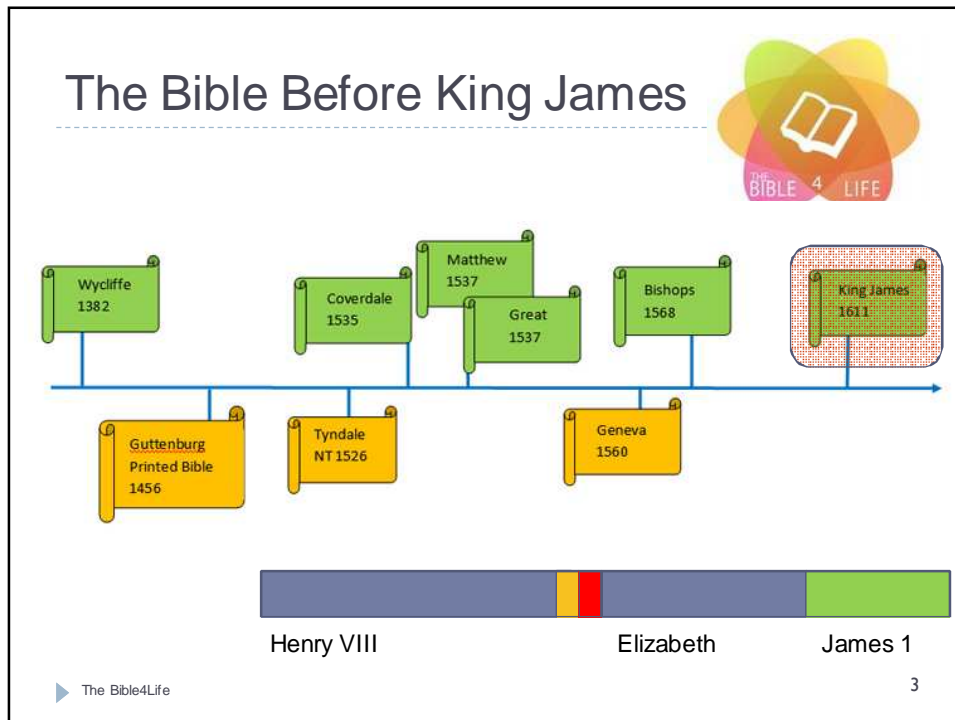




Scope of talk

- ▶ The Bible before King James
- ▶ The King James translation
 - ▶ Background
 - ▶ The great commission
 - ▶ Publication
 - ▶ Impact
- ▶ The Bible today





Wycliffe 1382

- ▶ Critical of the teaching of the established church which he thought contrary to the Bible
- ▶ Translation from the Latin Vulgate
- ▶ Hand-written
- ▶ The Pope was so infuriated by his teachings and his translation of the Bible into English, that 44 years after Wycliffe had died, he ordered the bones to be dug-up, crushed, and scattered in the river!

The Bible4Life 4

Tyndale

1526 - 34



“We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's.”

Tyndale responded: "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!"

Tyndale

1526 - 34



- ▶ Was refused permission to make an English translation so did it in exile
- ▶ Used the Latin Vulgate, Erasmus's Greek and Latin NT and Luther's German translation
- ▶ Eventually translated NT and parts of the OT
- ▶ Great impact on English language and later revisions of the Bible

Coverdale

1535



- ▶ May have worked with Tyndale in Hamburg
- ▶ Whole Bible translation completed in the year of Tyndale's imprisonment
- ▶ 1534 – the Church of England separates itself from the Roman Catholic church
- ▶ Coverdale's 2nd edition (1537) - the first Bible to be printed in England
- ▶ "Set forth with the king's most gracious licence"


The Great Bible

1539



- ▶ Commissioned by King Henry VIII
- ▶ To be edited by Coverdale and based on translations from the original languages (Hebrew and Greek)
- ▶ Appointed to be read in all churches from 1st November 1541
- ▶ Later replaced by the Bishop's Bible (1568)

King James Bible
1611




- ▶ Too many English versions
- ▶ Too many religious factions

Date	Version
1534	Tyndale
1535	Coverdale
1537	Matthew's
1539	Taverner's
1539	Great Bible
1560	Geneva Bible
1568	Bishop's Bible
1582	Rheims NT
1609	Douai Bible

▶ The Bible4Life
9

King James Bible
1611



- ▶ 1604 - Called a conference at Hampton Court to try to bring together different religious groups and put an end to years of religious instability
- ▶ *"That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England in time of divine service."*

▶ The Bible4Life
10

King James Bible 1611



- ▶ 47 scholars in 6 groups translated different sections of scripture
- ▶ 15 rules for translation
 - ▶ Based on Bishop's Bible but others could be considered
 - ▶ No marginal notes other than to explain Hebrew or Greek words or to show quotations
- ▶ Each group's translation to be reviewed by reading it aloud

King James Bible 1611



- ▶ **“THE HOLY BIBLE, Containing the Old Testament, AND THE NEW: Newly Translated out of the Original tongues: & with the former Translations diligently compared and revised, by his Majesties special Commandment”**
- ▶ No evidence of it being called the King James version or the Authorised version before 1814

King James Bible 1611



- ▶ The preface gives us an insight into key issues:
 - ▶ Truly ...we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new Translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one, ...but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one,
 - ▶ But we desire that the Scripture may speak like itself, ...that it may be understood even of the very vulgar.

Printing errors!



- ▶ 1631 - Wicked Bible.
The word “not” was omitted from Exodus 20/14
- ▶ 1717 - Vinegar Bible.
This had Jesus telling the parable of the “vinegar” rather than “vineyard”
- ▶ 1745 – Murderer’s Bible.
Had an error in Mark 7/27: “But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be **filled**; for it is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.”

Final revision



- ▶ By 1613 there were over 400 variations from the original 1611 edition
- ▶ Other changes and printing errors accumulated
- ▶ A standard version was finally set by Oxford Press under the direction of Benjamin Blayney in 1769 and is reproduced unchanged in almost all modern printings of the KJV

Impact



- ▶ People could read the Bible for themselves and find out its meaning
- ▶ It became the most printed book in the history of the world, taking the word of God to every nation
- ▶ Many people learned to read using the KJV
- ▶ It influenced the English language, bringing both new words and new idioms, many of which continue in use today
- ▶ A book which changed the world

The Bible today



- ▶ KJV still a very popular version
 - ▶ Familiar
 - ▶ Accurate
 - ▶ Respectful

- ▶ “we speak reverently of its ageless magnificence while remaining vague on the detail”

Daily Telegraph, 23 Nov 21010

Marginal references



▶ 1611 King James Version	9,760
▶ 1677 Hayes	25,895
▶ 1678 Dr Scattergood	33,145
▶ 1699 Tenison & Lloyd	39,188
▶ 1769 Blayney	64,983
▶ 1785 Wilson	66,955

Formal and dynamic equivalence



- ▶ **Formal equivalence**
 - ▶ attempts to render the text **word-for-word**.
Literal and more accurate.
- ▶ **Dynamic equivalence**
 - ▶ attempts to convey the **thought** expressed in the text. Subject to translator bias /misunderstanding
- ▶ **Paraphrase**
 - ▶ An extreme form of dynamic equivalence. Even more scope for bias and misunderstanding

Formal and dynamic equivalence



- | ▶ Formal | ▶ Dynamic |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▶ King James Version (1611) | ▶ Jerusalem Bible (1966) |
| ▶ Revised Version (1895) | ▶ New English Bible (1961/70) |
| ▶ Revised Standard Version (1952) | ▶ Good News Bible (1966 on) |
| ▶ New King James Version (1982) | ▶ New Living Translation (1996) |
| ▶ English Standard Version (2001) | ▶ The Message (1993 on) |

Formal and dynamic equivalence



▶ Formal ESV

“May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you”

▶ Dynamic NIV

“May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”

Formal and dynamic equivalence



▶ Formal ESV

“...blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it...”

▶ Dynamic NIV

“...blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it...”

The Bible today



- ▶ Our responsibility is to read it!
- ▶ “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

1 Timothy 3/16-17

The Bible today



- ▶ A copy of the Bible was given to Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation
- ▶ “...to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords...

Here is Wisdom;
This is the royal Law;
These are the lively Oracles of God”

The Bible today



- ▶ Our responsibility is to read it!
- ▶ “...many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have **life** through his name.”

John 20/30-31

The Bible today



“...a blessed thing it is, and will bring us to everlasting blessedness in the end, when God speaketh unto us, to hearken; when he setteth his word before us, **to read it**; when he stretcheth out his hand and calleth, to answer, Here am I, here we are to do thy will, O God.

The Lord work a care and conscience in us to know him and serve him, that we may be acknowledged of him at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom ... be all praise and thanksgiving.”