

How We Got The Bible

Modern English Translations

Matthew 22:29-31

Statement #1 Understanding requires intelligibility. 1Co 14:2,4,11

Statement #2 Nowhere does the Bible promise us a perfect text, perfect manuscripts, or a certain perfect translation.

Statement #3 Hebrew and Greek are not magical, divine languages. You can know God intimately and have a relationship with Him through His Word in your language.

Q: Why are they different?

A: 1. Textual basis. NKJV and MEV are based on the Textus Receptus. NIV, ESV, NASB, and nearly all the evangelical, Christian translations are based on the Critical Text.

2. Language changes.
3. Translation philosophy. See chart.
4. Translator goals and considerations.

Q: Do the modern translations leave out verses?

A: It is a fundamental error to measure the accuracy of a translation by comparing it to another translation. Original sources are the standard. Textual basis differs. Translations are interpretations. Lastly, language changes.

Q: What translations can I trust?

A: Any of the mainline evangelical translations that you would find on the shelf of your Christian bookstore. (<https://christianbookexpo.com/>) February 2025

1. English Standard Version
2. New International Version
3. King James Version

4. New Living Translation
5. New King James Version
6. Christian Standard Bible
7. Reina Valera
8. New American Standard Bible
9. New Revised Standard Version
10. New International Reader's Version

Q: Are there 'bad' translations?

A: Yes. Translations that are sectarian (NWT, JST) and those done by individuals with Beliefs that are weird, heretical, and/or not helpful. (See Statement #1)
Examples: Cepher, Mirror, The Passion, Amplified, Tree of Life, Pure Word

Translation Philosophy:

Formal Equivalence: Often called word-for-word, literal, or direct translation, seeks to reproduce the form of the source text as much as possible.

Functional Equivalence: Often called thought-for-thought, sense-for-sense, free, idiomatic, dynamic, or meaning-based, seeks to reproduce the meaning of the source text, regardless of the form.

Optimal Equivalence: This approach seeks to combine the best features of both formal and dynamic equivalence. In the many places throughout Scripture where a word for word rendering is clearly understandable, a literal translation is used. In places where a literal rendering might be unclear, then a more dynamic translation is given.

Summary of Why TLV Can Confuse:

1. Frequent use of **Hebrew names** (Yeshua, Jacob, Adonai, Elohim).
2. Retention of **Hebrew grammar or idioms**.
3. Use of **Jewish-context terms** (Diaspora, Torah, Shalom).
4. Occasional **literal transliterations** of Hebrew markers.

Pure Word Bible's translation methodology. The use of "monadic-based hermeneutics"—which involves translating each Greek word with an English phrase that encompasses its full meaning—can lead to translations that are longer and more complex than necessary.

The **Amplified Bible (AMP)** is known for expanding the meaning of words with multiple synonyms, explanatory phrases, and alternate interpretations. While helpful for study, this can sometimes make verses **long, complex, or confusing**. Here's a classic example:

Mirror Bible's emphasis on universalism and the deification of humanity deviates from orthodox Christian doctrines, potentially leading to misunderstandings of sin, salvation, and the nature of Christ.

The Cephher often **transliterates Hebrew words** into the middle of English sentences and reinstates the Hebrew direct-object marker **תא** (transliterated as "תא") into English translations making the translation confusing for English readers.

Brian Simmons, translator of **TPT**, said God came into his room and breathed on him and commissioned him to do a new translation and promised him secrets of the Hebrew language. He felt like he was receiving instant downloads as if a chip was placed inside of him.

The **New World Translation** is published by the Jehovah's Witnesses with its own bias because they have their own theology. They do not believe in the trinity or hell, among other things.

The **Joseph Smith Translation** makes additions, emphasis, or combines verses, (from the KJV) in order to align with Mormon doctrine.

Example: 2 Cor. 2:17 "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." (KJV)

"which corrupt" = *kapēleuō*: to be a petty trader; to make merchandise of, or adulterate, corrupt.

- 1) to be a retailer, to peddle
- 2) to make money by selling anything
 - a) to get sordid gain by dealing in anything, to do a thing for base gain
 - b) to trade in the word of God
- 1) to try to get base gain by teaching divine truth
- c) to corrupt, to adulterate
- 1) peddlers were in the habit of adulterating their commodities for the sake of gain

KJV = corrupt; NKJV = peddling; NLT = hucksters; NIV = peddle; ESV = peddlers;

NASB = peddling; HCSB = make a trade...for profit.

American Heritage Dictionary, Fourth Edition, 2000

Corrupt: *tr.* 1. To destroy or subvert the honesty or integrity of.

2. To ruin morally; pervert.

3. To taint; contaminate.

4. To cause to become rotten; spoil.

5. To change the original form of a text.

6. To damage data in a file or on a disk.

Additional questions

Q: What about adding to or removing from the words of the Bible? Re 22:18-19; Pr 30:5-6

Q: Those seems like important verses that were "removed."

Q: Aren't Bible publishers just in it for the money?

Q: Does Psalm 12:6-7 promise a perfect translation of the Bible?

Q: Should Bibles be copyrighted?

Q: Why dumb down the Bible? Isn't the KJ at an easier reading level?