

WHY THERE ARE SO MANY BIBLES

The Core Reason: Language Changes

English in 1611 is not modern English.

Example:

- “Let” used to mean *prevent*.
- “Conversation” meant *conduct*, not speech.

So translations update wording so modern readers understand the text.

That alone explains many new versions.

Different Manuscript Families Exist

Old Testament base:

- Masoretic Text (MT)
- Dead Sea Scroll comparisons
- Septuagint (Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures)

New Testament base:

- Textus Receptus
- Majority Text
- Critical Text (based on earlier manuscript discoveries)

As older manuscripts were discovered (especially in the 1800s and 1900s), some translations adjusted wording based on earlier copies.

That’s textual criticism not conspiracy.

Translation Philosophy Differences

There are three major approaches:

Word-for-word (Formal Equivalence)

Example: NASB, ESV

More literal but harder to read.

Thought-for-thought (Dynamic Equivalence)

Example: NIV

More readable but interpretive.

Paraphrase

Example: The Message

Not a translation more commentary.

This is about readability style, not truth alteration.

Church Tradition Differences

- Protestant Bibles exclude Apocrypha
- Catholic Bibles include Deuterocanonical books
- Orthodox traditions include additional texts

This goes back to canon decisions in early centuries.

That's about canon boundaries, not rewriting Torah.

The Name Issue (Important but Nuanced)

The tetragrammaton יהוה appears in Hebrew manuscripts.

Most English translations render it as:

- LORD (in small caps)

This practice predates English Christianity.

It comes from Jewish scribal tradition of reading "Adonai" instead of pronouncing the Name.

So English translators followed an already-existing Hebrew reading tradition.

That doesn't mean they erased the Name from manuscripts.
It means they followed a vocal tradition of reverence.

That distinction matters historically.

About “Authorized By”

When we say:
“Authorized by King James”

It means:
He approved the project for use in the Church of England.

It does NOT mean he rewrote Scripture.

The translators were scholars working from Hebrew and Greek texts already in existence.

That nuance protects your credibility.

About Name-Restoration Bibles

You mentioned:

- HalleluYah Scriptures
- The Scriptures (ISR)
- Cephher

It's important to teach this carefully:

These are modern translations produced by independent groups who chose to transliterate Hebrew names directly instead of using English forms.

That is a translation philosophy choice.

It does not mean older translations lacked access to the Name.
It means they followed a different linguistic tradition.

