

myBible

The Translation of the Bible:
Contemporary English Translations

The Anchor MBC – F.A.I.T.H. Night

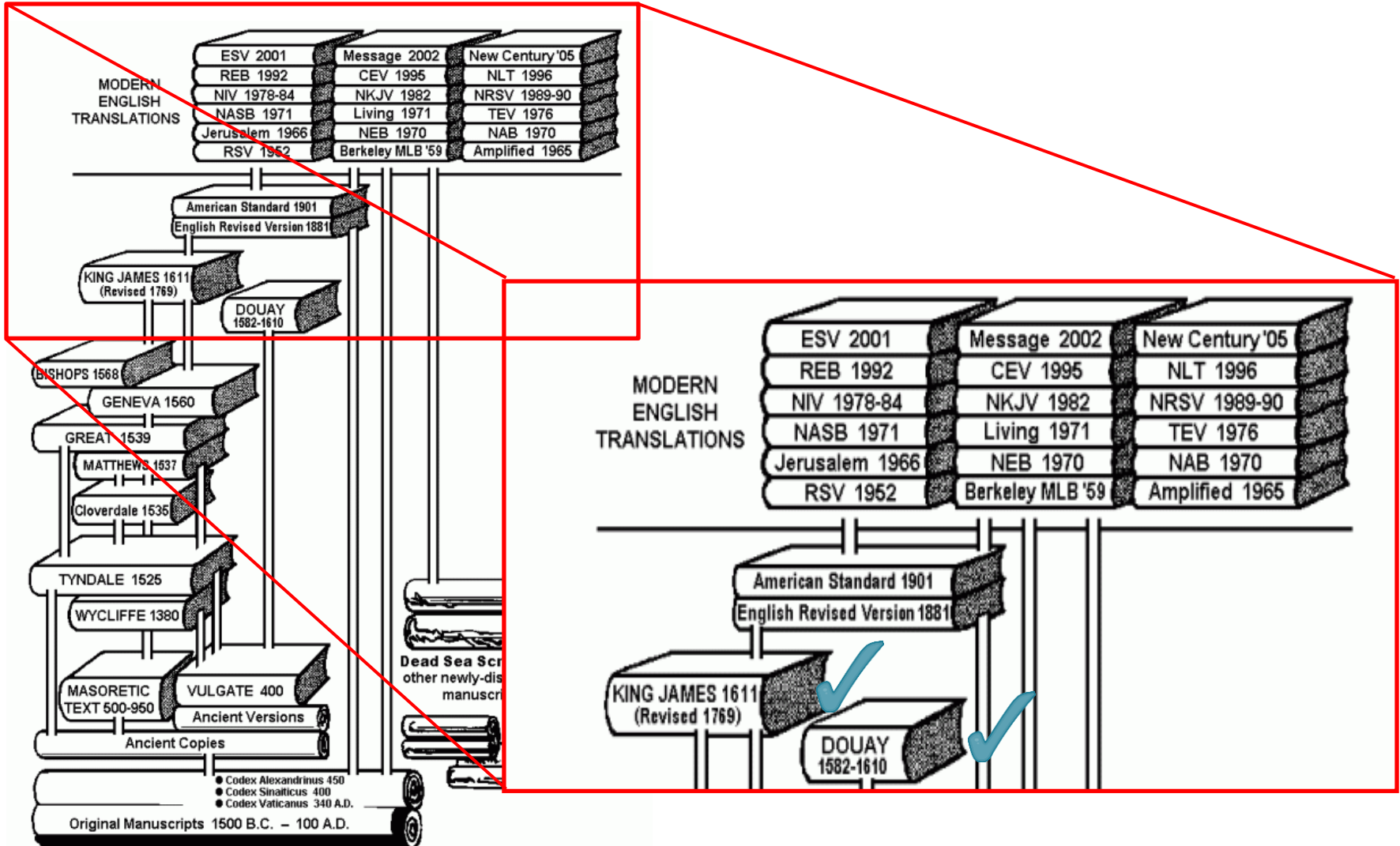
The Point...

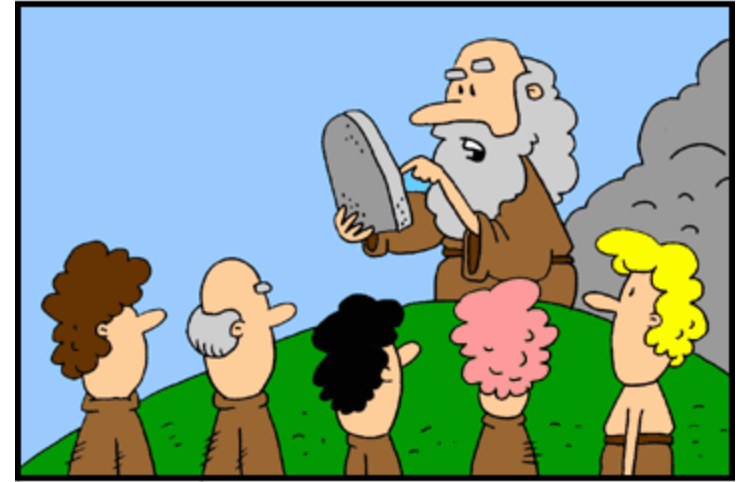
QUESTION:

What is the underlying premise of all
Bible translations?

**God's Word is intended to be
understood by all people,
without language barriers.**

Our Map on this Journey





(See Exodus 20:1-21)

11-16-1999

NEXT COMMANDMENT, THOU SHALT NOT KULL
... WAIT A MINUTE ... THAT'S A CHISEL
ERROR

Textual Criticism

QUESTION:

What is Textual Criticism?

The branch of Scripture study devoted to identify and remove transcription errors in the ancient texts of the original languages.

Textual Criticism

“...the verbal agreement between various New Testament manuscripts is closer than between many English translations of the New Testament and that the actual number of variants in the New Testament is small (approximately 10 percent), none of which affect any matter of doctrine. The greatest number of variants are differences or errors in spelling.”

– *The Journey from Text to Translation*

Textual Criticism

- Where do the differences come from?
 1. Transcription errors
 2. “Corrections” by the transcriber
 3. Attempts to prove doctrinal points



Textual Criticism: Transcription Errors



- Example from **1 Samuel 8:16**
 - **KJV** – “And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.”
 - **NASB** – “...and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work.”
 - **ESV** – “...and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work.”
Note: The alternate reading is in a footnote
 - **NIV** – “...the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use.”
 - **LB** – “...finest of your youth and will use your animals for his personal gain”

Textual Criticism: “Corrections”



- Example from **Mark 1:2-3**

- **KJV** – “As it is written in the prophets, Behold I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

- **NASB** – “As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:...”

- **ESV** – “As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ...”

Note: The alternate reading is in a footnote

- **NIV** – “It is written in Isaiah the prophet: ...”

- **LB** – “In the book written by the prophet Isaiah ...”

Textual Criticism: Doctrinal Points

- Example from **1 John 5:7-8**
 - **KJV** – “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”
 - **NASB** – “For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”
Note: The alternate reading is in a footnote.
 - **ESV** – “For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.”
 - **NIV** – “For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”
 - **LB** – “So we have these three witnesses: the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, the voice from heaven at Christ's baptism, and the voice before he died. And they all say the same thing: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Translation Techniques

QUESTION:

Why not just do a word for word translation?

- **Psalms 23:6** – “Only--goodness and kindness pursue me, All the days of my life, And my dwelling *is* in the house of Jehovah, For a length of days!”
- **Isaiah 53:10** – “And Jehovah hath delighted to bruise him, He hath made him sick, If his soul doth make an offering for guilt, He seeth seed--he prolongeth days, And the pleasure of Jehovah in his hand doth prosper.”
- **Mark 1:7** - “and he proclaimed, saying, `He doth come--who is mightier than I--after me, of whom I am not worthy--having stooped down--to loose the latchet of his sandals;”

All of the above from Young's Literal Translation

Translation Techniques

- Three Options:

1. Formal Equivalence (Literal)

2. Functional Equivalence

3. Free Translation

QUESTION: What are the pros and cons of each?

Formal  Functional  Free

KJV	RSV	NRSV	NIV	GNB	PHILLIPS	LB
NASB		HCSB	NAB	JB		MSG
ESV			NEB			

Translation Techniques

- Comparison of **1 Timothy 1:5**
 - **KJV:** Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:
 - **ESV:** The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
 - **NIV:** The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
 - **NLT:** The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith.
 - **MSG:** The whole point of what we're urging is simply love – love uncontaminated by self-interest and counterfeit faith, a life open to God.

Translation Challenges:

Weights, Measures & Money:

- Examples from **Matthew 18:24 & 28**
 - **KJV:** “And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents... and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence...”
 - **ESV:** “When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents... he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii...”
 - **NIV:** “As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him... he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins...”
 - **MSG:** “As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars... he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars...”



Translation Challenges:

Euphemisms:

- Examples from **1 Kings 21:21**
 - **KJV:** “Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that !*?%\$#@ against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,”
 - **NASB:** “Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel;”
 - **NIV:** “He says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free.”
 - **MSG:** ““I will most certainly bring doom upon you, make mincemeat of your descendants, kill off every sorry male wretch who’s even remotely connected with the name Ahab.”

Translation Challenges:

Content Vocabulary Words

Vocabulary:

- Examples from **Romans 1:3**
 - **KJV:** “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;”
 - **ESV:** “concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh”
 - **NIV:** “regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,”
 - **NLT:** “The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line,”

Translation Challenges:

Content Vocabulary Words

Vocabulary:

- Examples from **Romans 7:18**

- **KJV:** “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”
- **ESV:** “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.”
- **NIV:** “For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”
- **NLT:** “And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t.”

Translation Challenges:

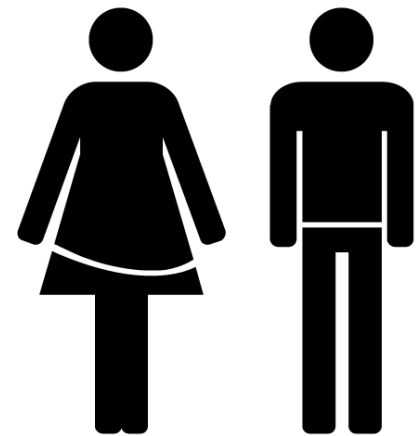
Word Play:

- Examples from **Amos 8:2**

- **KJV:** “And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the Lord unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.”
- **ESV:** “And he said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the Lord said to me, “The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.”
- **NIV:** ““What do you see, Amos?” he asked. “A basket of ripe fruit,” I answered. Then the Lord said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.”
- **MSG:** “He said, “What do you see, Amos?” I said, “A bowl of fresh, ripe fruit.” God said, “Right. So, I’m calling it quits with my people Israel. I’m no longer acting as if everything is just fine.””



Translation Challenges:



Matters of Gender:

- Examples from **Psalm 1:1**
 - **KJV:** “Blessed is the man That walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”
 - **ESV:** “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;”
 - **NIV:** “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,”
 - **MSG:** “How well God must like you— you don’t hang out at Sin Saloon, you don’t slink along Dead-End Road, you don’t go to Smart-Mouth College.”

Translation Challenges:

QUESTION:

Which Translation Should I Use?

What are you going to be doing with the translation?

- Serious Study, Preaching or Teaching?
 - Casual Reading or Devotional?
- Seeking Commentary on a Passage?

Using more than one translation can be very beneficial to your understanding of Scripture.