



More English Bibles

After the seminal works of Wycliffe and Tyndale, the English Bible began an unbroken progression of revisions and improved editions that continues to this day. As the archeologists have uncovered more and more manuscripts, the pool of material for comparison and scholarly study has continued to provide for us updated English translations of the Holy Scriptures.

Miles Coverdale was a friend of William Tyndale. He claimed no real originality and simply based his work on Tyndale's. The Coverdale Bible was published and presented to King Henry VIII in 1535.

The Matthew's Bible came next. And then the Great Bible, which was a very large official version that was ordered chained to every pulpit in England.

The Geneva Bible was published by a group of scholars who fled England during the persecutions handed out by Queen Mary. This was an update on the Great Bible and was of a good practical size. It was very popular for many years.

The Bishop's Bible was commissioned during the reign of Queen Elizabeth in 1568. It was endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and was used mostly by the clergy. It was not very popular with the common people.

The "Authorized Version" or King James Version of 1611 came to be the most popular translation of the Bible of all time. It

served as the standard Bible for English speaking people for 300 years. It was produced at the order of King James I; thus, it was "authorized" by the King. It was a group effort by many scholars. The best Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English texts of that time were used in its production.

During the 1800's, many archaeological discoveries were made, which gave scholars a wealth of new manuscript evidence. The time had come for a major revision of the King James Bible. The Revised Version of 1881-85 and the American Standard Version of 1901 were the products of this effort. These two closely related translations set the stage for the modern versions we read today.

One last point—a very important point! While there has been a flurry of activity in Bible translation over the last 100 years, one thing has been inarguably proven—the discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 sealed the debate—**the Bible has been accurately passed down to us from the ancient times.**

While there were a few instances in which the King James Bible was definitely improved, the fact is now known that the Bible has been passed down to us from the time of the Apostles with great care and precision. Indeed, Divine Providence must have been at play over many centuries to assure the accuracy of God's Word as it has been copied over and over.

It is amazing that a book as long as the Holy Bible could be copied by hand so many thousands of times over thousands of years and still maintain such an incredible correctness. The archeological discoveries of ancient manuscripts continue to prove it time and again.

"All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Scott