

YOUR BIBLE

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

4:1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 (NASB 1977)

YOUR BIBLE

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹And *so* we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

²⁰But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation, ²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1:16-21 (NASB 1977)

YOUR BIBLE ITS UNIQUENESS

- Written over a period of 1600 years
(1500 BC – AD 100)
- Written on three continents
(Africa, Asia, Europe)
- Written in three different source languages
(Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek)
- Written on various materials
(stone, clay, papyrus, parchment, leather)

Thus, the Bible is the most documented collection of writings in the world, with tens of thousands of very ancient copies & partial copies which can be compared with one another, so that we can be relatively certain – over 99 % - that our modern Bible accurately represents the original texts.

YOUR BIBLE ITS UNIQUENESS

It was written by at least 40 different authors, of widely variant backgrounds (rich & poor; educated & not; popular & unpopular), using their own vocabularies & grammatical styles, in various emotional states

It was written about some of the most controversial topics known to humanity

Yet, there are no true contradictions indicated within the original text of the Bible.

YOUR BIBLE
ITS ORGANIZATION

Two Major Divisions

THE OLD TESTAMENT

39 Books from before the time of Jesus
(Arranged in 22 Books by the ancient Jews)

THE NEW TESTAMENT

27 Books from the time of Jesus & after

YOUR BIBLE

ITS ORGANIZATION

The Old Testament = Jewish *Mikra* or *Tanakh*

“*Mikra*” meant “that which is read” & was the most ancient term.

“*Tanakh*” is a more modern acrostic for its 3 Jewish divisions.

Torah = “Law” (5 books)

Neviim = “Prophets” (13 books for them/30 books for us)

Khetuvim = “Writings” (4 books)

In Luke 24:44, Jesus testified to the these three traditional Jewish divisions of Scripture when he said about Himself that “all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

YOUR BIBLE ITS ORGANIZATION

Ancient Jews counted the 22 books of their *Mikra* as their only “Scripture,” inspired by God and worth dying for.

“It is true, our history hath been written since Artaxerxes very particularly, but hath not been esteemed of the like authority with the former by our forefathers, because there hath not been an exact succession of prophets since that time; and how firmly we have given credit to those books of our own nation, is evident by what we do; for during so many ages as have already passed, no one has been so bold as either to add anything to them, to take anything from them, or to make any change in them; but it becomes natural to all Jews, immediately and from their very birth, to esteem those books to contain divine doctrines, and to persist in them, and, if occasion be, willingly to die for them.”

Josephus’ Antiquities of the Jews 12.2

YOUR BIBLE
ITS ORGANIZATION

Our Old Testament arranges them as 39 books in 5 divisions.

5 Books from Moses

12 Books of Jewish History

5 Books of Jewish Wisdom/Poetry

5 Books from Famous (Major) Prophets

12 Books from Not-So-Famous (Minor) Prophets

YOUR BIBLE

ITS ORGANIZATION

The first division is foundational to the rest.
Mature believers should be fairly familiar with them.

Genesis = The Creation; The Fall; The Flood; The Tower of Babel; & The Stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph

Exodus = The Story of Israel's Miraculous Exodus from Egypt

Leviticus = A Rule Book for the Levites & Priests of Israel

Numbers = Two Counts of Israel: One at the Beginning of the Exodus & One at the End of the Exodus

Deuteronomy = Moses' Final Address to Israel

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSLATION

The first translation of the entire O.T.
was accomplished around 280 BC.

It was into *Koine* (“Common”) Greek.

This translation is commonly called the Septuagint.

It is the translation most often quoted in the N.T.,
which is also written in *Koine* (“Common”) Greek.

YOUR BIBLE ITS ORGANIZATION

Our New Testament is arranged as 27 books in 5 divisions,
focusing upon the most significant 100 years in human history.

4 Gospels (“Good news”) about Jesus (8 BC-AD 33)

1 Book of Early Church History (AD 33-62)

12 Letters from the Apostle Paul (AD 48-65)

8 Letters from other Apostles or Prophets (AD 35-66)

1 Book of Prophecy (AD 95)

YOUR BIBLE

ITS ORGANIZATION

The first two divisions are foundational to the rest.
Mature believers should be very familiar with them.

Matthew = Written around the mid-40's by the Apostle Matthew for Jewish people. Lots of Old Testament references.

Mark = Written during the mid-60's by John Mark for people living in Rome. Lots of short stories about Jesus.

Luke = Written in the early 60's by Luke for Theophilus. Lots of eye-witness accounts, particular from women's perspectives.

John = Written in the mid-60's by the Apostle John to help people believe in Jesus as the Son of God. Lots of direct quotes from Jesus.

Acts = Written in the mid-60's by Luke as a follow-up to his first letter (Luke) to Theophilus. Lots of eyewitness information about the establishment & growth of Christ's Church.

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

There is a commonly repeated myth that the N.T. “*canon*” (the ruling list of books accepted as inspired) was not “put together” until the time of Constantine (4th Century).

Anyone who says so is either **ignorant** of history (at best) or is **an outright liar** (at worst).

The very first historical references to our 27 N.T. books being accepted as a **limited canon** of inspired writings by the 1st Century Apostles & Prophets come from the 2nd Century.

You see, like the persecuted O.T. Jews before them, the persecuted N.T. Christians needed to be absolutely certain which books were worth reading & worth dying for.

**YOUR BIBLE
ITS TRANSMISSION**

Therefore, the Bible you have today

39 God-inspired O.T. Books
&
27 God-inspired N.T. Books

is the exact same Bible that the New Testament Church
has been using since the 2nd Century – pretty much 1900 years!

But how did it get into the English version you're using today?

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

Since the language of the Western Roman Empire (think western Europe) was Latin, the Western Church (what would soon become the Roman Catholic Church) translated the Bible into common Latin from Hebrew & Greek.

The Latin Vulgate (“Common Latin”) Bible was **THE ONLY** Bible of western Europe for over a millennium - from about AD 300-1550.

But during that time, the “common people” of Europe lost the ability to read or understand “common Latin.”

The Bible effectively became a book unknown to most people.

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

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YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

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The Roman Catholic Church persecuted them,
burning some of them at the stake.

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

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Then they had John Hus burned at the stake in July of 1415

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

In the 1500's Martin Luther translated the Bible into German.



When the Roman Catholic Church tried to condemn him, Germans supported him & thus began the Lutheran Church.

Protestantism is usually dated from his first resistance to Rome -
31 October 1517.

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

In England, the Protest had its own home-grown heroes.

Around 1521, William Tyndale made it clear that the Bible - not some Roman Pope - should be the authority for Christians.



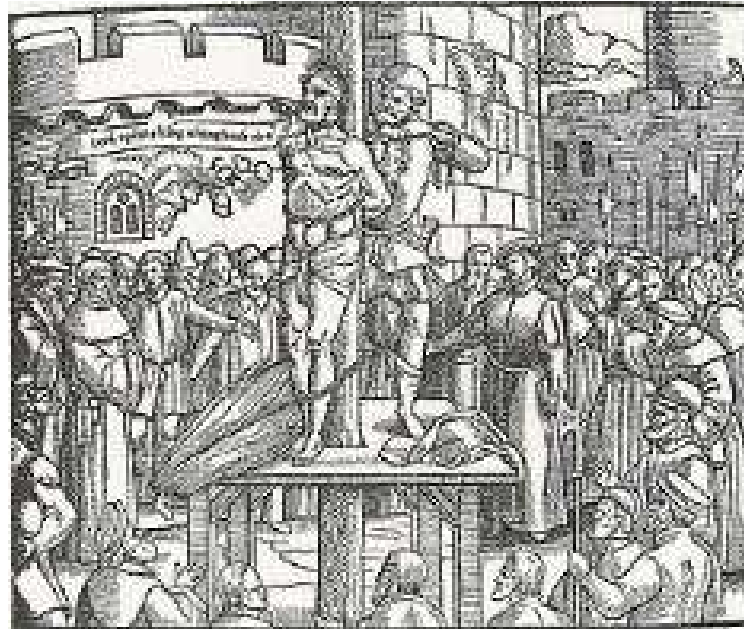
YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

He famously told a priest, who upheld the Pope's authority, "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life many more years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scriptures than you do!"



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Tyndale was strangled, then burned at the stake in 1536.
His final words were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

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The Authorized Version, published in 1611, became the third officially commissioned English Bible, dedicated to King James I. The “King James Version” is the most widely read English version right up in to modern times.



**YOUR BIBLE
ITS TRANSMISSION**

During the 1600's,
Protestant Christianity became the majority faith of England.

The more conservative English Protestants
(those most devoted to the Bible) migrated to America.

Thus America has become the home
to the majority of the world's Bible-believing Christians.

YOUR BIBLE ITS TRANSMISSION

As the English language changed,
more English versions have been produced.

They fall into three categories:

Strict Translation (“Word for Word”)

KJV, Revised Standard, New American Standard (1977)
and the fairly recent (2001) English Standard

Dynamic Equivalency (“Thought for Thought”)

New English Bible, New International Version (revised in 2011)
& New American Standard (revised in 1995)

Loose Paraphrase (I don’t recommend using these at all.)

Taylor’s The Living Bible & Peterson’s The Message

YOUR BIBLE ITS STUDY

As with any writing, the best way to understand the Bible
is by means of an Historical-Grammatical Application.

Who is writing?

To whom?

Where?

When?

Why?

What is the vocabulary (meaning of words)?

What is the syntax (arrangement of words)?

How does it impact upon me?

YOUR BIBLE WRAPPING UP

We started with the Scriptural reality that “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I want us to end by understanding the Scriptural reality that all these things “were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

(1 Corinthians 10:10)

Now, let's continue using God's Word as God intended!