

1610 → 1890 → 1900 → 1950 → 1970 → 1980 → 1990 → 2000 → 2010

Bible Version Graph

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Abbreviations:

- ABS American Bible Society
- CCD Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
- IRCE International Council of Religious Education
- NCC National Council of Churches
- SBC Southern Baptist Convention

DR
Douay-Rheims Bible
1582/1582/1582 (Formal) English translation of the Vulgate
Translated from the Latin Vulgate in response to Protestant Reformation, and has undergone many minor revisions since initial translation.
Translated mainly by English members of the counter-Reformation movement.
Public domain.

NAB
New American Bible
1970/1970/1970 (Formal) Revision of D-R
Revision of the D-R Bible in light of modern language, scholarship, and textual criticism.
Translated under the Second Vatican Council.
Copyrighted by CCD; restricted.

GNB
Good News Bible
1966/1966/1966 (Functional) Functional translation in basic English
Originally published in the UK as "Today's English Version" (TEV). Designed to be easy to understand for elementary and non-native English speakers. Endorsed by many major denominations.
Copyrighted by ABS; restricted.

NJB
New Jerusalem Bible
1985/1985/1985 (Functional) Revision of French Catholic Bible
Revision of French "Bible de Jerusalem" published in 1973.
General editor was Henry Wansbrough, a monk of Ampleforth Abbey.
Copyrighted; restricted.

HCSB
Holman Christian Standard Bible
2004/2004/NA (Both) Modern evangelical translation
New translation with the goal of "optimal equivalence," which ends up being slightly more literal than the NIV.
Started in 1984 by Arthur Farstad, general editor of the NKJV. Was finished by a 100-member committee after his death, sponsored by the SBC.
Copyrighted by Holman; restricted.

MSG
The Message
1993/1993/NA (Paraphrase) Popular modern paraphrase
Paraphrase written by a single author using modern language, phrases, and idioms; designed to be understandable by modern readers without explanation.
Written by Eugene Peterson, PCUSA pastor and professor at Regent College.
Copyrighted by Eugene Peterson; moderately available.

TNIV
Today's New International Version
2002/2002/NA (Both) Revision of NIV
Update of NIV; revised wording and addition of gender-inclusive language.
Translated by 13 evangelical scholars and reviewed by 40 others.
Copyrighted by IBS; restricted.

NIV
New International Version
1973/1973/NA (Both) Popular evangelical translation
Popular translation designed to be a blend of formal and functional equivalence. Widely used in evangelical denominations for reading and study.
Sponsored by the New York Bible Society (now Biblica) and translated by over 15 scholars from various denominations, mostly from evangelical seminaries.
Copyrighted by Zondervan; restricted.

ESV
English Standard Version
2001/2001/2001 (Formal) Conservative revision of RSV
Revision of RSV text by evangelicals as a response to perceived liberalism. Designed to be as literal as possible while maintaining literary excellence.
Edited by general editor J.I. Packer (Regent College), with than 100 worldwide contributors. Most oversight personnel were associated with reformed, evangelical seminaries in the Anglican or Presbyterian tradition.
Copyrighted by Crossway and Oxford; moderately available.

NRSV
New Revised Standard Version
1989/1989/1989 (Formal) Ecumenical update of RSV
Major revision of the RSV to update language, incorporate Dead Sea Scrolls, and increase gender-neutrality. Recommended by many mainline Protestant denominations.
Sponsored by the NCC and revised by over 30 scholars from Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox denominations.
Copyrighted by the NCC; moderately available.

WEB
World English Bible
2000/2000/2000 (Formal) Copyright-free revision of ASV
Revision of ASV text by online collaboration with the goal of creating a copyright-free distribution. OT and Apocrypha are still in draft form.
Sponsored by the Colorado nonprofit Rainbow Missions, Inc. (president Michael P. Johnson); developed by a senior editor, 50 evangelical scholars, and various other online volunteers.
Public domain.

RSV
Revised Standard Version
1946/1946/1946 (Formal) Update of ASV
Revision of ASV text in light of contemporary knowledge about the original manuscripts. A second major revision of the NT was published in 1971.
Commissioned in 1937 by the IRCE, which merged into the NCC in 1950. Edited by 32 scholars from various well-known (generally liberal) universities and seminaries and reviewed by a 50-member multi-denominational panel.
Copyrighted by the NCC; widely available.

NASB
New American Standard Bible
1963/1963/NA (Formal) Extremely literal revision of ASV
Revision of ASV by conservative scholars. Widely accepted as the most literal (and correspondingly very difficult to read) modern translation. A second major revision was published in 1995.
Sponsored by the Lockman Foundation and revised by over 20 generally conservative scholars.
Copyrighted by Lockman; restricted.

AMP
Amplified Bible
1958/1958/NA (Formal) More expressive revision of ASV
Revision of ASV with a system of features designed to reveal all possible meanings of individual words or phrases.
Jointly sponsored by Zondervan and Lockman; most of the work was done by Frances Siewert.
Copyrighted by Zondervan; restricted.

TLB
The Living Bible
1971/1971/NA (Functional) Functional revision of ASV
Designed in the "thought-for-thought" tradition to be understandable by all people, including young children.
Edited by Kenneth N. Taylor, evangelical author and founder of Tyndale House.
Copyrighted by Tyndale; restricted.

NKJV
New King James Version
1979/1979/NA (Formal) Conservative update of KJV
Major conservative revision of the KJV to update language. Texts discovered since the KJV were not used in this translation. Popular as a modern substitute for the KJV. Placed by the Gideons.
Commissioned by Thomas Nelson Publishers and edited by 130 scholars, leaders, and laypeople.
Copyrighted by Thomas Nelson; moderately available.

NLT
New Living Translation
1996/1996/NA (Functional) Popular functional translation
Major revision of TLB. Widely popular as a functionally-equivalent translation, and used in at least one major study bible.
Edited by over 60 scholars, predominantly from Baptist and other evangelical seminaries.
Copyrighted by Tyndale; moderately available.

ASV
American Standard Version
1901/1901/NA (Formal) American revision of RV
Revision of RV text by an American team of scholars. Developed in conjunction with a British team; originally published in Britain in 1881 (NT) and 1885 (OT).
Edited by 30 scholars chosen in 1871 by Philip Schaff, a reformed theologian and historian.
Public domain.

RV
(English) Revised Version
1881/1881/1881 (Formal) Update of KJV
Update to contemporary state of language and scholarship.
Public domain.

KJV
(Authorized) King James Version
1611/1611/1611 (Formal) Oldest currently-used English Bible
The single most highly-regarded Protestant English translation of all time.
Commissioned by King James I of England, and translated by 47 scholars of the Church of England working in six separate committees.
Public domain.

