

## How We Got Our English Language Bible

The New Testament was written down first from about 48 AD (Colossians) – 97 AD (Revelation) in many pieces.

Archaeologists have recovered about 5,500 New Testament manuscripts: either fragments or complete books. The earliest existing fragment of the New Testament is the Rylands Library Papyrus P52, a piece of the Gospel of John dated to the first half of the 2nd century (100-150 AD).

The writings of these complete books or fragments have been combined in modern printed volumes called Greek Texts named after the editors, the Westcott and Hort Text and the Nestle Text.

Most all English language Bible translations in English and other languages are made from these two printed Texts.

Sometimes the various old manuscripts do not agree. Each old manuscript has a name and a date. The two printed texts notate the differences. In the case of disagreement the oldest manuscript is presumed to be the “corrector” because it was not hand copied as many times as the “newer” ones.

The King James Version depended on the much copied Greek New Testament of the Greek Orthodox Church. It is called the “received text” (Textus Receptus) and is the name given to the succession of printed Greek texts of the New Testament which constituted the translation base for the original German Luther Bible, the translation of the New Testament into English by William Tyndale, the King James Version, and most other translations before 1933. The printing press was invented in 1450 AD. The King James Version was printed in 1611 AD.

The oldest complete Greek New Testament manuscript in existence is called “Sinaiticus”, about 330 AD. It is in the British Library in London. The New American Standard Bible (NASB) makes corrections based on Sinaiticus which was not available to the Western world prior to 1933 when it was purchased by the British from Russia for 200,000 British Pounds. The communists needed the money.

“Vaticanus” is the next oldest manuscript and was in the possession of the Roman Catholic Church at the time of the Protestant Reformation which began in 1517 AD.

The Lockman Foundation is the sole publisher of The New American Standard Bible (NASB) and The Amplified Bible (AMP).

The Lockman Foundation strictly adheres to this fourfold aim that guides all of its translation work:

1. These publications shall be true to the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
2. They shall be grammatically correct.
3. They shall be understandable.
4. They shall give the Lord Jesus Christ His proper place, the place which the Word gives Him; therefore, no work will ever be personalized.

Because of the time and expense to translate an entire Bible the NASB and the AMP are under copyright. But they each have a generous copy permission.

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<b>Book</b>	<b>Dates determined by scholars</b>	<b>Earliest Known Fragment</b>
<u>Gospel of Matthew</u>	70-110 CE <sup>111</sup>	<u>P<sup>104</sup></u> (150–200 CE)
<u>Gospel of Mark</u>	60-70 CE	<u>P<sup>45</sup></u> (250 CE)
<u>Gospel of Luke</u>	60-90 CE	<u>P<sup>4</sup>, P<sup>75</sup></u> (175–250 CE)
<u>Gospel of John</u>	80-95 CE	<u>P<sup>52</sup></u> (125–160 CE)
<u>Acts</u>	60-90 CE	<u>P<sup>29</sup>, P<sup>45</sup>, P<sup>48</sup>, P<sup>53</sup>, P<sup>91</sup></u> (250 CE)
<u>Romans</u>	57–58 CE	<u>P<sup>46</sup></u> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>Corinthians</u>	57 CE	<u>P<sup>46</sup></u> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)

<b>Book</b>	<b>Dates determined by scholars</b>	<b>Earliest Known Fragment</b>
<u>Galatians</u>	45-55 CE	<u>P</u> <sup>46</sup> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>Ephesians</u>	65 CE	<u>P</u> <sup>46</sup> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>Philippians</u>	57–62 CE	<u>P</u> <sup>46</sup> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>Colossians</u>	60 CE + <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>46</sup> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>1</u> <u>Thessalonians</u>	50 CE <sup>[3]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>46</sup> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>2</u> <u>Thessalonians</u>	50-54 CE <sup>[12][13]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>92</sup> (300 CE)
<u>Timothy</u>	60-100 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>Codex Sinaiticus</u> (350 CE)
<u>Titus</u>	60-100 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>32</sup> (200 CE)
<u>Philemon</u>	56 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>87</sup> (3rd century CE)
<u>Hebrews</u>	63-90 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>46</sup> (late 2nd century or 3rd century CE)
<u>James</u>	50-200 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>20</sup> , <u>P</u> <sup>23</sup> (early 3rd century CE)
<u>First Peter</u>	60-96 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>72</sup> (3rd/4th century CE)
<u>Second Peter</u>	60-130 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>72</sup> (3rd/4th century CE)
<u>Epistles of John</u>	90-110 CE <sup>[4]</sup>	<u>P</u> <sup>9</sup> , <u>Uncial 0232</u> , <u>Codex Sinaiticus</u> (3rd/4th century CE)

<b>Book</b>	<b>Dates determined by scholars</b>	<b>Earliest Known Fragment</b>
<u>Jude</u>	66-90 CE <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	<u>P<sup>72</sup></u> (3rd/4th century CE)
<u>Revelation</u>	68-100 CE <sup>[4]</sup>	<u>P<sup>98</sup></u> (150–200 CE)