



People of Two Books

Part 1: Holy Scripture

Anglican Distinctives · CHCC Sunday School · 18 Oct 2026

**ppt constructed with the help of Claude, script by Fr. Josh*

Anglicans: people of two books

THIS WEEK

Holy Scripture

The content of our liturgies and the doctrines that shape them

NEXT WEEK

The Book of Common Prayer

The liturgies that shape our worship and the rhythms of the Anglican rule of life

The Prayer Book is rooted and grounded in the Bible.

God's revealed word

“ All scripture is **God-breathed** and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God might be proficient, equipped for every good work. ”

2 Timothy 3:16–17

“Most of all in our hearts”

“ These books therefore ought to be much in our hands, in our eyes, in our ears, in our mouths, but **most of all in our hearts**. For the Scripture of God is the heavenly meat of our souls: the hearing and keeping of it maketh us blessed, sanctifieth us, and maketh us holy: it turneth our souls: it is a light lantern to our feet: it is a sure, steadfast, and everlasting instrument of salvation: it giveth wisdom to the humble and lowlyhearted: ... it is more sweet than honey or honeycomb...

Book of Homilies (1547), Homily I: “A Fruitful Exhortation to the Reading of Holy Scripture”

Printed in the heart

“ This word whosoever is diligent to read, and **in his heart to print that he readeth**, the great affection to the transitory things of this world shall be minished in him, and the great desire of heavenly things, that be therein promised of God, shall increase in him. ... For that thing which, by continual use of reading of holy Scripture and diligent searching of the same, is deeply printed and graven in the heart, at length turneth almost into nature.

Book of Homilies (1547), Homily I: “A Fruitful Exhortation to the Reading of Holy Scripture”

Turned into it

“ And moreover the effect and virtue of God’s word is to illuminate the ignorant, and to give more light unto them that faithfully and diligently read it; to comfort their hearts, and to encourage them to perform that which of God is commanded. ... And in reading of God’s word he most profiteth not always that is most ready in turning of the book, or in saying of it without the book; but **he that is most turned into it**, that is most inspired by the Holy Ghost, most in his heart and life altered and changed into that thing which he readeth...

Book of Homilies (1547), Homily I: “A Fruitful Exhortation to the Reading of Holy Scripture”

“To be short”

“ And, to be short, there is **nothing that more maintaineth godliness** of the mind, and driveth away ungodliness, than doth the continual reading or hearing of God’s word, if it be joined with a godly mind and a good affection to know and follow God’s will. ”

Book of Homilies (1547), Homily I: “A Fruitful Exhortation to the Reading of Holy Scripture”

All things necessary to salvation

1571

The 39 Articles of Religion

Foundational theological principles for the Anglican church, though not exactly a confession

“ **Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation:** so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. ”

Article VI: Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

The Church: witness and keeper

“ It is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God’s Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be **a witness and a keeper of holy Writ**, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation. ”

1

Nothing contrary to God’s Word written

2

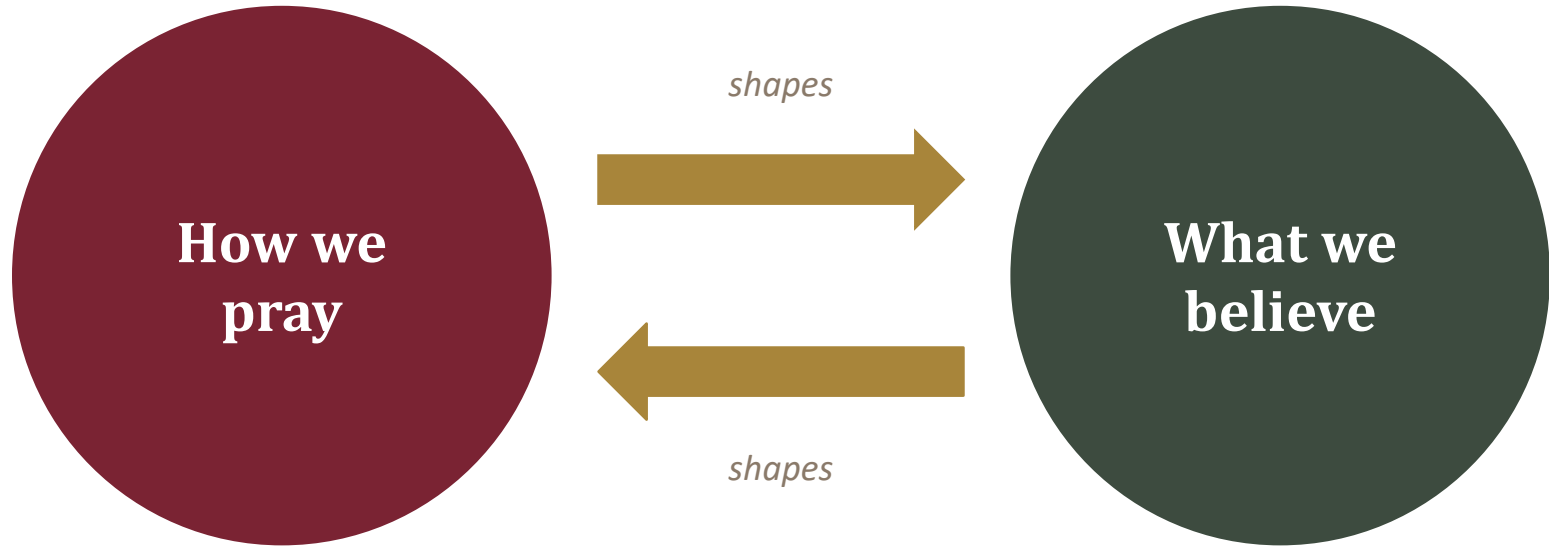
No passage set against another

3

Nothing beyond Scripture required for salvation

Article XX: Of the Authority of the Church

Lex orandi, lex credendi



"The law of praying is the law of believing."

Cranmer's Prayer Book (1549)

1

Rooted in the Bible

New English liturgies based firmly in Scripture

2

Teaching its doctrine

Liturgy that teaches the clear doctrines of Scripture

3

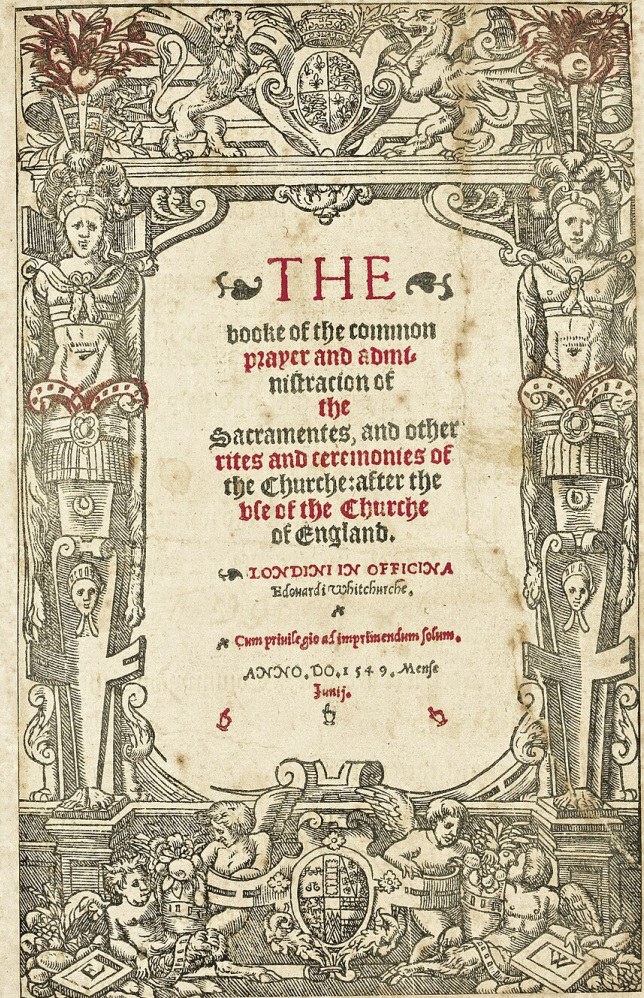
For clergy and laity

Greater familiarity with the Bible for everyone

4

Read through the year

A substantial portion of Scripture read annually at Communion and the Daily Office



The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

“ Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise **hear** them, **read, mark, learn,** and **inwardly digest** them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. ”

Five verbs, three movements

I

Hear

Scripture in a language the
people understand

The English Bible

II

Read · Mark · Learn

Scripture read in public
worship

*Communion and Daily Office
lectionaries*

III

Inwardly digest

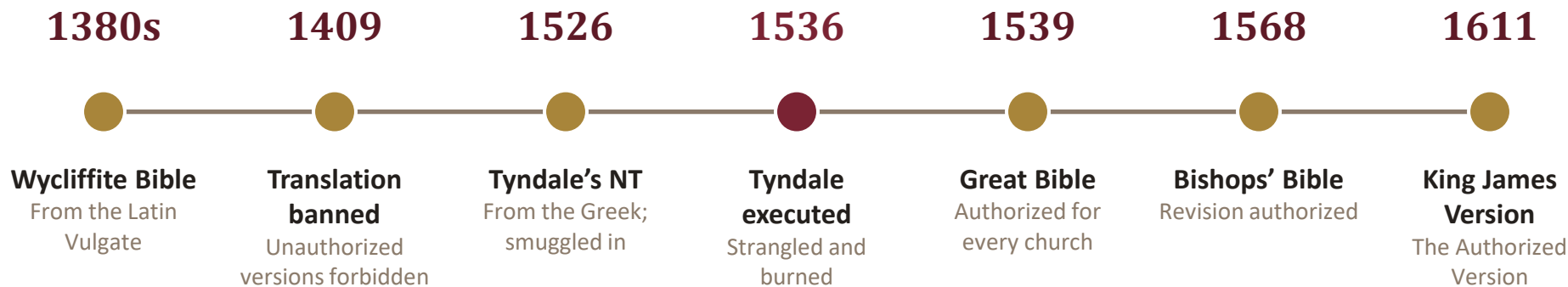
Scripture hidden in the heart

*Meditation and private
devotion*

I. Hear

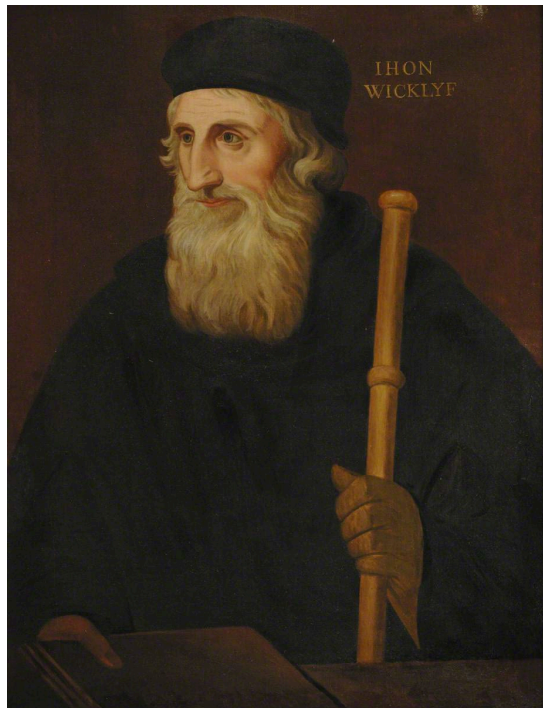
Scripture in a language the people understand

From forbidden to authorized



Suspect, then forbidden, then official

John Wycliffe (14th century)



- Wycliffe and his followers translated the Latin Vulgate into English
- The Church was suspicious: it did not trust common people to interpret Scripture without guidance
- 1409: unauthorized translation of the Bible banned in England

*The fear was not necessarily foolish.
Keeping the Bible from the people was.*

William Tyndale (1494–1536)



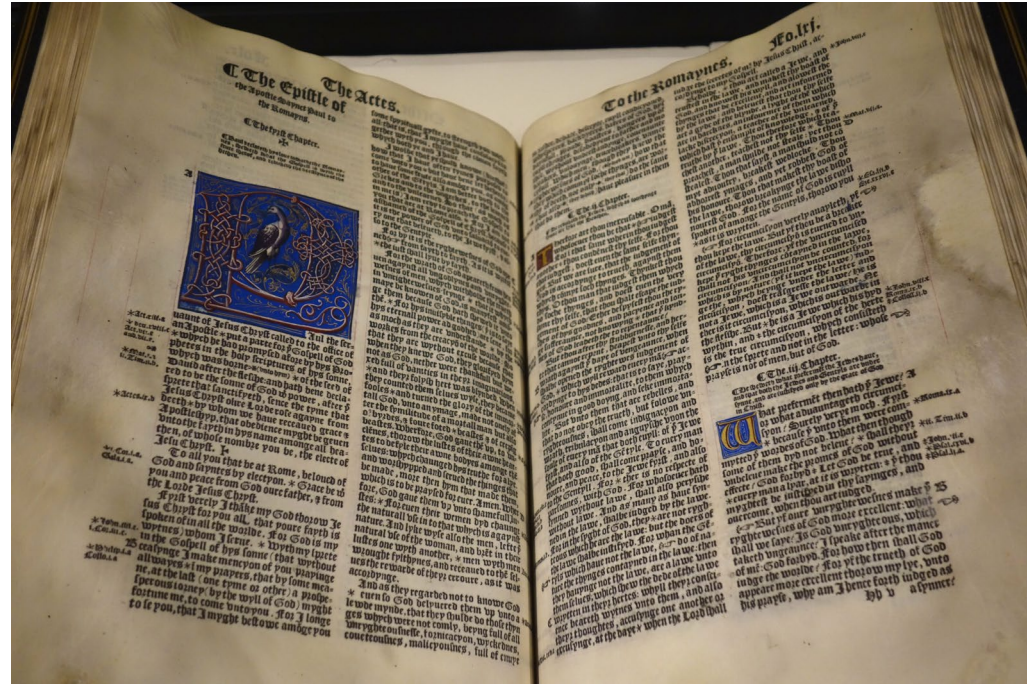
- 1520s–30s: translated from the Hebrew and Greek
- No official permission; fled England to work on the Continent
- Printed portions smuggled into England
- Arrested in Antwerp, 1535; executed October 1536

Illegal Bible that formed the basis for a century of legal Bibles.

The irony: the Great Bible (1539)

3 years from Tyndale's execution to an authorized English Bible

- Cranmer and Thomas Cromwell persuaded Henry VIII: an English Bible in every church
- Coverdale and others completed Tyndale's New Testament and half the Old Testament
- Tyndale's hope realized, only a few years after his death



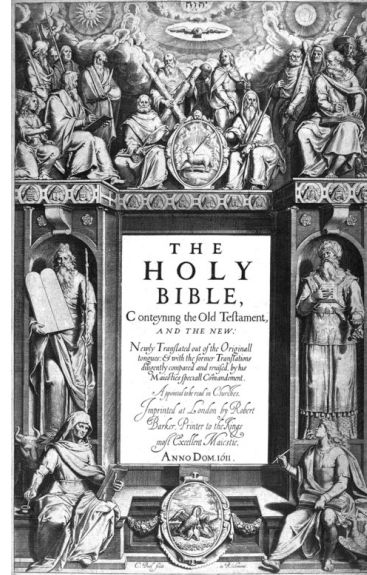
The Bishops' Bible and the King James



1568

The Bishops' Bible

A revision of the English Bible,
authorized for use in English
churches



1611

The Authorized Version

Commissioned by King James I
at Hampton Court (1604);
seven years' work by England's
best scholars

Translation continues today, in English and thousands of other languages.

II. Read, Mark, Learn

Scripture read in public worship

The Anglican rule of life

ANNUALLY

The Church year

Seasons, Sundays and holy days

WEEKLY

Holy Communion

Collect, Epistle and Gospel

DAILY

Morning & Evening Prayer

Working steadily through the Bible

...with personal Bible study and devotion. In these daily, weekly and annual cycles we internalize the truth, wisdom and life of the Scriptures.

Communion: a theme for each week



- An annual cycle of Gospel selections, each paired with an Epistle and a collect
- Themes vary through the seasons of the Church year
- Holy days have their own readings, like St Luke today

The Daily Office: the Bible in a year

“ [The ancient fathers] so ordered the matter, that **all the whole Bible (or the greatest part thereof) should be read over once in the year**, intending thereby, that the Clergy, and especially such as were Ministers of the congregation, should (by often reading, and meditation of God’s word) be stirred up to godliness themselves, and be more able to exhort others by wholesome doctrine, and to confute them that were adversaries to the truth. And further, that the people (by daily hearing of holy Scripture read in the Church) should continually profit more and more in the knowledge of God, and be the more inflamed with the love of his true religion. ”

Preface, Book of Common Prayer (1549)

Simplified: this book and the Bible

THE PROBLEM

“...to turn the Book only, was so hard and intricate a matter, that many times, there was more business to find out what should be read, than to read it when it was found out.”

THE REMEDY

“...[the ministers] shall need none other books for their public service, but this book and the Bible.”

Preface, Book of Common Prayer (1549)

Two lectionaries, much Scripture

Holy Communion

Selective: chosen passages

Thematic: a theme each week

Follows the Church year

Morning & Evening Prayer

Sequential: book by book

Continuous: picks up where it left off

The greater part of the Bible each year

Together: a great deal of Scripture, read aloud in church.

III. Inwardly Digest

Scripture hidden in the heart

Hidden in the heart

“Thy Word have I hidden in my heart...”

Psalm 119:11

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Thy law...”

Psalm 119:18

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, ... but **his delight** is in the Law of the LORD, and in his law does **he meditate day and night**. And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-side that bringeth forth his fruit in due season; his leaf shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:1–3

Chew on it

PASSIVE

Listening

Hearing Scripture in the service:
good, but it doesn't yet hide the
word in your heart



INWARD

Meditating

Reflecting on God's word until it
works into your identity and
mindset



"Chew on it like a cow chewing its cud!"

“Chew the cud”

“ God’s holy word ... is one of God’s chief and principal benefits given and declared to mankind here in earth. Let us thank God heartily for this his great and special gift, beneficial favour, and fatherly providence. Let us be glad to receive this precious gift of our heavenly Father. Let us hear, read, and know these holy rules, injunctions, and statutes of our Christian religion, and upon that we have made profession to God at our baptism. Let us with fear and reverence lay up in the chest of our hearts these necessary and fruitful lessons. Let us night and day muse and have meditation and contemplation in them. **Let us ruminate and as it were chew the cud**, that we may have the sweet juice, spiritual effect, marrow, honey, kernel, taste, comfort, and consolation of them.

Speak, think, believe, live

“ Let us stay, quiet, and certify our consciences with the most infallible certainty, truth, and perpetual assurance of them. Let us pray to God, the only Author of these heavenly studies, that we may **speak, think, believe, live, and depart hence** according to the wholesome doctrine and verities of them. And by that means in this world we shall have God’s defence, favour, and grace, with the unspeakable solace of peace and quietness of conscience, and after this miserable life we shall enjoy the endless bliss and glory of heaven. ”

Book of Homilies (1547), Homily I: “A Fruitful Exhortation to the Reading of Holy Scripture”

The end goal: hope

Not just Bible knowledge, but...

“ ...that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, **the blessed hope of everlasting life**, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. ”

Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

This week

I

Hear

Come to the Wednesday noon Eucharist and hear the week's Epistle and Gospel

II

Read · Mark · Learn

Come to Morning or Evening Prayer and soak in the Scriptures (or read the lessons at home)

III

Inwardly digest

Dig deeper into God's word

Next week: the Book of Common Prayer, Scripture arranged for praying

Questions?

Let us pray

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent