

The Bible in English – A Potted History

1384 : Wycliffe is the first person to produce a (hand-written) manuscript copy of the complete bible.

1526 : William Tyndale's New Testament; The First New Testament printed in the English Language

1535 : Myles Coverdale's Bible; the first complete bible printed in the English language.

1537 : Tyndale-Matthews Bible; the second complete bible printed in English. By John "Thomas Matthew" Rogers.

1560 : The Geneva Bible printed; the first English language bible to add numbered verses to each chapter.

1568 : The Bishops Bible printed; the bible of which the King James was a revision.

1609 : The Douay Old Testament is added to the Rheims New Testament (of 1582) making the first complete English Catholic bible; translated from the Latin Vulgate.

1611 : The King James Bible printed; originally with all 80 books. The Apocrypha was officially removed in 1885 leaving only 66 books.

1841 : English Hexapla New Testament; an early textual comparison showing the Greek and 6 famous English translations in parallel columns.

1885 : The "English Revised Version" Bible; the first major English revision of the KJV.

1901 : The "American Standard Version"; the first major American revision of the KJV.

1952 : The "Revised Standard Version" (RSV); a revision of the 1901 American Standard Version.

1971 : The "New American Standard Bible" (NASB) is published as a "modern and accurate word for word English translation" of the bible.

1973 : The "New International Version" (NIV) is published as a "modern and accurate phrase for phrase English translation" of the bible.

1990 : The "New Revised Standard Version" (NRSV); further revision of 1952 RSV.

2002 : The English Standard Version (ESV) is published as a translation to bridge the gap between the accuracy of the NASB and the readability of the NIV.