

## Bible Translations – Brief Description

**The King James Version (KJV)** – Translated in 1611 by 47 male scholars using the Byzantine family of manuscripts, Textus Receptus. This remains as a good version of the Bible although it reflects its all male translator group. It has been the most reliable translation for over three centuries, but its Elizabethan style Old English is difficult for modern readers, especially youth, and some words are clearly mistranslated given 20<sup>th</sup> century discoveries of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi finds.

**The New American Standard Bible (NASB)** – Translated in 1971 by 58 scholars of the Lockman Foundation, from Kittle’s *Biblia Hebraica* and Nestle’s Greek New Testament 23rd ed., which include the Alexandrian Family codices. Though academic in tone, it is said to be one of the more exact English translation available. A very good version.

**The Living Bible (TLB)** – A paraphrased rendition of the King James Version by Kenneth Taylor in 1971. This is not a genuine translation, but is a type of phrase-by-phrase commentary that was originally intended to help the author’s own children understand the scriptures. It is useful for inspiration and commentary, but for serious Bible study it should only be used in conjunction with a legitimate translation.

**The Message Bible** – Translated by Eugene Peterson from Hebrew and Greek, it is extremely popular with its modern language and vernacular. <sup>1</sup>Peterson, Eugene H.: *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress, 2002

**The New International Version (NIV)** – Over 100 translators completed this work in 1978 which was composed from Kittle’s, Nestle’s and United Bible Society’s texts, which include the Alexandrian Family codices. This is considered an “open” style translation. It is a good, easy to read version.

**The New King James Version (NKJV)** – 130 translators, commissioned by Thomas Nelson Publishers, produced this version from the Byzantine family (Textus Receptus) in 1982. This is a revision of the King James version, updated to modern English with minor translation corrections and retention of traditional phraseology. This is a very good version.

**The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** – Highly recommended for use in most Christian Seminaries today, because it’s considered one of the most reliable of translations.

*References: <sup>1</sup> Selecting A Bible Translation, Lewis Foster*