

Systematic Theology

A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF THE MAJOR DOCTRINES OF SCRIPTURE.

TOPIC 1 – THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

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UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL SCRIPTURE TAKEN FROM THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION.

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The Doctrine of Scripture

- ▶ Second London Baptist Confession of Faith – Chapter 1
- ▶ The Inspiration of Scripture
- ▶ The Authority and Perspicuity of Scripture
- ▶ The Inerrancy of Scripture
- ▶ Hermeneutics
- ▶ The Preservation of Scripture
- ▶ The Prophesied Messiah in Scripture
- ▶ The Original Attack on Scripture
- ▶ Application: Teaching and Preaching the Scriptures
- ▶ Translation Theory

Translating Scripture

- ▶ A good translation of the Scripture into any language is the Word of God as it accurately reflects the meaning conveyed in the original language.
- ▶ Formal, word for word translations are the best.
- ▶ Ancient translations can also play a key role in helping confirm a correct reading in an original language manuscript. Ancient versions record what translators understood as the sense conveyed by the original language text. Some ancient translations are even older than our oldest original language manuscripts, translated from texts that are older than those that exist today.
- ▶ - MacArthur, pg. 129

Ancient Translations

- ▶ Greek Septuagint (LXX) – the oldest translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into another language. Third century BC.
- ▶ Latin Vulgate – “Common Version” translated by Jerome from older Latin texts for the Old and New Testaments and then from the Hebrew in the Old Testament. 383 to 405 AD.
- ▶ Syriac Pershitta – “Simple Version” translated from Hebrew and Greek into Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic. Old Testament 150 AD, and New Testament 425 AD.

Ancient Translations

- ▶ Septuagint – the oldest translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into another language. Third century BC. Commissioned by King Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt for his library in Alexandria.
- ▶ Hebrew ceased being spoken after the Babylonian exile and return. The Jewish people spoke Aramaic, and then under the rule of Alexander the Great, they spoke Greek including in Egypt under Ptolemy.
- ▶ The Torah was first translated by a group of 72 translators (6 from each tribe of Israel) around 250 BC and then the rest of the Old Testament was finished over the next century.
- ▶ This is the version of the Old Testament that is most often quoted in the New Testament (Of the over 300 OT quotes in the NT, 80-90% of citations are from the LXX).
- ▶ This was also the version most often used by the Early Church Fathers.

Ancient Translations

- ▶ Latin Vulgate - “Common Version” translated by Jerome from older Latin texts for the Old and New Testaments and then from the Hebrew in the Old Testament. 383 to 405 AD.
- ▶ Council of Trent in 1546 decreed the Vulgate to the exclusive Latin version for the Bible and hence the authoritative Biblical text for the Roman Catholic Church.
- ▶ Revised in 1965 by the Second Vatican Council.

Ancient Translations

- ▶ Syriac Pershitta – “Simple Version” translated from Hebrew and Greek into Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic. Old Testament 150 AD, and New Testament 425 AD.
- ▶ Translated by a Christian community in Edessa which is modern day Urfa, Turkey.
- ▶ The first complete Bible translation from Hebrew and Greek into another language.

English Translations

- ▶ There were many partial translations of Psalms, sections of Scripture, or some entire books of the Bible in Old English dating back to around 1000 AD.
- ▶ John Wycliffe translated the Latin Vulgate into English from 1382 to 1395. This version led to the formation of the Lollard Movement, which was a pre-reformation rejection Roman Catholicism.
- ▶ John Hus was a disciple of Wycliffe and preached in the common language until he was burned at the stake. At his execution in 1415 they also dug up Wycliffe's bones and burned them.

English Translations

- ▶ William Tyndale translated the New Testament from Greek, completing that work in 1534. He had also translated about half of the Old Testament from Hebrew by the time he was martyred in 1536. This was the first mass produced Bible thanks to the printing press. Miles Coverdale worked with Tyndale and finished the translation of the Old Testament. These men relied on Erasmus' Greek NT, the Latin NT, Luther's German translation, the Vulgate, and the LXX.
- ▶ The Great Bible was the first authorized English translation of the entire Bible, commissioned by King Henry VIII in 1539. It was prepared by Miles Coverdale and was based on Tyndale's text.

English Translations

- ▶ The Geneva Bible, finished between 1557 and 1560 was the English version used by Shakespeare, Cromwell, Know, John Bunyan, and a copy was taken on the Mayflower in its voyage to the New World. It was translated by Coverdale and others during the reign of Queen Mary I, when a number of Protestant scholars fled to Geneva, Switzerland. John Calvin and Theodore Beza provided the primary spiritual and theological leadership in Geneva during this time. The Geneva Bible included cross references, study aids and notes, book introductions, woodcut illustrations, and chapter and verse numbers.
- ▶ The Bishop's Bible was commissioned and translated by the Church of England in 1568, revised in 1572, and again in 1602. The church leadership rejected the Calvinism in the notes of the Geneva Bible.

English Translations

- ▶ The King James Bible was commissioned by King James I, as he was influenced by the Puritans within the Church of England to correct errors they saw in the Bishop's Bible and the Great Bible. The KJV was based on the final revision of the 1602 Bishop's Bible and translated between 1604 and 1611. Further revisions were issued throughout the 1600 and 1700s.

Formal vs Dynamic Equivalence

- ▶ Formal Equivalence refers to a word for word translation.
- ▶ Dynamic or Functional Equivalence refers to a sense for sense or thought for thought translation that will produce a more readable but less literal translation.

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE (LITERAL)

KING JAMES VERSION
NEW KING JAMES VERSION
NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE
NEW AMERICAN STANDARD UPDATE
REVISED STANDARD VERSION
NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION
ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE (DYNAMIC)

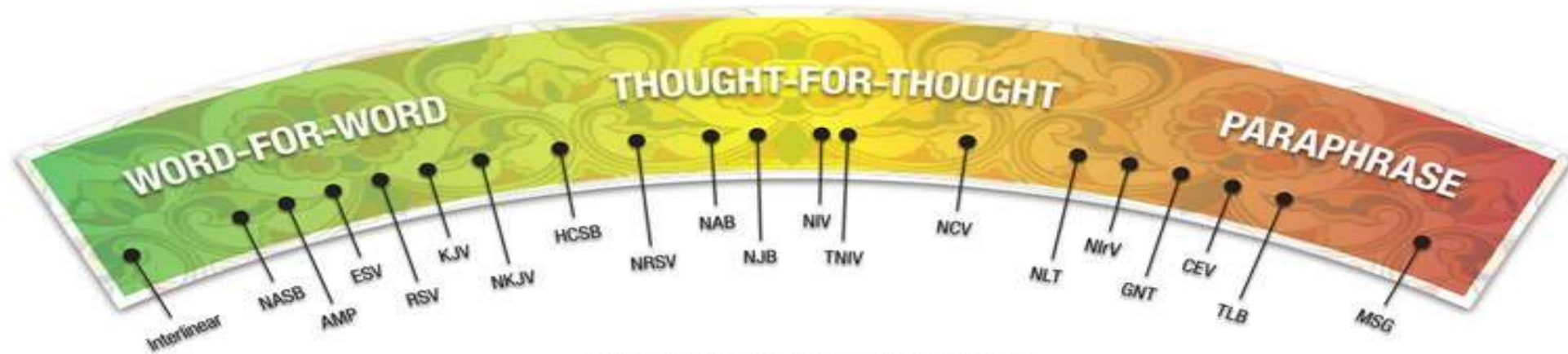
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION
TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION
NEW AMERICAN BIBLE
NEW JERUSALEM BIBLE
GOOD NEWS BIBLE
REVISED ENGLISH BIBLE
JERUSALEM BIBLE
NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

FREE (PARAPHRASE)

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE
LIVING BIBLE
THE MESSAGE

Formal vs Dynamic Equivalence

Types of Bible Translations



NASB - New American Standard Bible
AMP - Amplified Bible
ESV - English Standard Version
RSV - Revised Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
NKJV - New King James Version

HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
NAB - New American Bible
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
NIV - New International Version
TNIV - Today's New International Version
NCV - New Century Version
NLT - New Living Translation

NirV - New International Reader's Version
GNT - Good News Translation
(also Good News Bible)
CEV - Contemporary English Version
TLB - The Living Bible
MSG - The Message