

# Translation II

From Latin to modern day languages



# The fall of the Roman Empire

Christianity becomes "legal"

This period begins with

- The Septuagint
- The Latin Vulgate
- The gospels and letters written by New Testament writers



**AD 500**

## **Roman Empire Declines**

Germanic migrations  
(AD 378-600)  
cause new  
languages, other  
than Latin, to  
emerge.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 596

## The Bible in Britain



In AD 596,  
Augustine of  
Canterbury  
begins  
evangelization.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

**AD 600**

## **The Bible in Britain**

Christianity reaches Britain (England) before AD 300, but Anglo-Saxon pagans drive Christian Britons into Wales (AD 450-600).



**Britain**



AD 600-700

## The Bible in Britain

Caedmon, an illiterate monk, retells portions of Scripture in Anglo-Saxon (Old English) poetry and song (AD 676).

Aldhelm of Sherborne (AD 709) is said to have translated the Psalms into Anglo-Saxon.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

**AD 1300**

## **The Bible in Britain**

Normans (French) conquer England (AD 1066) and make French the official language. No English translation of the Bible is produced until the 1300s.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

**AD 1300**

## **The Bible in Britain**

**Middle English** emerges, popularized by works such as Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Richard Rolle's *Psalter* (AD 1340).



**Geoffrey Chaucer**



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

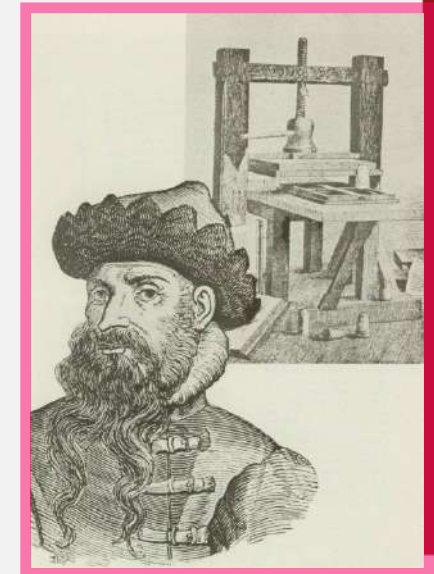
AD 1455

# The Printing Press

- Before the printing press is invented, the Bible is copied by hand very accurately. In many cases it is copied by special scribes who develop intricate methods of counting words and letters to insure that no errors are made.
- The world's first printing press, with moveable metal type, is invented in AD 1455, in Mainz, Germany, by Johann Gutenberg.
- This invention is perhaps the single most important event to influence the spread of the Bible.



Gutenberg and The First Printing Press



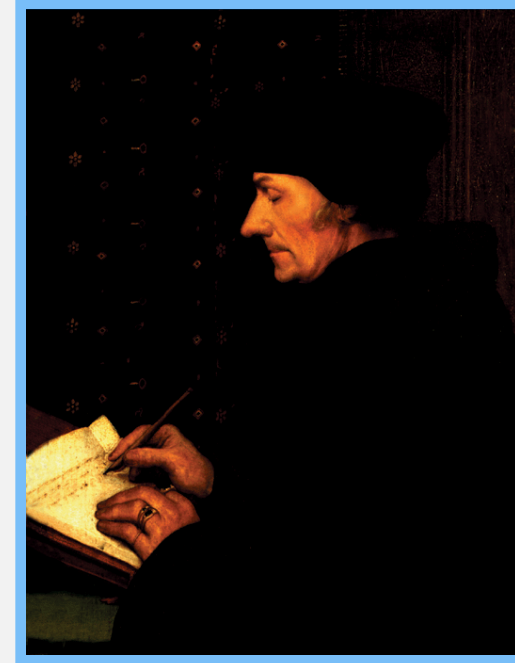
Gutenberg Bible Page



AD 1516

# Erasmus

Erasmus, a priest and Greek scholar, publishes a new Greek edition and a more accurate Latin translation of the New Testament in AD 1516.



Erasmus



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1516

# Erasmus

Erasmus's goal was that everyone be able to read the Bible, "from the farmer in the field to the weaver at the loom."

His Greek text forms the basis of the *Textus Receptus* or *received text*.

The *Textus Receptus* is used later by Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and the King James translators.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

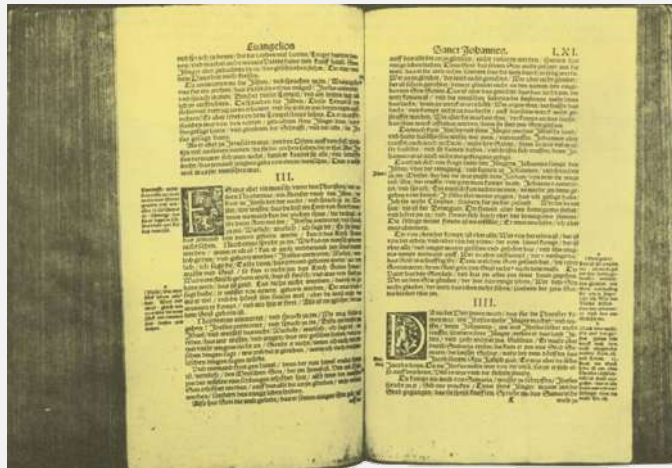


The Greek New Testament of Erasmus  
AD 1516

AD 1522

# Martin Luther

Martin Luther translates the New Testament into German in AD 1522.



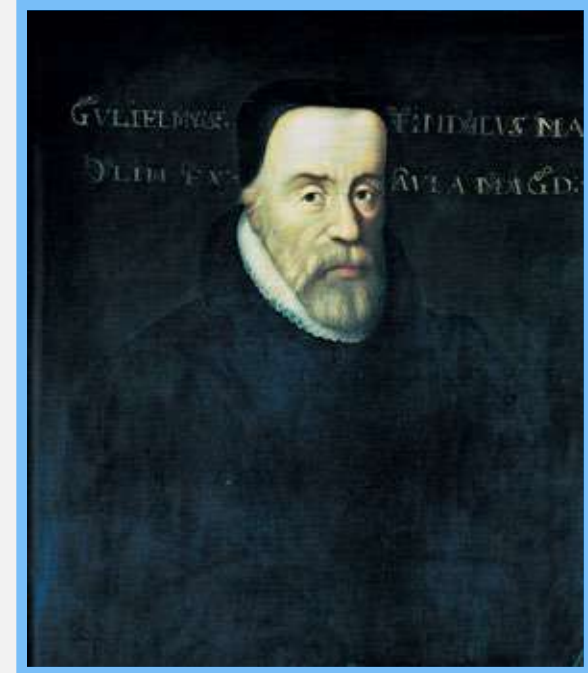
Martin Luther



AD 1525

## William Tyndale

- **William Tyndale**, priest and Oxford scholar, translates the New Testament from Greek into English (AD 1525), but cannot get approval to publish it in England.
- He moves to Germany and prints Bibles, smuggling them into England in sacks of corn and flour.
- In AD 1535, he publishes part of the Old Testament translated from Hebrew into English.

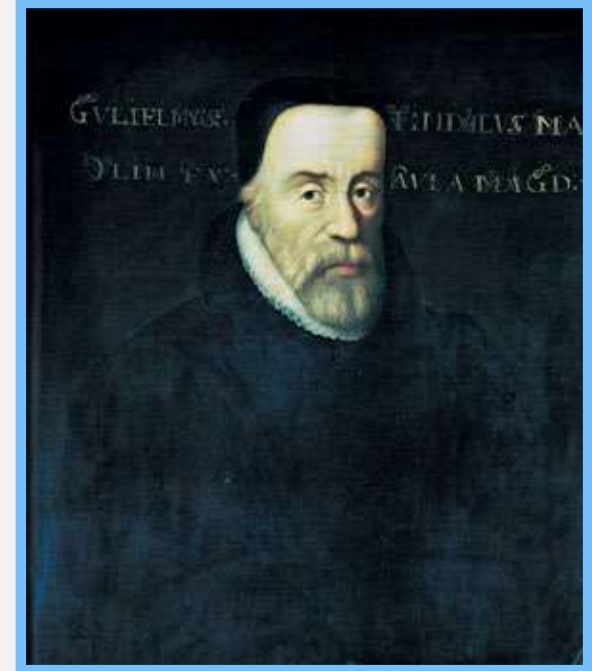


1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1525

## William Tyndale

- In AD 1536, Tyndale is strangled and burned at the stake. His final words are: "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."
- Tyndale is called the "Father of the English Bible" because his translation forms the basis of the King James Version.
- Much of the style and vocabulary we know as "biblical English" is traceable to his work.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000



AD 1535

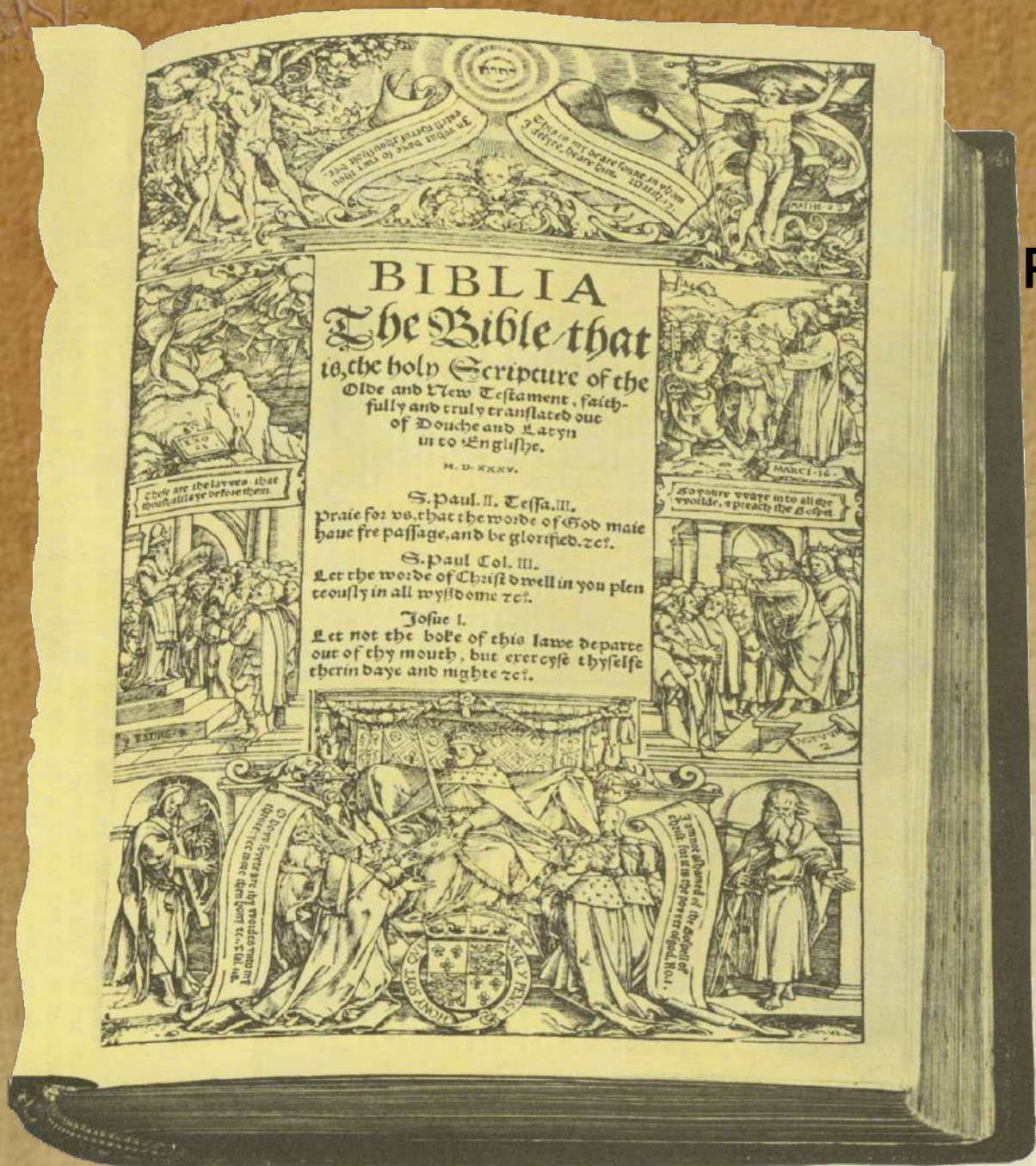
## The Coverdale Bible

The **Coverdale Bible** is translated by Miles Coverdale (AD 1535) and dedicated to Anne Boleyn, one of King Henry VIII's wives.

This is the first complete Bible to be printed in English.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000



The First  
Printed English  
Bible  
AD 1535  
(Coverdale  
Bible)

AD 1555

## Queen Mary

England's Queen Mary bans Protestant translations of the English Bible. John Rogers and Thomas Cranmer are burned at the stake.

Later some 300 men, women, and children are also burned.



Queen Mary



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1560

# Apocrypha

## Some Apocryphal Books and Additions

1 Esdras

Jeremiah

2 Esdras

Tobit

Judith

Additions to Esther

Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus

Baruch, with Letter to

Song of Three Young Men

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

Prayer of Manasseh

1 Maccabees

2 Maccabees



1500 BC

500 BC

AD 1

AD 500

AD 1000

AD 1500

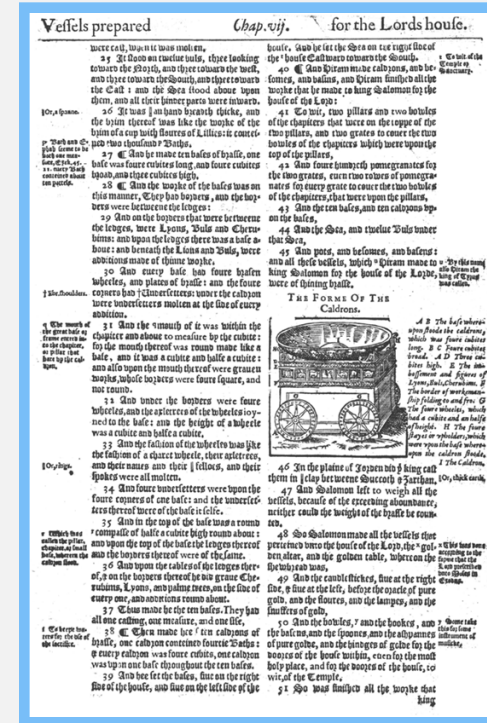
AD 1900

AD 2000

AD 1560

# The Geneva Bible

Exiles from England flee to Geneva, Switzerland. In AD 1560, they print the Geneva Bible, which is a complete revision of the Great Bible with the Old Testament translated from Hebrew.



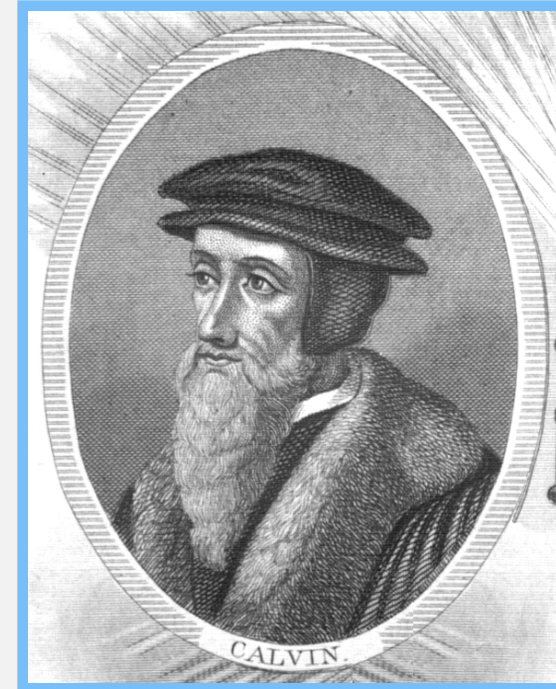
Page from Geneva Bible



AD 1560

## The Geneva Bible

The Geneva Bible contains theological notes from Protestant scholars John Calvin, Beza, Knox, and Whittingham. It is the first Bible to use Roman type.



John Calvin



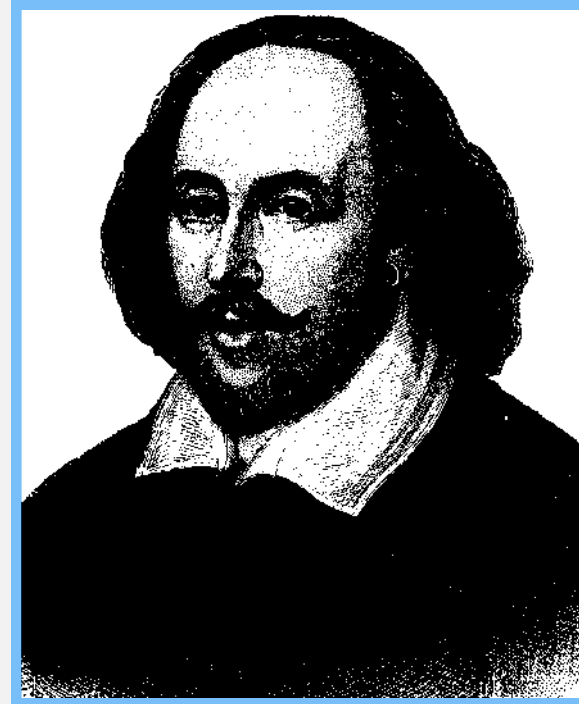
1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1560

## The Geneva Bible

This is the Bible of Shakespeare and the one carried to America by the Pilgrims in AD 1620.

The AD 1640 edition is the first English Bible to omit the Apocrypha.



William  
Shakespeare



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1560

## Apocrypha

The Apocrypha refers to several books and additions that were included in the early Greek and Latin translations of the Old Testament. The Septuagint contained the Apocrypha in 100 BC.

By the first century AD, writers Philo and Josephus indicate that the Hebrew canon did not include the Apocrypha. This evidence leads to its removal from the Geneva Bible in AD 1640. By AD 1827, the Apocrypha is omitted from most English versions of the Bible.



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1611

## King James Version

King James I commissions 54 scholars to undertake a new Bible translation.

For six years, six teams of scholars using the *Textus Receptus*, Bishops Bible, and Tyndale's Bible, complete the new version in AD 1611.



King James I  
of England



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1611

# King James Version

The King James Version is also called the "Authorized Version," even though King James never gave the finished version his royal approval. It uses the best known manuscripts available at the time and it is revised several times.



King James Bible  
Page from 1611 version



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1629

## Older Manuscripts Discovered

Between AD 1629 and AD 1947, several of the earliest known copies of the Bible are found.

**Codex Alexandrinus**, a copy of the New Testament from AD 400, is perhaps the best copy of the book of Revelation. It is made available to western scholars in AD 1629.

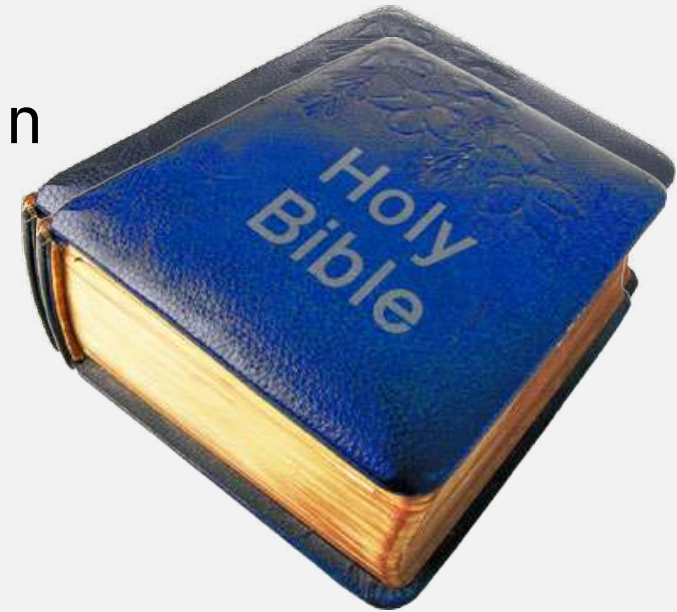


1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000

AD 1769

## King James Version

The original King James edition used today is last revised in AD 1769, however, it does not make use of any recently discovered manuscripts including Codex Alexandrinus. It is the most popular Bible for more than 300 years.



King James Bible



1500 BC    500 BC    AD 1    AD 500    AD 1000    AD 1500    AD 1900    AD 2000