manuscripts

- No punctuation
- Tightly spaced
- All “capital” letters

4

Manuscripts



- PAUL A BOND SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE SEPARATED TO THE GOSPEL OF GOD WHICH HE PROMISED BEFORE THROUGH HIS PROPHETS IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES CONCERNING HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD WHO WAS BORN OF THE SEED OF DAVID ACCORDING TO THE FLESH AND DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD WITH POWER ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS BY HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD THROUGH HIM WE HAVE RECEIVED GRACE AND APOSTLESHIP FOR Obedience TO THE FAITH AMONG ALL

5

Manuscripts



- **Oldest Old Testament manuscript**
 - Before the Dead Sea Scrolls – ~AD 900
 - After the Dead Sea Scrolls – ~100 BC
- **Oldest New Testament manuscript**
 - Before AD 100

6

Massoretes



- Special Jewish scribes
- Copied the Hebrew scriptures (AD 500-900)
- Counted the letters as error checking
- Buried imperfect copies
- These manuscripts are the most used in translating the Old Testament

7

Early Biblical Translations



- Septuagint
 - Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament
 - Translated in 250-100 BC by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt.
 - Often quoted by Jesus and New Testament writers

8

Why The Difference?



- Isaiah 40:3 – The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”
- Matthew 3:3 – For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ”

9

Early Biblical Translations



- **Jewish Targums**
 - Interpretive renderings of Hebrew into Aramaic
 - All books except:
 - ✦ Ezra
 - ✦ Nehemiah
 - ✦ Daniel

10

Early Biblical Translations

- Syriac Versions
 - Old Syriac
 - ✦ Curetonian (5th century)
 - ✦ Sinaitic (4th century)
 - Peshitta (9th century)

11

Early Biblical Translations

- Latin Vulgate
 - Commissioned by Pope Damasus I
 - Revision of previous Latin translations
 - Translated from 410-435 by Jerome
 - Official translation of the Roman Catholic Church for over 1000 years



12



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Important Events

- Wycliffe Bible
 - First complete English translation
 - Translated from Latin into English around 1380
 - Translating into English becomes illegal in 1408
 - Wycliffe Bible banned in 1415
 - Wycliffe's bones exhumed & burned for heresy in 1428

14

Important Events

- Gutenberg’s Printing Press

- Invented in 1455
- World’s first printing press with moveable metal type
- The Gutenberg Bible is the first book ever printed (a Latin Vulgate)

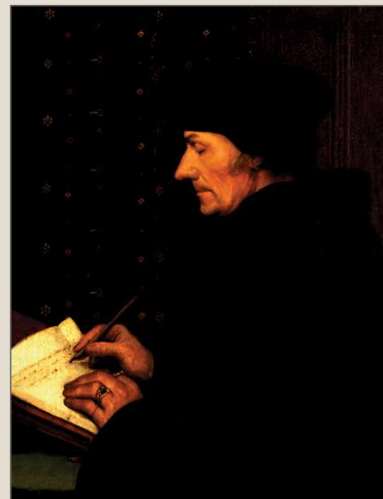


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Important Events

- Erasmus

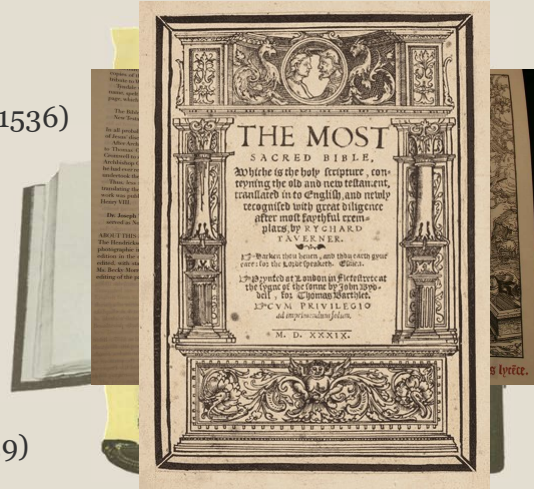
- Priest and Greek scholar
- Publishes a new Greek edition and a more accurate Latin translation of the New Testament (1516)
- His Greek text forms the basis of the *Textus Receptus* or “received text”
- The *Textus Receptus* is used later by Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and the King James translators



16

Important Events

- **Tyndale's Bible**
 - First printed English New Testament (1526)
 - Tyndale is strangled and burned at the stake (1536)
- **Coverdale Bible**
 - First complete printed English Bible (1535)
- **Matthew's Bible**
 - First to receive the King's permission (1537)
- **Tavener's Bible**
 - First to be printed completely in England (1539)



17

Important Events

- **The Great Bible**
 - Commissioned by Thomas Cromwell in 1537
 - Coverdale revises Matthew's Bible
 - Placed in every church in England
 - Chained to church pillars



18

Important Events

• Geneva Bible

- Printed in Geneva, Switzerland (1560)
- Complete revision of the Great Bible
- Old Testament translated from Hebrew
- Carried to America by Pilgrims (1620)
- First English Bible to omit Apocrypha



Important Events

• Rheims-Douai Bible

- New Testament completed in 1582
- Old Testament completed in 1609
- English translation of the Latin Vulgate
- First Roman Catholic edition of the English Bible

Important Events

- King James Version

- Commissioned by King James I in 1605
- Completed in 1611
- Based on the *Textus Receptus*, Bishops Bible, and Tyndale's Bible
- Called the "Authorized Version," though King James never gave the finished version royal approval



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From the King James Version to Revised Version

- Edward Harwood's New Testament (1768)
- Charles Thomson's Bible (1808)
- Noah Webster's Bible (1833)
- Julia E. Smith's Bible (1876)
- British Revised Version (1881-85)
- American Standard Version (1901)

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Early Modern-Speech Versions



- *Twentieth Century New Testament* (1901; 1904)
- *Weymouth's New Testament in Modern Speech* (1903)
- *Moffatt's Translation* (1913; 1924-25)
- *Smith and Goodspeed's American Translation* (1923; 1927)

23

Translation after Translation



- **Revised Standard Version (1952)**
 - Updated in 1990 as the *New Revised Standard Version*
- **Jerusalem Bible (1966)**
 - Updated in 1985 as the *New Jerusalem Bible*
- **New American Bible (1970)**
 - *New Testament* revised in 1986

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Translation After Translation



- **New English Bible (1970)**
 - Updated in 1989 as the Revised English Bible

- **New American Standard Bible (1971)**
 - Updated in 1995 & 2020

- **New International Version (1978)**
 - Updated in 2011

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Translation After Translation



- **New King James Version (1979; 1982)**

- **English Standard Version (2001)**
 - Minor revisions in 2007, 2011, & 2016

- **New English Translation (2001)**

- **Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)**
 - Revised as the Christian Standard Bible in 2017

26

Easy-to-Read Versions

- Bible in Basic English (1949)
- J. B. Phillip's Version (1958)
 - Revised in 1972
- Good News Bible (Today's English Version) (1976)
- Reader's Digest Bible (1982)
- Contemporary English Version (1995)
- New International Reader's Version (1996)

27

Paraphrases

- Henry Hammond's *Paraphrase and Annotations* (1653)
- Philip Doddridge's *Family Expositor* (1739-56)
- F. F. Bruce's Expanded Paraphrase of the Epistles of Paul (1965)
- Kenneth Taylor's *Living Bible, Paraphrased* (1967; 1971)
- Eugene Peterson's *The Message* (1993; 1997; 2000)

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History of Biblical Translating

