

# Christian History Timeline: How We Got Our Bible

## *EARLY DEVELOPMENT*

**c. 1400–400 B.C.** Books of the Hebrew Old Testament written

**c. 250–200 B.C.** The Septuagint, a popular Greek translation of the Old Testament, produced

**A.D. 45–[95]** Books of the Greek New Testament written

**90 and 118** Councils of Jamnia give final affirmation to the Old Testament canon (39 books)

**140–150** Marcion's heretical "New Testament" incites orthodox Christians to establish a NT canon

**303–306** Diocletian's persecution includes confiscating and destroying New Testament Scriptures

**c. 305–310** Lucian of Antioch's Greek New Testament text; becomes a foundation for later Bibles

**367** Athanasius's Festal Letter lists complete New Testament canon (27 books) for the first time

**397** Council of Carthage establishes orthodox New Testament canon (27 books)

**c. 400** Jerome translates the Bible into Latin; this "Vulgate" becomes standard of medieval church

## *ENGLISH VERSIONS FROM LATIN*

**c. 650** Caedmon, a monk, puts Bible books into verse

**c. 735** >Historian Bede translates the Gospels

**871–899** King Alfred the Great translates the Psalms and 10 Commandments

**950** The 7th-century Lindisfarne Gospels receive English translation

**955–1020** Aelfric translates various Bible books

**c. 1300** Invention of eyeglasses aids copying

**c. 1325** Both Richard Rolle and William Shoreham translate psalms into metrical verse

**1380–1382** John Wycliffe and associates make first translation of the whole Bible into English

**1388** John Purvey revises Wycliffe Bible

**1455** Gutenberg's Latin Bible—first from press

#### *ENGLISH VERSIONS FROM GREEK*

**1516** Erasmus's Greek New Testament, forerunner to the Textus Receptus used by KJV translators

**1525** William Tyndale makes the first translation of the New Testament from Greek into English

**1536** Tyndale strangled and burned

**1537** Miles Coverdale's Bible completes Tyndale's work on the Old Testament

**1538** Great Bible, assembled by John Rogers, the first English Bible authorized for public use

**1560** Geneva Bible—the work of William Whittingham, a Protestant English exile in Geneva

**1568** Bishop's Bible—a revision of the Great Bible

**1582** Rheims New Testament published

**1607–1611** King James Version, the "Authorized Version," is made

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