

Timeline of the English Bible

From the beginnings of Bible translation to major current editions.



<u>TIMELINE</u>	<u>BIBLE LINEAGE</u>
10 th – 3 rd Century BC	Old Testament The Hebrews kept a record of their history, and God’s dealings with them. These were copied and gathered through generations as Scriptures, later to become the Old Testament .
3 rd - 2 nd Century BC	The Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek in the third century BC as there were many Jewish communities in other parts of the world speaking Greek rather than Hebrew.
500-1000 AD	New Testament Earliest NT writings are some of Paul’s letters to individuals or groups of believers. The Gospels were written to teach new converts and continue the witness of the first disciples. Other writings were in circulation, but guided by the Spirit of God, the churches drew together a collection of writings that testified most surely to the life, authority and influence of Jesus Christ. By the fourth century there was general agreement by the church councils and the NT was formed.
4 th Century AD	Early Translations began to emerge, the most important being Jerome’s Latin Vulgate Bible which was translated after 20 years of living and studying in Palestine. The Vulgate was the first full Bible translation. In common Latin, it was not immediately accepted, but eventually became the official text of western Christianity spreading to western Mediterranean and northern Europe.
Around 1384	John Wycliffe and his associates translated the Latin Vulgate Bible into the newly developing English language. Completed around 1384, Wycliffe’s translation was suppressed by authorities and eventually banned in 1408.
Mid 15 th Century	The mid-15 th century saw the creation of the printing press in Germany, speeding the production of Bibles, and by mid-16 th century the Bible had been translated and printed into 14 languages. All still translated from the Latin text, rather than Greek and Hebrew.
1525	William Tyndale’s NT and Pentateuch translation, based on Hebrew and Greek, was printed in Germany. Tyndale’s work to bring God’s Word to ordinary people led to him being publically strangled and his body burned as a heretic.
1535	Miles Coverdale revised Tyndale’s work and translated the rest of the OT, to create the first complete English Bible . A large print version of this Bible placed in every parish became known as the Great Bible .
1560	Three important versions were published between the Great Bible of 1539 and the King James Version. First was the Geneva Bible , published in 1560 by church leaders who had escaped to Geneva avoiding Queen Mary’s persecution.
1568	Bishop’s Bible replaced the Great Bible for use in the Anglican Church.
1610	The complete Rheims/Douai Bible was published as the only English Roman Catholic version authorised until recent years.
1611	King James came to rule amidst serious religious controversies within the Church of England. In 1604 Dr John Reynolds, a Puritan leader, suggested a new authorised translation. Published to considerable opposition in 1611, this translation is still known and loved as the Authorised or King James Version .

More recent, popular English Editions.	
1885	English Revised Version
1901	American Standard Version
1952	Revised Standard Version
1958	J.B. Phillips (New Testament)
1963	New American Standard Bible
1964	Amplified Bible (Expanded AV Text)
1966	Jerusalem Bible
1970	New English Bible New American Bible
1971	Living Bible New American Standard
1976	Good News Translation
1979	New International Version
1082	New King James (Authorised) Version
1985	New Jerusalem Bible
1987	New Century Version
1989	New Revised Standard Version Revised English Bible
1995	Contemporary English Version God's Word
1996	New Living Translation
1998	New Light (New International Readers Version)
2001	English Standard Version
2002	The Message (Petersen)
2005	Today's International Version (TNIV)
2011	NIV

