

# How to Study the Bible - Introduction

## Theology of the Bible

- Revelation - for communication of a *divine* message
  - Dual Authorship (2 Peter 1:20-21)
  - Inerrant / true (John 17:17, Numbers 23:19)
  - Christo-centric (Luke 24:27)
  - Meta-narrative / redemptive arc
    - Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration
  - Universal authority (by the Maker, for the made)
  - Transformative (Romans 10:17)
  - Relevant (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Communication - understandable by *humans* Heb 1:1-2
  - Original Context
  - Original Languages
  - Genre

## The Bible Impacts the Whole Person

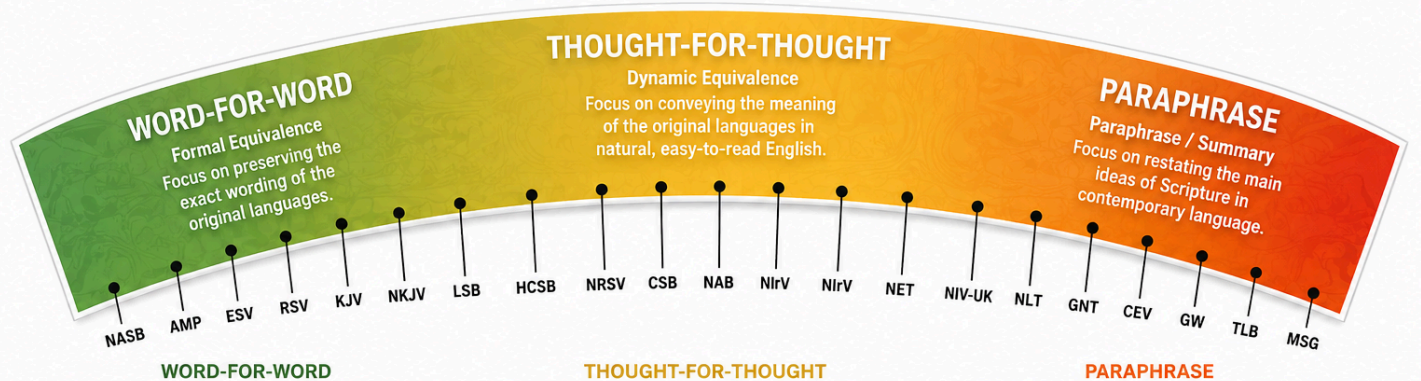
- Rational
  - Linguistic conventions of grammar and literature
  - Historical Context
  - Culture / Time Gap requires consideration - \_\_\_\_ us, not \_\_\_\_ us.
- Emotional
  - Full range of emotional content and responses
  - Authors had an intended emotional effect.
    - Ps 23
    - End of Judges
- Applicational (James 1:22)
  - Doers, not hearers only
  - Operational, not only ascribed beliefs (Matthew 23:25)
  - Transformative, not only instructional or persuasive (Romans 12:1-2)
- Spiritual (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - Prayer
  - Holy Spirit
- Communal
  - Original recipients were usually groups
  - Made for public reading and teaching (1 Timothy 4:13)

## Translations

- CANAI
  - Clear, Accurate, Natural, Acceptable, Impactful
- Goals
  - Domesticating - communicative, familiar
  - Foreignizing - accuracy, foreign
  - Skopos - about the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Consistency in Skopos
- Range of Translations
  - Scholarly boards
  - Interdenominational
- What is the best translation?

# TYPES OF BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

*Different translations use different approaches to communicate the original meaning of Scripture.*



**WORD-FOR-WORD**

<b>NASB</b>	New American Standard Bible (2020)
<b>AMP</b>	Amplified Bible (2015)
<b>ESV</b>	English Standard Version (2016)
<b>RSV</b>	Revised Standard Version (Second Edition)
<b>KJV</b>	King James Version (1611)
<b>NKJV</b>	New King James Version (1982)
<b>LSB</b>	Legacy Standard Bible (2021)
<b>HCSB</b>	Holman Christian Standard Bible (2020)
<b>NRSV</b>	New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition)

**THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT**

<b>CSB</b>	Christian Standard Bible (2017)
<b>NAB</b>	New American Bible (Revised Edition)
<b>NIV</b>	New International Version (2011)
<b>NiRV</b>	New International Reader's Version
<b>NET</b>	New English Translation (2018)
<b>NIV-UK</b>	New International Version (UK Edition)

**PARAPHRASE**

<b>NLT</b>	New Living Translation (2015)
<b>GNT</b>	Good News Translation (also Good News Bible)
<b>CEV</b>	Contemporary English Version
<b>GW</b>	God's Word Translation
<b>TLB</b>	The Living Bible
<b>MSG</b>	The Message

**WHY DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS?**

The original Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Translators must choose between staying as close as possible to the original words (formal equivalence) or expressing the meaning in natural, everyday language (dynamic equivalence). Both approaches are valuable for understanding God's Word.

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

The abbreviations above represent widely used English Bible translations. Publication dates reflect the most recent major edition or update. A translation's position on the spectrum is approximate. Different scholars may place them slightly differently.

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

- For in-depth study of the text: start on the left.
- For balanced accuracy and readability: the middle.
- For devotional reading or clear, simple wording: the right.
- No single translation is perfect—use several and compare.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)*

\*This Graphic was adapted using AI to illustrate a possible arrangement of common English Bibles.

## How to Study the Bible - NIRADS

Pray first and throughout

**N - Note** What does it \_\_\_\_\_

1. Observe Words
2. Analyze Structure (patterns and connections)
3. Identify *Emphasis*

**I - Interpret** What does it \_\_\_\_\_

Context

Passage

History/Culture

Conversation

*Main Claim to Original Hearers*

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

*Main Claim to Us Now*

**A - Apply** Given this truth what needs to change?

My life

Family life

Church life

Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

When will I make these changes?

Who else needs to hear this?

Devotional study - ABC's

**A - Ask**

- 5W's and H
- Command to follow, Promise to hold onto, Truth to believe, Sin to avoid

**B - Best Verse & Best thought**

**C - Communicate - Respond in prayer**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Jos 1:8.

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Words
2. Structure (patterns and connections)

3. *Emphasis* \_\_\_\_\_

**I - Interpret** What does it mean?

Context

Passage Before:

After:

History/Culture

Conversation

*Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

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**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel?

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

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**A - Apply** Given this truth, what needs to change?

My life

Family life

Church life

Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

When will I make these changes?

Who else needs to hear this?

## Resources

Arthur, Kay, David Arthur, and Pete De Lacy. *How to Study Your Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2010.

Berger, Lonnie. *Every Man a Warrior, Book 1: Walking with God*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2011.

Traina, Robert A. *Methodical Bible Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1952.

Warren, Rick. *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.