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History & Heritage of the Bible

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Chronology

- 1382—Wycliffe Bible translated into English and Lollards preach with it
- 1453—Constantinople falls to the Muslims
- 1455—the printing press is invented
- 1516—Erasmus publishes his first Greek New Testament
- 1517—Martin Luther nails a copy of his 95 disagreements with the Catholic Church to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg where he taught
- 1526—King Henry VIII opposes the Protestants, and bans the New Testament by William Tyndale (**Tyndale Bible**)
- 1516—the future Catholic Queen Mary is born to Henry VIII by Catherine of Aragon
- 1532—the Protestant Thomas Cromwell is appointed prime minister
- 1533—the Protestant Thomas Cranmer is installed as Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1533—King Henry VIII marries Protestant Anne Boleyn and the future Queen Elizabeth is born
- 1535—Myles Coverdale revises Tyndale's incomplete Bible to publish the first complete printed Bible in English (the **Coverdale Bible**)
- 1537—Henry VIII's third wife produces the future Protestant King Edward VI
- 1537—John Rogers revives Tyndale's Bible by revising Coverdale's Bible and prints it under the pen name Thomas Matthew (**Matthew's Bible**)
- 1539—Thomas Cranmer hires Myles Coverdale to revise the Coverdale Bible and they publish the **Great Bible**
- 1540—Cromwell is executed
- 1545—the Catholic Church meets to condemn all Protestant doctrine
- 1546—Martin Luther dies
- 1547—King Henry VIII dies and Edward VI comes to the throne at age nine
- 1547—Cranmer publishes a book on preaching for the clergy
- 1549—Cranmer puts the worship service into English in the Book of Common Prayer
- 1553—Mass is abolished and the communion service has to be performed in English
- 1553—King Edward VI dies of tuberculosis and the Catholic Queen Mary comes to the throne
- 1554—Mary weds King Philip II of Spain
- 1555—John Rogers becomes the first Protestant martyr and is burned at the stake at Smithfield by Queen Mary under revived laws against Lollards
- 1556—Thomas Cranmer is degraded from his office as Archbishop and burned at the stake at St. Mary's Church in Oxford
- 1555-58—over 400 Protestants are martyred, some by torture, but most burned at the stake
- 1558—Queen Mary dies and her Protestant sister Elizabeth comes to the throne
- 1560—the **Geneva Bible** is published by Protestant exiles living with John Calvin
- 1563—a Protestant creed for the Anglican Church called The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion is adopted by church Convocation
- 1568—fifteen Bishops of the Church of England revise the English Bible (**Bishops Bible**)
- 1569—first edition of the complete **Spanish Bible** is translated by Reina, and revised in 1602 by Valera
- 1603—Hampton Court Conference where Puritan clergy ask the new monarch, King James for a new translation
- 1611—the **King James Bible** is published and by 1662 becomes known as the Authorized Version

Glossary & Bibliography

GLOSSARY

Alexandrian Text (also called Neutral or Egyptian text)—the form of Greek text that predominates in some earliest surviving manuscripts, which were not discovered until after 1850 AD. It originated in the church of Alexandria, Egypt (dominated by Gnostics) and forms the basis for the modern eclectic Greek text.

Eclectic Text—selecting what appears to be best from various sources. The Modern Greek text is eclectic because its editors pick and choose between the manuscript evidence on one hand, and their own naturalistic presuppositions, biases and opinion about what the text should read

Manuscript—from the Latin *manu scriptus*, a composition written out by hand.

Masoretic Text—the ancient and traditional Hebrew text of the Old Testament meticulously preserved by scribes called Masoretes, and later printed during the Reformation as the standard Bible text.

Received Text or *Textus Receptus* (also called Eastern, Byzantine, or Majority Text)—the traditional Greek text of the New Testament originating at Antioch and preserved through scribes of the Byzantine church, later collated and printed during the Reformation as the standard Bible text.

Reformation—the 16th century religious movement sparked by Luther's personal discovery of justification by faith while reading Romans in the original Greek, and leading ultimately to a rejection of Catholic doctrine and the establishment of Protestant churches.

Renaissance—the transitional movement in Europe between the medieval Dark Ages and modern times (14th-17th century) fueled by a revival of classical influence through the Greek and Hebrew languages.

Septuagint or LXX—an ancient translation of the Old Testament into Greek. Because copies of it are older than existing copies of the Hebrew Masoretic text, modern Bibles use readings from the LXX to change the OT text.

Textual criticism—concerns the identification and removal of errors from ancient manuscripts. In the case of the New Testament, textual criticism is used to try and establish the words of the original text.

Vulgate—A Latin version of the Scripture made by Jerome at the close of the 4th century, and the only version the Roman Catholic Church says is authentic. He took the Old Testament mainly from Hebrew and Aramaic, and revised the New Testament from an older Latin version. It preserves a mainly Alexandrian text.

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