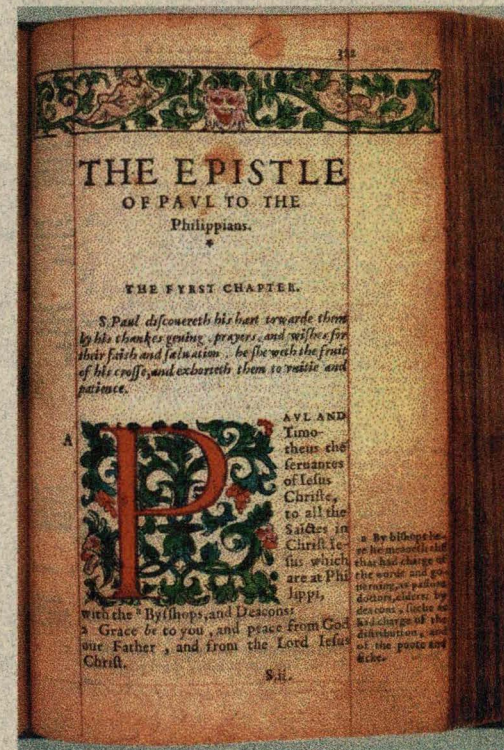


The Biblical Treasures of Dr. Charles Ryrie



1557 Geneva New Testament



*“And so we have the **Word** of the prophets
made more certain;
and you do well to pay attention to it,
as to a **Light** shining in a dark place,
until the day dawns and
the morning star rises in your hearts.
(2 Peter 1:19)*

C. C. Ryrie Bible Collection

I. Ancient Bibles

A. Coptic Leaf from Mark (ca. 500 A.D.)

Of the older versions of the New Testament the most important is Coptic. It was the literary form of the vernacular language used in Egypt and other parts of North Africa in the early centuries of the Christian era.

The Coptic Church of Egypt traces its origins to St. Mark, who, according to legend, converted the Egyptians. The page on display is, quite aptly, from Mark 6.

B. Benton Gospels (10th Cent; Greek)

This manuscript is among the earliest written in cursive Greek characters with square breathing marks.

C. 13th Century Byzantine Luke & John

II. Medieval Latin Bibles

A. 1273 Biblia Latina

It is estimated that it took two to three years of scribal work to produce a manuscript Bible. The subsequent illumination shows the value and appreciation for God's Word.

B. Illuminated Psalter

III. Pre-Reformation Bibles

A. Wycliffe New Testament (ca. 1420) (1400-1420 on vellum)

Wycliffe and his followers gave us the first English translation of the Bible. Its reading, in public or private, was prohibited by Archbishop of Canterbury Arundel, "under penalty of the greater excommunication".

"For God loved so ye world: yat he gaf his oon bigotu sone yt ech man yat bilevey in hym pirshe not but have everlastige life." (John 3:16)

What's with the "ye" and "yat"?

B. Christopher Saur

(Germantown, Pa)

This was the second Bible printed in North America. It was Luther's Bible.

The second edition (1763) was the first printed on American paper. His third (1777) was the first printed with American type, and became known as the "Gun wad Bible".

"To the poor and needy we have no price."

1. 1743
2. 1763
3. 1776

C. Robert Aitken

(Philadelphia: 1782)

When the American Revolution cut off the supply of Bibles from England and made the royal printer's patent nonbinding, the Continental Congress encouraged American printers to produce Bibles.

Robert Aitken put forth the New Testament in 1777 and this, the first complete English Bible printed in America, in 1782.

collegial review and completed the translation by 1610. The result has been called “the noblest monument to English prose and poetry”. It is estimated that 83-90% of the King James Bible was the previous translation of William Tyndale.

V. American Bibles

A. John Eliot

Algonquin Indian Bible of 1663

Originally printed in 1663, the Eliot “Indian Bible” was the first Bible printed in North America.

John Eliot, a Puritan pastor, came to Boston from England. He pastored at Roxbury. In time he learned the Algonquin Indian language, reduced it to writing, and translated the entire Bible for them. He saw thousands come to Christ, and established 14 villages for “praying Indians”.

B. Gutenberg Leaf (1455)

Printed by Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, Ger. The first book printed with moveable type. Gutenberg was a genius who brought together: the development of the moveable-type technique, an improved ink, and an advanced press. His impact on the world is immeasurable.

We are uncertain about the number of Bibles he produced, but estimates are approximately 180 on paper and 35 on vellum.

This book is the continental divide of book making and education.

C. 36-Line Bible Leaf

D. 1488 Czech Bible

E. Latin Bible with Notes of Nicholas of Lyre (1482-83)

F. Complutensian Polyglot (1517/1522)

(1514-17 / 20) (Hebrew, Latin, Greek)

Why is Latin in the center?

G. Erasmus Greek/Latin NT Diglots

Desiderius Erasmus was a humanist who longed for church reform to recover the simplicity of Christianity. He realized that the best way to accomplish such reform was to recover the original New Testament, as the Latin Vulgate had been corrupted by notions of Roman Catholic doctrine. He found several Greek NT manuscripts (none complete), and he produced the first printed Greek New Testament in 1516.

He revised it and produced this second (and greatly improved) edition in 1519, which Luther used as the basis for his 1522 German NT. A subsequent third edition (1522) was used by William Tyndale to produce his English New Testament.

1. 1516
2. 1519
3. 1522

1. Robert Estienne
1550 (Paris) and 1551
2. 1557 Geneva New Testament
3. 1560 Geneva Bible

F. 1568 Bishops Bible

G. Roman Catholic English Bibles

4. 1582 Rhemes NT
5. 1609/10 Douai

H. Authorized Version of 1611

There came a time when the Geneva Bible was extremely popular among most people and the dissenting clergy, the Bishops Bible was preferred by the clergy of the Church of England, and the Roman Church had its own New Testament. With the death of Queen Elizabeth and the crowning of James I, many thought it time to deal with the issues that threatened to divide the country.

A decision was made to produce a new translation. Forty-seven to fifty men appointed to six committees. They worked through

were drawn from Tyndale, Luther, Erasmus, Olivetan, and others.

Q: Why the “~~OT~~” on the last page of the OT?

E. Geneva

When Mary ascended the throne of England in 1553, she immediately began the persecution of Protestants that earned her the name “Bloody Mary”. Protestant leaders fled England to safe havens on the continent, the most influential of which was Geneva.

Protestant scholars and printers there were prolific at producing Bibles to strengthen the churches.

This particular Bible was exceptional in its accuracy, readability, and design. Size, annotations, tables, introductions, and font were all chosen to help common people grow in the Word.

Consider the controversial notes at Exodus 1:19 and 22 (the divine right of kings), 1 Peter 1:2 (Reformed theology), and Revelation 11:7 (anti-Roman Catholicism).

IV. Reformation Bibles

A. Martin Luther

After his conversion and the 95 theses controversy, Luther began writing tracts that were printed and distributed across Europe. But he realized that to persuade people about the right doctrine and practice of the church, he had to give them God’s Word in their own language. Accordingly, after the Diet of Worms, while kept for protection in the Wartburg Castle, Luther translated Erasmus’s Greek New Testament into German, in perhaps only eleven weeks. It was printed in September, 1522. It helped to birth and strengthen the Protestant churches in Germany. His work on the Old Testament was with the help of friends he called his “Sanhedrin”. It took several years, and was published in bits and pieces, until the complete Luther Bible was published in 1534.

Note: Ask about “allein” in Romans 3:28.

1. 1535 Bible
2. 1524 Pentateuch
3. Early Lutheran Hymnal (with handwritten message from Melancthon)

B. William Tyndale

William Tyndale had a vision to translate the Bible into English from the original Hebrew and Greek. Realizing the strong opposition to that from the Church in England, he fled to the continent and lived quietly in several European cities. He would translate, have his work printed, and the Scripture would be smuggled back to England by textile merchants.

He finished the New Testament in 1525, and completed revisions in 1534 and 1536. He finished the Pentateuch in 1530.

He was eventually tracked down, arrested, strangled, and burned at Vilvorde in 1536.

1. 1536 New Testament
2. 1530 Pentateuch

C. Miles Coverdale

This was the first entire Bible printed in the English language. Its place of printing is unknown but was likely printed at either Cologne or Marburg.

In his dedicatory, Coverdale said the work was based on “five sundry interpreters”. Those five are most likely: (1) Tyndale; (2) Luther; (3) Vulgate; (4) Pagnini’s Latin; and (5) the Swiss-German version of Zwingli and Juda.

Coverdale took Tyndale’s New Testament, Pentateuch and Jonah, edited them, and completed his Bible with reliance on the others.

- a. 1535 Bible
- b. 1539 English/Latin Diglot
- c. 1539 (& subsequent) Great Bible

D. John Rogers

1537 Thomas Matthew Bible
(Antwerp; 1,500 copies)

John Rogers was a close friend to Tyndale. He brought together Tyndale’s New Testament, Pentateuch, and unpublished work (Joshua – 2 Chron.). For the remainder of the Old Testament, he used Coverdale’s work, which he edited. He added some 2,000 controversial marginal notes, many of which