

## Translation

A definition for biblical translation would be, “the art and practice of rendering the Bible into languages other than those in which it was originally written.” The translation process of the Bible involves thousands of years of work. From those efforts, today the Bible has been translated into over 700 different languages. In order to best understand the process of the translation of the Bible two questions have been asked: which text(s) are used for translation and which translation philosophy/approach was used to translate. When we choose to read any Bible version, we must understand where the words came from and how they got there.

- I. Which Text? (Which texts were chosen to be translated)
  - A. There are two basic trains of thought concerning manuscripts that should be used when translating the Bible. One idea states that because the Alexandrian Text is older in age that it should be trusted more than the Received Text. The other idea states that if you have two older manuscripts that omit a verse, while you have several hundred manuscripts from a later date that have that verse, then whichever manuscript is shorter should be trusted.
  - B. For the Old Testament, the standard Hebrew/Aramaic text is the Masoretic text published as *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS). For the New Testament, the standard text is the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum* (NA) (Based on CT).

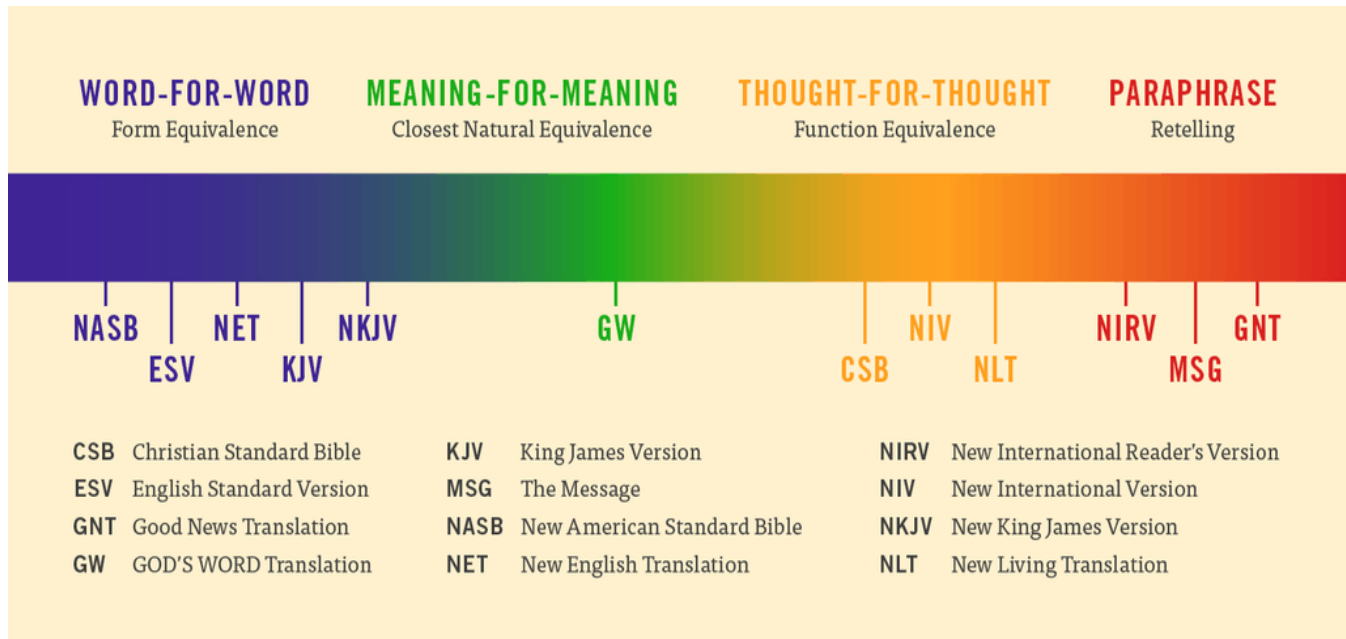
TR <i>Textus Receptus</i>	CT <i>Critical Text</i>	MT <i>Majority Text</i>
The printed edition of the Received Text or <u>Traditional Text of the Byzantine family</u> (What the NT was based on until the 19 <sup>th</sup> century)	Comes from the Westcott and Hort text; modern text <u>reflecting the Alexandrian family</u> (Sinaiticus and Vaticanus manuscripts)	Compiled by Hodges, Farstad, Robinson and Pierpont
*Erasmus- figured it out Stephanus- rest validated it Beza- new editions Elziver Bros.- gave TR name Scrivener (Tyndall gave 1 <sup>st</sup> English)	UBS <sup>5</sup> (Greek NT) NA <sup>28</sup> (Scholar Greek NT)  “Man-u-factured” text (About 6,000 differences)	The MT has little to do with the Church; <u>the MT is really only for academians.</u>  It is a combination of all Greek manuscripts, and the

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## II. Which Translation Philosophy? (How the edition is translated)

	<b><u>Double Inspiration</u></b>	<b><u>Dynamic Equivalency</u></b>	<b><u>Formal Equivalency*</u></b>
<i>Alternative Identification:</i>	Advanced Revelation-double inspiration and is seen as good	Functional Equivalency- to convey ideas, concepts, and meanings	Verbal Equivalency-taking verbal plenary inspiration seriously
<i>Definition:</i>	Original writers were inspired and the KJV translators were “re-inspired.”	Thought for thought; concept for concept, and meaning for meaning	Word for word and form for form (syntax)
<i>Goal:</i>	To correct the Hebrew and Greek with the English as the only true Word of God	Simply (concrete language), Interpret (make concrete abstract), Update, and Readability	Accurately render the words, grammar, and syntax of the original text
<i>Focus:</i>	On ME- the ones with the English Translation	On MAN- the reader and the receptor language	On GOD- the Author and the source language (what did God say?)
<i>Explanation:</i>	KJV English is the only true text. It is the only text that saves. It is the only text that is to be used for all translation work.	Drops metaphors. Changes concrete into abstracts. Deletes “theological” vocabulary. Interpret it yourself. Change gender and number.	Fidelity (true) to words. Respects syntax. Theological orthodoxy. Maintains depth and breadth. Beauty and dignity. Transparency to the text and culture.
<i>Conclusion:</i>	Narrow, self-centered, prideful	Weak theologically, and artificially	“Every word” Bible in the hands of every

		academic	individual (authoritative and inerrant)
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### III. Which Translation?

#### A. There are multiple versions of the Bible

1. New American Standard Bible (**NASB**): The NASB holds the title of Most Accurate Translation due to its strict adherence to word-for-word translation methods. It is translated from the critical NA<sup>28</sup> and Dead Sea Scrolls.
2. English Standard Version (**ESV**): close to the NASB; uses gender-neutral language. Is a revision of the RSV; newest edition included Apocryphal books. Has poetic phrasing and extensive footnotes.
3. King James Version (**KJV**): was the *only* Bible used before Critical Texts. Argued against because people believe it was written for political motivations. The archaic language carries different meanings today. Comes from the TR
4. New King James Version (**NKJV**): puts the KJV wording into a more modern feel. Still is based upon the TR and Dead Sea Scrolls.
5. God's Word Translation (**GW**): Closest natural equivalence does not attempt to make all books or passages function on the same level. It recognizes that not every book of the Bible was intended for every reader.

6. New English Translation (**NET**): a free online Bible based on a revision of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. Does not fit into any category.
  7. Christian Standard Bible (**CSB**): a revision of the HCSB; translated by 100 scholars and 17 denominations; in own category called “optimal equivalence.” “We believe that you don’t have to choose between faithfulness to the original text and clarity.”- quote taken directly from their website.
  8. New International Version (**NIV**): most popular thought-for-thought translation. Uses the Critical texts and opted for gender-neutral language such as replacing “human beings” for “mankind”, and “people” for “man”.
  9. New Living Translation (**NLT**): a revision of The Living Bible (paraphrase translation). Originated to be read aloud in church rather than studied at home. Based upon the Critical Text and was interpreted rather than translated.
  10. The Message (**MSG**): “There is a need in every generation to keep the language of the gospel message current, fresh, and understandable.” “When we hear something over and over again in the same way, we can become so familiar with it that the text loses its impact.”
- B. Scholars regard word-for-word as most accurate translation method that leaves the least room for error. Thought-by-thought and paraphrase are much more readable, but they have been criticized because these translations can begin to interpret the Bible rather than only translating it.
- C. Why do I choose the KJV?
1. Text Base- the inspired text breathed out by God (right source)
    - Hebrew Masoretic Text and Greek *Textus Receptus*
  2. Translation approach – accuracy
    - “Word-for-Word” taking verbal plenary inspiration seriously
  3. Transparency to the Original Text – clarity
    - Reflection of the culture / world of the Bible
  4. Respect for the Nature of the Word of God – potential
    - Minimizes interpretation and maximizes translation
  5. Dignity and Beauty – Powerful (Sounds natural and memorable)