

How To Read, Study, and Understand The Bible

History of Translation-A Review

- The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other piece of literature
- Septuagint: Hebrew to Greek
- Vulgate: Greek, Septuagint, Hebrew to Latin
- Official translation for 1,000 years – only educated clergy could read

History of Translation-A Review

- From Original Languages to English
 - The movement to translate the Bible into English was opposed by the church
 - Their concern was that if ordinary people could read the Bible, it would lead to erroneous interpretations

History of Translation-A Review

- Invention of the moveable type printing press in 1455 contributed to the spread of common language translations
- John Wycliffe: Translation condemned
- William Tyndale: executed for defying the church's prohibition against translations in common languages
- Tyndale's translation was influential on translations for the next 200 years.

History of Translation-A Review

- English Translations in the 16th and 17th centuries took place during a struggle between Protestants and Catholics
- Some translations were supported by Protestants and others by Catholics

King James Bible

Strengths

- Beautiful Prose
- Tremendous influence on the English speaking world
- Common Bible for English Protestants

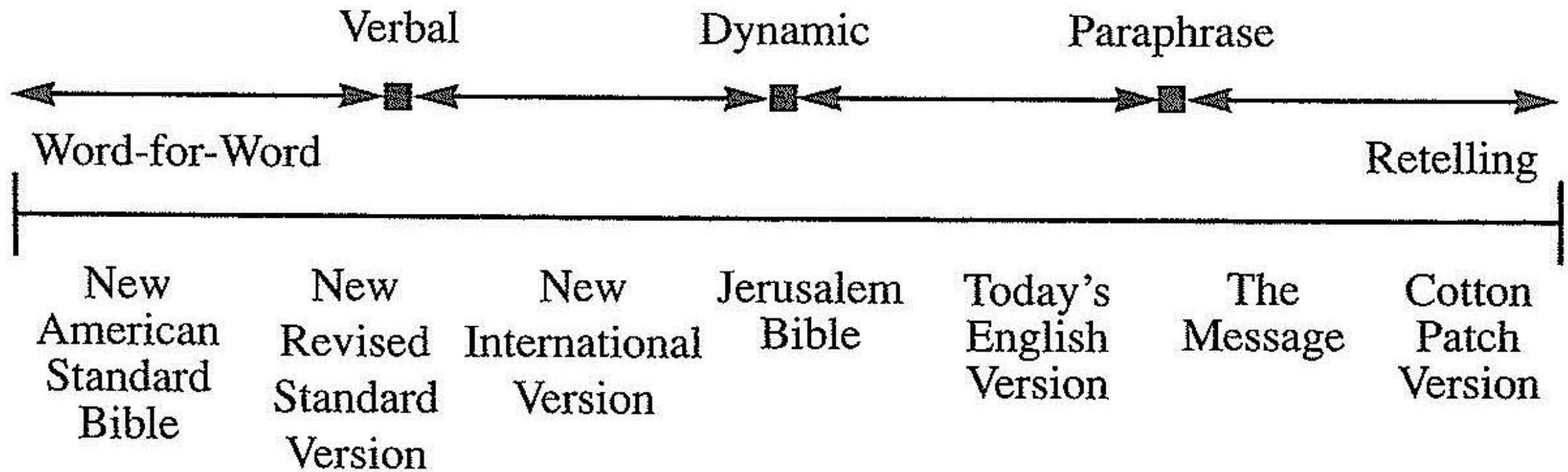
Weaknesses

- Faulty Greek and Hebrew manuscripts
- New discoveries about language, more recent manuscripts

The Art/Science of Translation

- What is the goal of the translators?
- Who are the translators?
- Who is the audience?
- What type of translation?

Figure 1: A Spectrum of Approaches to Translation



Types of Translation

- Verbal: translate the original languages into modern English *and* maintain the “integrity,” i.e. the grammar, words, rhythm and order of the original languages as much as possible
- KJV, RSV, NASB

Types of Translation

- **Dynamic:** The primary purpose of a dynamic translation is to convey the text in fluid modern English rather than word-for-word fidelity.
- JB, NEB, REB, NLT, TEV (Good News), CEV

Types of Translation

- Paraphrase: A paraphrase is more focused on the underlying meaning or spiritual truth of the Bible: Message, Living Bible, The Voice

What are the positives and negatives of the different types of translations?

About Translations

- What are the goals of the translation team?
- What is the background of the people who wrote the notes?
- Is there a diversity of voices or a singular perspective?

Sources: *Choosing a Bible* by Sheely and Nash, Jr. and *The Bible in Translation* by Bruce Metzger

Read the Introduction to the Bible

What do I need to read and study the Bible?

1. Bible

✓ What's my purpose? Read v. Studying

If you want to be reading the Bible – a dynamic equivalent or paraphrase will be easier to understand because its goal is to convey the Word in clear English.

Message, Living - Paraphrase
CEV, NLT - Dynamic

2. Other Resources for Study

- ✓ Study Bible : Ryrie, Thompson, Macarthur, Holman, Life Application, Thomas Nelson
 - ✓ Study Bibles: maps, concordance, commentary, historical context, articles, application notes, original languages
 - ✓ Strong' s Concordance – Strong' s numbering
 - ✓ Hebrew/Greek Study Bible
 - ✓ Topical Bible, Bible Dictionary
 - ✓ Commentaries