

THE BIBLE

4 BASIC QUESTIONS

ASKED & ANSWERED

- Message # 7 in the series “Understanding the Bible”
- Completed Survey of the Old and the New Testament in 6 messages so far.
- One last message pending – “How to Study the Various Books of the Bible”

GOAL OF THIS SERIES:

1. Understand the flow of the Bible
2. Be transformed like Christ as one reads and applies the Bible

THE BIBLE

4 BASIC QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED

- I. The Bible – How was it compiled?
- II. The Bible – How has it been preserved?
- III. The Bible – How do translations come about?
- IV. The Bible – Why it can be trusted?

I. The Bible – How was it compiled?

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIBLE

- The Bible is one book and yet a **collection of 66 individual books**. These 66 books are arranged under two broad categories:
- **39 books** under the **Old Testament [OT]**
- **27 books** under the **New Testament [NT]**
- Approximately **40 different authors** that lived in different places and at different times wrote the entire Bible.
- The time span of the books in the Bible range from **1405 B.C. to A.D. 96**.
- The **OT was primarily written in Hebrew** with some passages in Aramaic, while the entire **NT was fully written in Greek**.
- There are a total of **1189 chapters in the Bible** (929 in the OT and 260 in the NT).
- We need to remember that **none of the original manuscripts written by biblical authors are in existence**. They are either lost or destroyed. However, the copies we have are very accurate, with an **accuracy of 99.9%**. **The remaining 0.1% variation does not affect one single doctrine**. Variations are in the areas such as misspelling, changing of word order, etc.

KEY WORDS

INSPIRATION

- Inspiration is the process by which God revealed his word to us in a written format through certain individuals.
- God is the source; the prophets and apostles were the means; the Scriptures in their original manuscripts were the end.

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed.” [“inspired by God” – NASB]

2 Peter 1:20-21 ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

CANON

- The word “canon” means a **rule** or **standard** for anything.

Canonicity is the process whereby the Spirit of God organized the recognizing and collecting of those writings that were breathed out by God through men he chose.

OLD TESTAMENT CANON

- The Jews arranged the books according to the official status of the writers: Moses; the prophets; and the other writers.
- The Hebrew OT follows a slightly different order than the English OT.
- At first glance, you might think some books are missing, but those twenty-four contain the same material as our thirty-nine. The reason for the difference is that the Hebrew OT counted books such as 1-2 Kings as Kings, 1-2 Samuel as Samuel, 12 individual Minor Prophets as The Twelve, etc.



HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT ARRANGEMENT - 24 BOOKS		
LAW [Torah]	PROPHETS	WRITINGS
1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy	Former Prophets 6. Joshua 7. Judges 8. Samuel 9. Kings Latter Prophets 10. Isaiah 11. Jeremiah 12. Ezekiel 13. The Twelve	Poetical Books 14. Psalms 15. Proverbs 16. Job Five Rolls 17. Song of Songs 18. Ruth 19. Lamentations 20. Ecclesiastes 21. Esther Historical Books 22. Daniel 23. Ezra-Nehemiah 24. Chronicles



ENGLISH OLD TESTAMENT 39 BOOKS [1405 B.C. – 400 B.C.]

HISTORY [17]		POETRY [5]	PROPHECY [17]	
The Law 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy	History & Governments 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth 4. 1 Samuel 5. 2 Samuel 6. 1 Kings 7. 2 Kings 8. 1 Chronicles 9. 2 Chronicles 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther	1. Job 2. Psalms 3. Proverbs 4. Ecclesiastes 5. Song of Solomon	Major Prophets 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Lamentations 4. Ezekiel 5. Daniel	Minor Prophets 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah 5. Jonah 6. Micah 7. Nahum 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi



- **By the time of Christ, the OT canon was complete.** We can be very certain about this because Jesus himself gave his divine approval on the OT.

Luke 24:44 “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

Luke 11:50-51 “⁵⁰ Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, ⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.”

- Death of Abel is recorded in Genesis and death of Zechariah is recorded in 2 Chronicles.
- Genesis, the first book and Chronicles, the last book of the OT according to the Jewish tradition were thus validated by Jesus himself as Scripture.

CATHOLIC VERSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Has additional books in the OT
- Called **Apocrypha** – meaning they are not part of the Canon
- Added in **AD 1546 [nearly 1500+ years after Christ's coming]**

Listing of books:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. 1 Esdras | 11. Susanna |
| 2. 2 Esdras | 12. Bel and the Dragon |
| 3. Tobit | 13. Prayer of Manasseh |
| 4. Judith | 14. 1 Maccabees |
| 5. Additions to Esther | 15. 2 Maccabees |
| 6. Wisdom of Solomon | |
| 7. Sirach [Ecclesiasticus] | |
| 8. Baruch | |
| 9. Letter of Jeremiah | |
| 10. Prayer of the Azariah and Song of the Three Young Men | |

(Red colored books excluded in the final collection of 12 extra books)

SOME OF THE WRONG TEACHINGS OF THE APOCRYPHA

Prayers for the Dead

“For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to **pray for the dead**. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he **made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.**” [2 Maccabees 12:44-45].

Salvation by Good Works:

“Those who honor their father **atone for sins.**” [Sirach 3:3]

OTHER FALSE GOSPELS

- Just like our day and age, the early church also faced many books written by false teachers that claimed to be divinely inspired.
- Examples are Gospel of Peter, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Bartholomew.
- These contained many errors and the early church rejected them

GOSPEL OF THOMAS

Simon Peter said to them: “Let Mary go away from us, for women are not worthy of life.” Jesus said: “Lo, I shall lead her, so that I may make her a male, that she too may become a living spirit, resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself a male will enter the kingdom of heaven.”

CRITERIA USED FOR RECOGNIZING BIBLICAL WRITINGS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Was it written by a recognized apostle [or prophet] or someone who was under the guidance of an apostle (e.g. Mark under the guidance of Peter)?
2. Was the content in accordance with previous scripture? If it contradicted previously revealed Scripture, then it was rejected immediately.
3. Was the book read and used in the Churches?

- It is important to remember that Church councils did not vote for the authenticity of the NT list of books, but merely *recognized* what was already widely accepted.
- It is commonly thought that the Council of Carthage in A.D. 397 voted as to which books were to be a part of the NT. However, what is not common knowledge is that this list was accepted widely even *prior* to this council.
- For example, in A.D. 367 the thirty-ninth Paschal letter of Athanasius contained an exact list of the 27 books that we have in the NT today.
- Why was it important for a council to officially recognize this list?
- One of the reasons is since the apostles and their immediate disciples were passing away and given the fact that there was a rise of false teachers spreading their false teachings, this recognition helped people from being misled.

Order of Books in the NT

- The New Testament order is also based on subject categories.
- First come the historical books—the Gospels and Acts.
- Then come the epistles—first those from Paul, then those written by the other writers. Revelation comes at the end.
- The early church always grouped the gospels with Matthew first, followed by Mark or Luke, then the gospel of John.
- It also arranged the Paul's epistles in two categories—first the epistles to the churches, then the personal letters. It typically arranged those epistles according to size or length.
- The personal letters and general epistles written by others appear to follow that arrangement—Hebrews first, followed by the writings of James, Peter, John, and Jude.

THE BIBLE

4 BASIC QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED

- I. The Bible – How was it compiled?
- II. The Bible – How has it been preserved?
- III. The Bible – How do translations come about?
- IV. The Bible – Why it can be trusted?

II. The Bible – How has it been preserved?

Psalm 119:152 “Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to **last forever.**”

Psalm 119:160 “All your words are true; **all your righteous laws are eternal.**”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the **word of our God stands forever.**”

Deuteronomy 32:47 “...They are not just idle words for you—**they are your life....**”

Matthew 4:4 “Man does not live on bread alone, but **on every word** that comes from the mouth of God.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God **may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”

If God would not preserve his word for us, all these commands would be meaningless!

Preservation of the Old Testament

Masoretic Text (MT)

- Between A.D. 500 – 1000, Jewish scribes called **Masoretes** carefully copied the OT scriptures. Their copies are called **Masoretic Text** or **MT**.
- The way they did the copying ensured the accuracy of the copies. They would count all letters on a page that they desired to copy. Upon completing the copying of that page, they would count the letters on the copy to see if the numbers agreed. If they did not agree, they would immediately destroy the copy and start again.
- **Our present Hebrew Bibles and translations are based upon the MT.** After A.D. 1000, Jewish scholars faithfully transmitted the MT until the arrival of printing press that ensured the accuracy of the copying process.

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Copies of almost all books of the OT from 2nd century BC [even before Christ] were found in the caves surrounding the Dead Sea.
- Copies from 900 AD were similar to the ones from 1000 years ago.

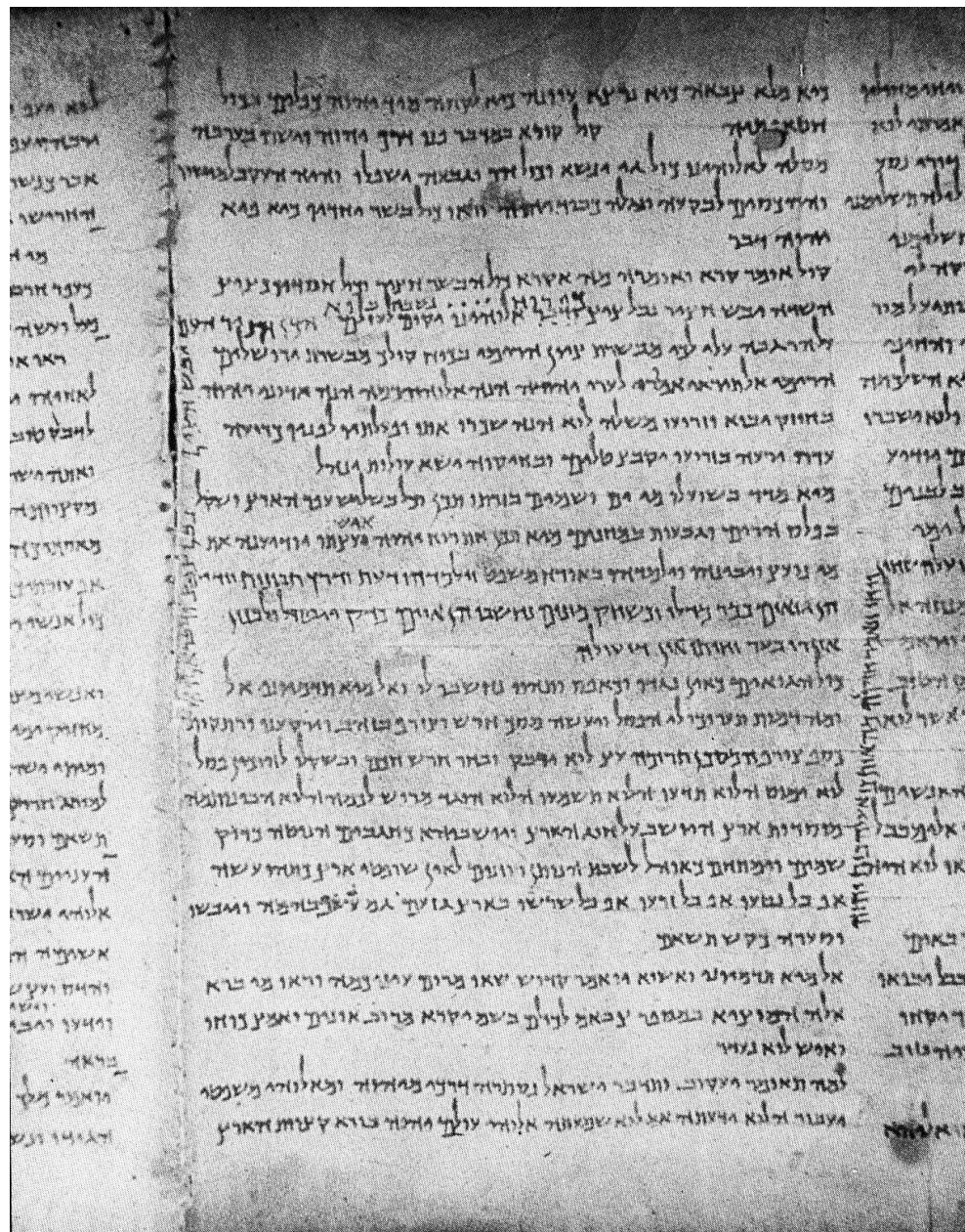
The cliffs in which Cave 4 at Qumran, Israel, is located. Fifteen thousand fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in this cave, including portions of Leviticus.



The Papyrus fragments of Dead Sea Scroll 7Q5 (7Q denotes that the fragments were found in Cave 7 at Qumran), dating to the 1st century A.D.



Dead Sea Scroll of Isaiah 40:2–18, 2nd century B.C.



Preservation of the New Testament

- 5500 Complete Greek NT Manuscripts available
- About 25,000 Partial Greek NT Manuscripts available
- Found in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Greece and Italy.

Writing Materials

a. Papyrus

- Writing material made from a **reed like plant** that grows in Egypt.
- Most of NT books were probably written on papyrus. By 4th century A.D., parchment replaced papyrus as the most common writing material.

b. Parchment

- Writing material made from **tanned animal skins**. Probably used as early as papyrus.
- Most of the OT manuscripts in the Dead Sea Scrolls are of parchment as well as over 3000 NT manuscripts.

c. Scrolls

- Most of the NT was written on papyrus or parchment scrolls.
- Scrolls were a collection of **individual papyrus or parchments** that were **sown together to form a book**.

John Rylands Papyrus

ca. A.D. 100–125

John 18:31–33, 37–38

οι ουρανους και ημε
ουδεναι ινα
την σταν σου
επι κεινη
οι ουρανους
και επι
σου

το εστιν
ουδεναι ινα
την σταν σου
επι κεινη
οι ουρανους
και επι
σου

THE BIBLE

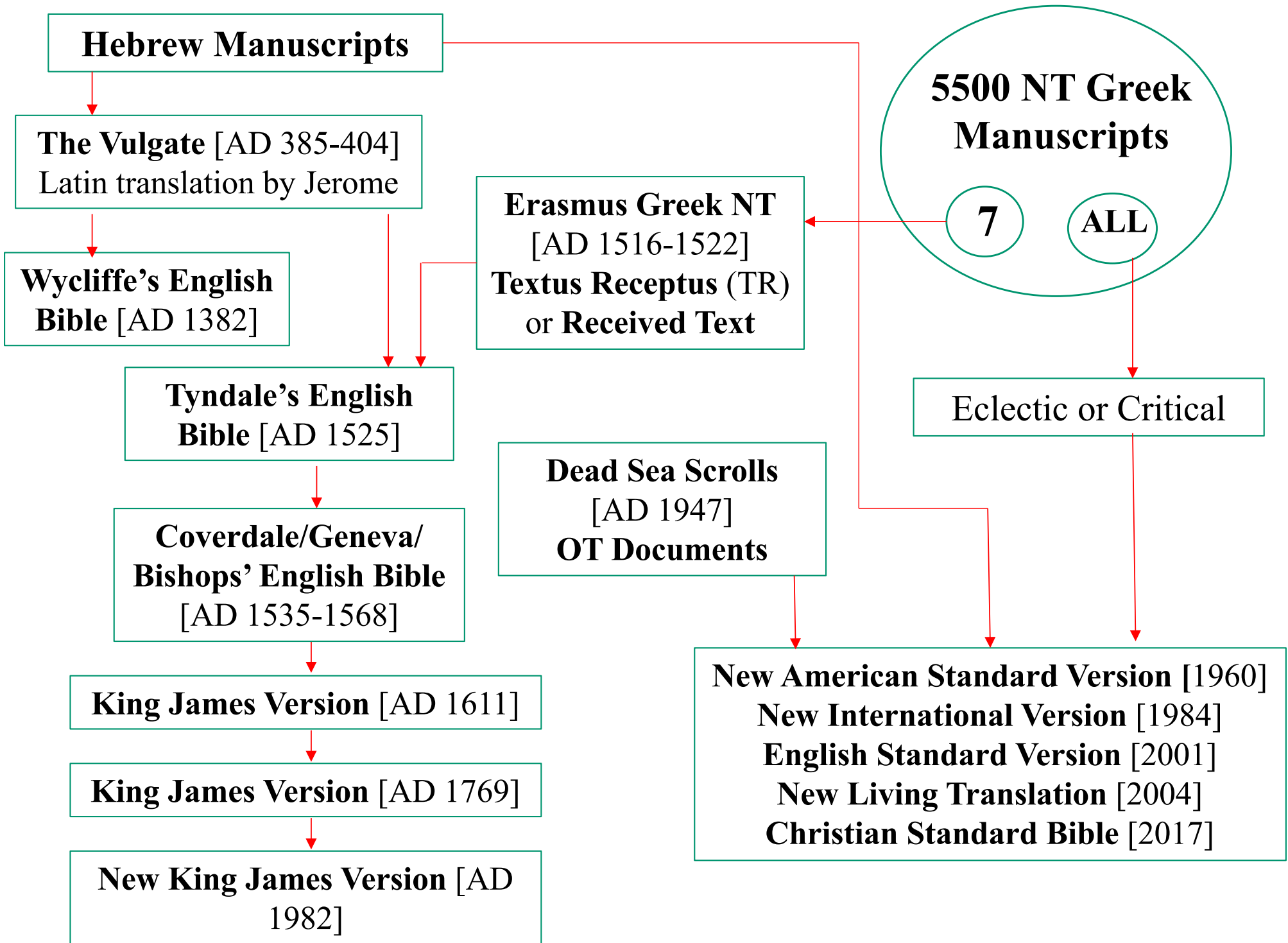
4 BASIC QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED

- I. The Bible – How was it compiled?
- II. The Bible – How has it been preserved?
- III. The Bible – How do translations come about?
- IV. The Bible – Why it can be trusted?

III. The Bible – How do translations come about?

TRANSLATION THEORIES

1. **Formal** Equivalence [often called as **Word for Word**]
 2. **Functional** Equivalence [often called as **Thought for Thought**]
- **Strictly speaking, no translation is fully formal or fully functional.**
 - Each translation falls somewhere between these two spectrums.
 - Main English translations used by Christians are:
 - King James Version (KJV)
 - New King James Version (NKJV)
 - New American Standard Version (NASB)
 - New International Version (NIV)
 - English Standard Version (ESV)
 - New Living Translation (NLT)
 - Christian Standard Bible (CSB) [formerly the Holman Christian Standard Bible – HCSB]



THOUGHTS CONCERNING THE KJV

- Originally published in 1611 [as a revision of the Bishop's Bible which came from Tyndale's Bible which came from Jerome's Latin Vulgate]
- Used a very low number of Greek Manuscripts dated from after A.D. 200
- Contained Apocrypha until 1826 in England and 1762 in the US
- Most today use the later version dated 1769
- Greatly used by God over the years
- Contains many words that are not at all used in vocabulary today
“meteyard” (Lev 19:35), “collops of fat” (Job 15:27), “mallows” (Job 30:4), “wist” (Josh 8:14), “wimples” (Isa 3:22), “nitre” (Jer 2:22), “cast clouts” (Jer 38:12), “sith” (Ezek 35:6), “tabering” (Nah 2:7), “murrain of the cattle” (Exod 9:3), “trow” (Luke 17:9), “chambering” (Rom 13:13), “churl” (Isa 32:7), “cieled” (Hag 1:4), “cotes” (2 Chron 32:28), “stomacher” (Isa 3:24), “wot” (Rom 11:2), “suretiship” (Prov 11:15), “sackbut” (Dan 3:5), “the scall” (Lev 13:3), “brigadine” (Jer 46:4), “amerce” (Deut 22:19), “blains” (Exod 9:9), “crookbackt” (Lev 21:20), “descry” (Judg 1:23), “glede” (Deut 14:13), “habergeon” (Job 41:26), “neesing” (Job 41:18), and “tabret” (Gen 31:27).

2 Corinthians 6:12

KJV

Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.

NIV

¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.

James 2:3

KJV

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

NIV

If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet...”

THOUGHTS CONCERNING THE NKJV

- Revision of the 1769 KJV
- Completed in 1982
- Used the same manuscripts as the KJV [even though thousands of more manuscripts were available by this time]
- Margin or Footnote for many verses have notes like this:
 - NU-Text omits this
 - M-Text reads this
 - NU-Text and M-Text omits this or read this

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MODERN TRANSLATIONS OMITTING CERTAIN WORDS OR VERSES

Romans 1:16

KJV - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power...

NKJV - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,^[a] for it is the power...

a. NU-Text omits *of Christ*.

NIV - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power...

(same in the NASB, ESV)

Colossians 1:14

KJV - In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

NKJV - in whom we have redemption through His blood,^[a] the forgiveness of sins.

a. NU-Text and M-Text omit *through His blood*.

NIV - in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(same in the NASB, ESV)

Ephesians 1:7

NIV – **In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**
(similar in the NASB, ESV)

If the NIV and other modern translations have an “agenda” to omit the blood, would they not omit the reference to Christ’s blood in other sections of the Bible?

EXAMPLES WHERE THE KJV/NKJV OMIT REFERENCES TO JESUS, HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:34

KJV - Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died...

NKJV - Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died...

NIV - Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died...
(similar in the NASB, ESV)

Acts 4:25

KJV - Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said...

NKJV - who by the mouth of Your servant David^[a] have said...

a. NU-Text reads *who through the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of our father, Your servant David..*

NIV - You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

(similar in the NASB, ESV)

Acts 16:7

KJV - After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

NIV - When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit **of Jesus** would not allow them to.

Colossians 2:9

KJV - For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

NIV - For in **Christ** all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form..

EXAMPLE WHERE THE KJV/NKJV OMIT REFERENCES TO DEITY OF CHRIST

John 1:18

KJV - No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

NKJV - No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son,^[a] who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

a. NU-Text reads *only begotten God*.

NIV - No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and ^[a] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

a. Some manuscripts *but the only Son, who*

EXAMPLE WHERE THE KJV/NKJV ADD REFERENCES TRINITY

1 John 5:7-8

NKJV – ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth:^[a] the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

a. NU-Text and M-Text omit the words from *in heaven* (verse 7) through *on Earth* (verse 8). **Only four or five very late manuscripts contain these words in Greek.**

NIV - ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the^[a] Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

a. 1 John 5:8 Late manuscripts of the Vulgate *testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.* ⁸ *And there are three that testify on earth: the (not found in any Greek manuscript **before the fourteenth century**)*

REASONS AS TO WHY SOME WORDS ARE PRESENT OR ABSENT IN THE KJV/NKJV VS OTHER TRANSLATIONS

- Depends on what manuscripts a translations is based upon, certain omissions or additions may be present.
- Later copies could have have additions or deletions by those copying the manuscripts due to the thinking that some words could have been missed in the copying process. (Intent was good in trying to correct the mistakes).
- Generally, translations like the NIV/ESV/NASB which use manuscripts that are older in nature [i.e. more closer to their date of writing] have more accurate words than translations like the KJV/NKJV that use manuscripts that are from a more later date.
 - In a general sense, all of us would like copies more closer to the original date of a document.

OTHER MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT TRANSLATIONS

- Red Letter Editions are more sacred
- Capitalization of pronouns related to God/Christ/Holy Spirit are more respectful (i.e. using He or Him in the middle of a sentence instead of he, him when referring to deity)
 - Used in NKJV, NASB
 - Not used in KJV, NIV, ESV, NLT, CSB
 - Hebrew does not have lower or upper capitals
 - Greek originally all in upper caps
- Older translations are faithful; newer ones are compromised
- If a translation is easy to understand, then it must not be accurate
 - Trained to think Bible is a hard book to read
- If a familiar verse is translated differently, then that translation is to be rejected

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LITERAL TRANSLATIONS

- NASB/ESV are often touted as “literal” and NIV/NLT as “dynamic” or “non-literal”

2 Samuel 23:19 [reference to Abishai - one of David’s warriors]

- Hebrew wording [from the ESV footnote] – Was he the most renowned? [Question]
- NIV – **Was he not held in greater honor?** [Question]
- NASB – **He was most honored** [Statement]
- ESV – **He was the most renowned** [Statement]

Genesis 16:13 [reference to Hagar]

- Hebrew wording [from the ESV footnote] - Have I really seen him here who sees me? [Question]
- NLT - **Have I truly seen the One who sees me?** [Question]
- ESV - **Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.** [Statement]

Nahum 3:7 [Original – will flee from you]

- NIV – “will flee from you”
- ESV – will shrink from you

Psalms 44:14 [Original – a shaking of the head]

- NIV – shake their heads
- NLT – shake their heads
- ESV – a laughing stock

Psalms 69:14 [Original – those who hate me]

- NIV – those who hate me
- NLT – those who hate me
- ESV – my enemies
- NASB – my enemies

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV – All Scripture is God-breathed...

- “God-breathed” is the literal Greek in English
- Yet, KJV/NKJV/NASB translate this as “inspired”
 - Unlike Mozart being inspired to compose a music, Bible writers were not inspired on their own to write the Bible. They wrote what God breathed through them.

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GENDER RELATED ISSUES

- Attacks on NIV/NLT mainly from many evangelical leaders
 - Translating “brothers” as ”brothers and sisters”
 - Denying male headship and giving into cultural pressure
- Resulted in some churches/schools dropping the NIV
- Many believers too dropped the NIV
- Are these charges valid?

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NIV) - **For we know, brothers and sisters^[b] loved by God, that he has chosen you...**

Footnote - The Greek word for *brothers and sisters* (*adelphoi*) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in 2:1, 9, 14, 17; 3:7; 4:1, 10, 13; 5:1, 4, 12, 14, 25, 27.

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (ESV) - **For we know, brothers^[b] loved by God, that he has chosen you...**

Footnote - **Or *brothers and sisters*.** In New Testament usage, depending on the context, the plural Greek word *adelphoi* (translated "brothers") may refer either to *brothers* or to *brothers and sisters*.

ESV has the same footnote in 2:1, 9, 14, 17; 3:7; 4:1, 10, 13; 5:1, 4, 12, 14, 25, 26, 27.

NIV's accurate rendering of the gender in the following passages where context is only men:

- Acts 7:1 **“Brothers and fathers, listen to me!”**
[Stephen’s speech to the Sanhedrin that has only men]
- Acts 22:1 **“Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”**
[Paul’s speech to the mob of men threatening to harm him]
- Acts 23:1 **“Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”**
- 1 Timothy 2:12 **“I do not permit a woman to teach or to **assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.**”**
 - Some translations have this as “exercise authority”
 - This rendering of the NIV is seen as a denial of male leadership
 - Is the charge valid?

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NIV) – Example of not compromising in terms of male leadership in the Church

¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Ephesians 5:22-23 (NIV) – Example of not compromising in terms of male leadership in the Home

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

ESV/NASB is gender neutral in some cases as compared to the NIV

Matthew 19:26

(NIV) – with man this is impossible

(NASB) – with people this is impossible

Deuteronomy 4:28

(NIV) – man-made gods

(ESV) – gods...the work of human hands

All translations give consideration to gender – to some degree or the other

James 3:8

KJV - But the tongue can no man tame...

NASB - But no one can tame the tongue;

ESV - but no human being can tame the tongue.

NIV - but no human being can tame the tongue.

2 Corinthians 5:17

KJV - Therefore if any man be in Christ,

NKJV - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ...

NIV - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ...

Gender Neutral readings in the ESV

Proverbs 6:12 “A worthless person” [man]

Ezekiel 1:10 “each had a human face” [face of a man]

Matthew 12:31 “every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people” [men]

Romans 2:9 “distress for every human being who does evil” [men]

KJV gave gender-neutral meaning as well

Proverbs 6:12 – A naughty person (instead of man)

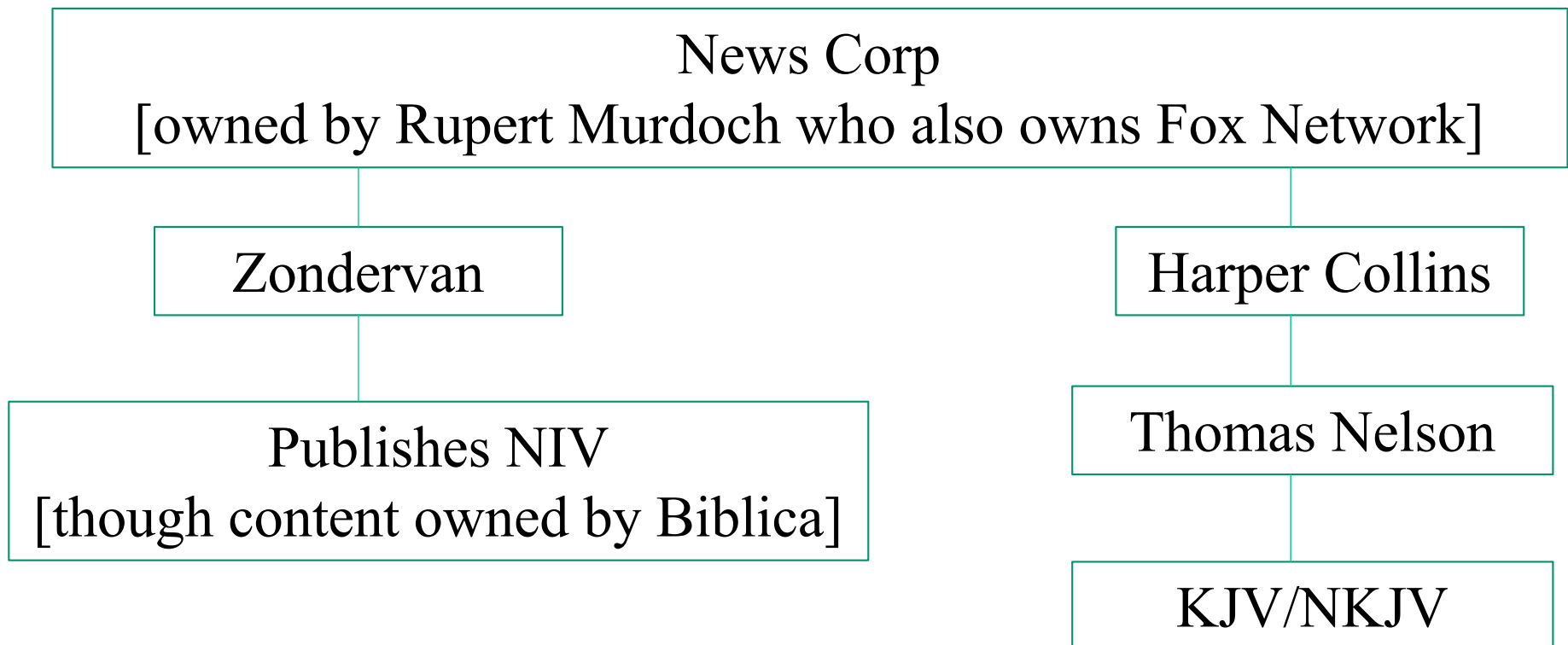
Ezekiel 44:25 – they shall come at no dead person (instead of man) to defile themselves

1 Chronicles 12:29 – the kindred (instead of brothers) of Saul

- Key is to understand gender-neutral does not mean elimination of gender distinction.
- Better way to render gender-neutral is to call it **gender-accurate**
 - To borrow the words of Bill Mounce who was the chairman of the ESV NT translation Committee and currently a member of the NIV NT translation committee
- All mainline translations translate gender to reflect both sexes where context calls for it – some to a greater degree than the others.
- NIV/NLT have not compromised in this area.

UNFAIR ATTACKS ON NIV

- Another unfair attack on the NIV is that it's published by Zondervan which is owned by Rupert Murdoch and that he is an unbeliever who does not care for the truth.
- Reality is that Biblica owns the content of the NIV and all that Zondervan does is to publish the NIV. They nor NewsCorp can change the content.
- Interestingly, News Corp also owns Thomas Nelson which owns KJV/NKJV. Pursuing the same logic, one would also have to say that these 2 translations are corrupt as well!
- No! None of these translations nor the publishing agencies have a wrong agenda!



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A TRANSLATION

1. Do not choose a bible based on traditional beliefs.
2. Do not choose a bible because your favorite bible-teacher uses it.
3. Choose a bible that is faithful to the original languages and yet does not compromise in transmitting the meaning clearly.
4. Choose a bible that you can read and understand clearly. God's word is for your own spiritual growth. **"Do I understand what I am reading?"** is the question to be asked constantly. **The NT was written in common Greek!**
5. Choose a bible that uses multiple manuscripts [like the NIV, NLT, ESV].
6. Use one for primary reading/studying and check others as needed.
7. **Parents:** Do not force children to use a translation just because you like it. Make sure to give one suitable for their age.
8. Don't be a KJV only or ESV only or NASB only or NIV only type of person. **There is no one best translation.** All translations have strengths and weaknesses! Enjoy them all! They are God's wonderful gifts to us!
9. Consider using a translation like the NIV or NLT which render archaic or misleading words in more accurate and contemporary terms when witnessing [e.g. God's holy people instead of saints (especially with Catholics)].
10. Finally, **pray sincerely for guidance** and **be humble enough** to change your views when needed.

We use NIV here because:

1. It is a solid median translation. Combines literal rendering with readability.
2. Translation committee is composed of solid bible teachers.
3. Majority of the church do not have English as their first language.
4. Majority in the church do use it currently.
5. It can be used for both personal reading and for evangelism purposes.

Having said that, here are a few additional comments:

1. We would not be opposed to change to another translation if it is needed.
2. We do recognize NIV has weaknesses just like all other translations and recommend use of multiple translations.
3. We do not believe in dividing over the issue of translations. This includes refraining from attacking motives of translators due to differences in translations. Translators are godly people who have given their lives for the work of giving us a Bible to read in our language.
4. We will not insist on people using a particular translation only.

THE BIBLE

4 BASIC QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED

- I. The Bible – How was it compiled?
- II. The Bible – How has it been preserved?
- III. The Bible – How do translations come about?
- IV. The Bible – Why it can be trusted?

IV. The Bible – Why it can be trusted?

5 REASONS WHY YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE

1. Fulfilled Prophecies

(Destruction of Tyre, Daniel's visions of world kingdoms, Birth and Death of Christ, etc.)

2. Historical Reasons

(Hittite people group, census at Christ's birth, pool of Bethesda, etc.)

3. Scientific Reasons

(Jeremiah wrote about none can count the stars, etc.)

4. Miracles

(Paul wrote 500 people saw resurrected Christ while they were still alive, etc.)

5. Personal Reasons

(Bible changes lives.)

THE BIBLE

4 BASIC QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED

- I. The Bible – How was it compiled?
- II. The Bible – How has it been preserved?
- III. The Bible – How do translations come about?
- IV. The Bible – Why it can be trusted?

GOAL OF THIS SERIES:

1. Understand the flow of the Bible
2. Be transformed like Christ as one reads and applies the Bible