

Below are the most common translations of Bibles used. Each of these translations has its unique approach to conveying the Scriptures, whether through a focus on literal accuracy, readability, or a balance of both, catering to various preferences among Christian readers. When studying, choose the translation that best fits your understanding, however, it is also advantageous to compare the text with the other translations.

1. King James Version (KJV)

- **History:** Published in 1611, commissioned by King James I of England.
- **Authors:** Translated by 47 scholars of the Church of England.
- **Language:** Originally translated from Hebrew (Old Testament), Greek (New Testament), and some portions from Latin.
- **Background:** Known for its majestic style and influence on the English language, the KJV has been one of the most widely read and used translations for centuries. It aimed to be as close to the original texts as possible, yet understandable for the common people of the time.

2. New International Version (NIV)

- **History:** First published in 1978, with revisions in 1984 and 2011.
- **Authors:** A team of over 100 scholars from various evangelical denominations.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** The NIV was created to balance word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation approaches, making it accessible and easy to read while maintaining accuracy.

3. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

- **History:** Published in 1989, a revision of the Revised Standard Version (1952).
- **Authors:** Produced by the National Council of Churches with a committee of scholars from various Christian denominations.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** Known for its scholarly approach and inclusivity in language, the NRSV is widely accepted in academic and liturgical settings.

4. English Standard Version (ESV)

- **History:** First published in 2001, with minor revisions in 2016.
- **Authors:** Created by a team of more than 100 evangelical scholars and pastors.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** The ESV is a revision of the 1971 edition of the Revised Standard Version. It aims to be a readable translation suitable for study, preaching, and memorization because of its emphasis on word-for-word accuracy.

5. New Living Translation (NLT)

- **History:** First published in 1996, with subsequent revisions in 2004, 2007, 2013, and 2015
- **Authors:** A team of 90 scholars from a wide range of denominations.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** The NLT was intended to be a thought-for-thought translation that focuses on clarity and accessibility, making it popular for personal reading and devotion.

6. New King James Version (NKJV)

- **History:** Published in 1982 as a modern update to the King James Version.
- **Authors:** A group of 130 scholars, theologians, and clergy.
- **Language:** Hebrew, Greek, Latin, similar to the KJV but with updated language.
- **Background:** The NKJV aims to maintain the original KJV's style and structure while updating language and grammar for modern readers.

7. Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

- **History:** Published in 2017, an update of the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB).
- **Authors:** Published by Thomas Nelson
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** The CSB seeks to combine accuracy and readability with a balance of word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation philosophy.

8. New American Standard Bible (NASB)

- **History:** First published in 1971, with revisions in 1995 and 2020.
- **Authors:** Produced by the Lockman Foundation with a team of conservative scholars.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** Known for its literal, word-for-word approach, the NASB is popular among those who prefer a precise translation for study purposes.

9. The Message (MSG)

- **History:** First published in segments starting in 1993, completed in 2002.
- **Authors:** Translated by Eugene H. Peterson, a pastor and scholar.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** The Message is a paraphrase rather than a direct translation, aiming to capture the conversational style of the Bible in contemporary language.

10. New American Bible (NAB)

- **History:** First published in 1970
- **Authors:** A team of Catholic scholars under the direction of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.
- **Language:** Translated from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- **Background:** Widely used in the Catholic Church in the United States, the NAB aims for both accuracy and accessibility in liturgy, study, and personal reading.