



History of the English Bible

Colossians 1:25 (KJV)

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God
which is given to me for you, *to fulfil the word of God;*

2 Timothy 4:13 (KJV)

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring
with thee, and the books, *but especially the parchments.*



The Word of the Lord

- Psalms 18:30 (KJV) As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.
- Psalms 33:4 (KJV) For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.
- Psalms 33:6 (KJV) By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
- Psalms 119:160 (KJV) Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.
- Proverbs 30:5 (KJV) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.



How did we get the Bible?


- God's Word has passed down through the ages under many forms of political and religious government
- No matter what form of human government exists, God's word has been divinely passed from generation to generation for our benefit today
- Every authority is under authority and God is the ultimate and final authority



1 Timothy 2:1-5 (KJV)

- 1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
- 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
- 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
- 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Why?





Righteous Authority

- Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.
- Proverbs 16:12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.
- Proverbs 20:26 A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.
- Proverbs 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.
- Proverbs 25:5 Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

For Kings...



Windsor Castle



The Tower of London



Line of Kings at the Tower



Buckingham Palace





And for all that are in authority...

- After Jerusalem was destroyed in AD70, God has passed his written word down through the ages under various political and religious authority of the time
- For appx 1600 years, the written word was only available to a few... the political and religious elite
- Until it finally was made available in English for all to have free access



Political Authority - Matt 22:15-22

- 15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.
- 16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.
- 17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?
- 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?
- 19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.
- 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?
- 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.
- 22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.



Religious Authority - Matt 23:1-15

- 1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
- 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
- 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
- 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
- 5 *But all their works they do for to be seen of men:* they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,...
- 13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
- 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
- 15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

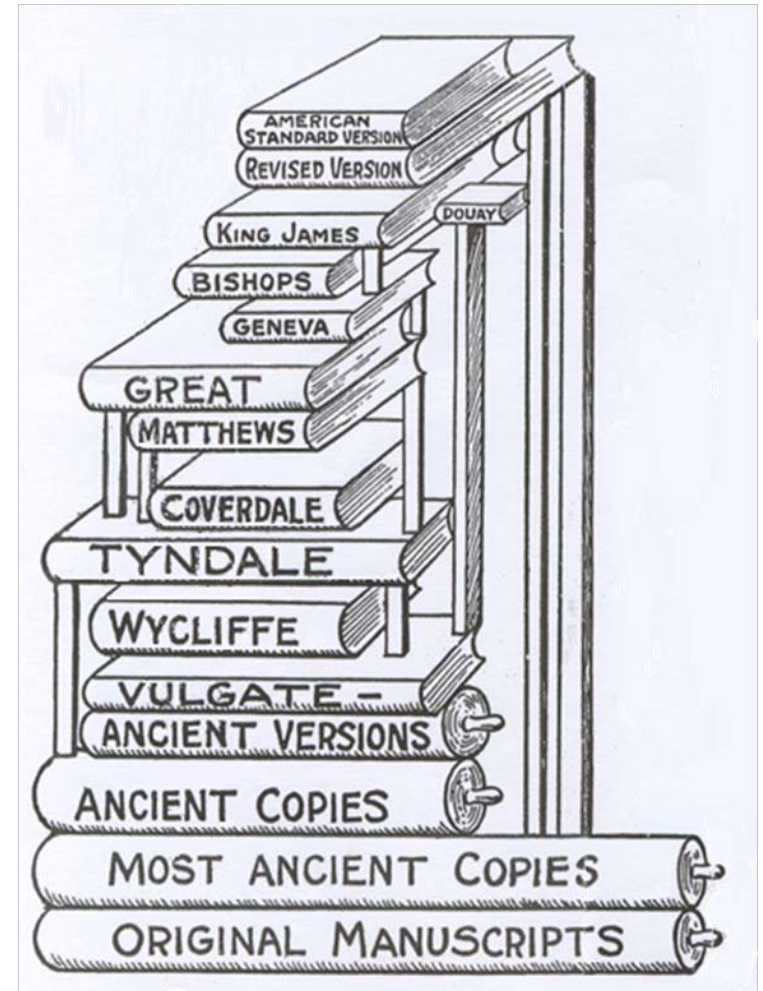


All Scripture is Given by Inspiration of God...

- The Bible is a compilation of works by more than 40 authors, written during a period of about 1,600 years, yet it is unified in spirit, outlook and inspiration
- The earliest parts of the Bible were written in approximately 1500 B.C.; the most recent around A.D.63
- The original languages of the Bible were Hebrew (Old Testament), Aramaic (a few scattered parts of the Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament)
- The Bible is composed of 66 books (39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament) which they view as the complete Bible
- These books came to be called canonical, from the Greek word for a measuring stick (kanon)

History of the English Bible

- Original Manuscripts
- Most Ancient Copies
 - Codex Sinaiticus
 - Codex Alexandrinus
 - Codex Vaticanus
- The Ancient Versions
 - Septuagint Version
 - Samaritan Pentateuch
 - Peshito or Syriac
 - The Vulgate
- English Versions



2 Timothy 4:13

Original Manuscripts



A Hebrew Scroll

- 2 Tim 4:13 (KJV) The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, *but especially the parchments*.
- All the original manuscripts were written by hand as there were no printing presses at the time
- Under these conditions, all the original manuscripts perished but not before several hand written copies were made.
- The most ancient copies were created from the original manuscripts



Most Ancient Copies

- Codex Sinaiticus
 - A Greek manuscript of the Old and New Testaments, of the greatest antiquity and value; found on Mount Sinai
- Codex Alexandrinus
 - A most valuable Greek manuscript of the Old and New Testaments, so named because it was brought to Europe from Alexandria
- Codex Vaticanus
 - a Greek manuscript, The Vatican Codex, is rightly considered to be the oldest extant copy of the Bible. Like the Codex Sinaiticus it represents what Westcott and Hort call a "neutral text", i.e. a text that antedates the modifications found in all later manuscripts



Dead Sea Scroll Fragment



The Ancient Versions

- The Septuagint Version
 - The translation of the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, made in Alexandria about 285 B.C.
- The Samaritan Pentateuch
 - The most important of the works belonging to Samaritan literature. This Pentateuch is written in the Samaritan character in Hebrew
- Peshito or Syriac
 - The whole Bible, date uncertain (1st or 2nd Century) apparently a translation into the common language of certain portions of Syria
- The Vulgate
 - The entire Bible translated into the Latin language, by Jerome at Bethlehem. Completed about 400 A.D. For 1000 years, the standard Bible in the Catholic Church

English Versions up to 1900

- John Wycliffe – 1380
- William Tyndale - 1525, 1530
- Miles Coverdale - 1535
- Matthew's Bible – 1537
- The Great Bible – 1539
- The Geneva Bible – 1560 (1st to use Chapters and Verses)
- The Bishop's Bible – 1568
- The Douay Bible – 1582
- The King James or Authorized Version - 1611
- The Revised Version – 1881-1884
- The American Standard Version – 1900-1901





Modern Day Translations

- Revised Standard Version (RSV) – 1946,1952
- New English Bible (NEB) - 1961
- Amplified Bible (AB) - 1958 NT; 1964-65 OT
- Today's English Version (TEV) – 1966
- New American Bible (NAB) - 1970
- The New American Standard Bible (NASB) - 1971
- The New International Version (NIV) – 1973,1978
- The New King James Version (NKJV) – 1982
- New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) - 1985
- Revised English Bible (REB) – 1992
- Contemporary English Version (CEV) - 1996



In Summary

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)
 - 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
 - 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)
 - 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- The word of God is inspired and God breathed... and readily available for study!