



HIGHER GROUND  
CALVARY CHAPEL

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

## An Overview of Bible Versions

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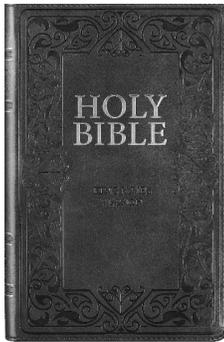
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This is the Bible...



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But there is more to the Bible  
than meets the eye  
There are different versions  
There are different formats  
There are different resources

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Tonight we want to walk you through the various Bibles so that you can select the one that is right for you



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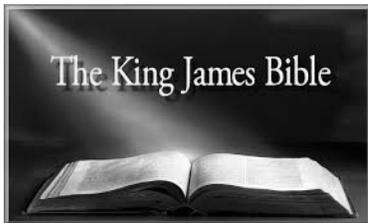
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The traditional Bible of the Protestant Church has been the King James Bible



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There is a Catholic version which is sanctioned by the Catholic Church  
It groups the books differently  
And it adds the Apocrypha – a series of books from the inter-Testament Period, but Jesus never quoted from them

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The King James Bible was published in 1611 by the command of King James of England

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It has the distinction of being the first Common English Bible printed for the use of the masses

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Although we call it a Common English translation this is not exactly true  
The translators felt the Bible – being God’s Word – should be more poetic and intellectual  
If you like Shakespeare you will enjoy the King James Bible

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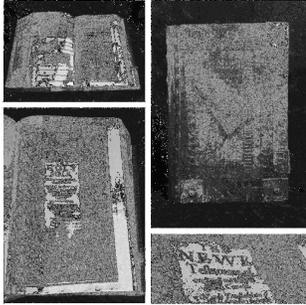
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An original copy of the 1611 edition is available for \$79,500



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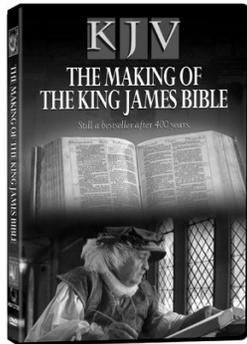
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King James took great care to translate the KJV of the Bible from original texts in Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew.



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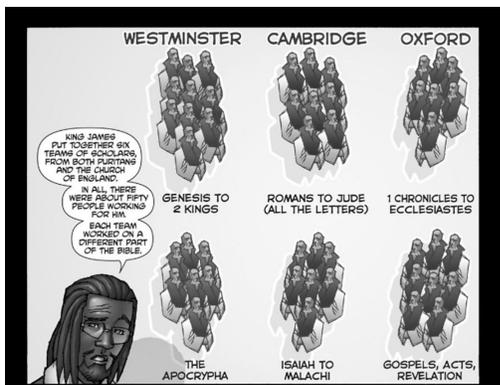
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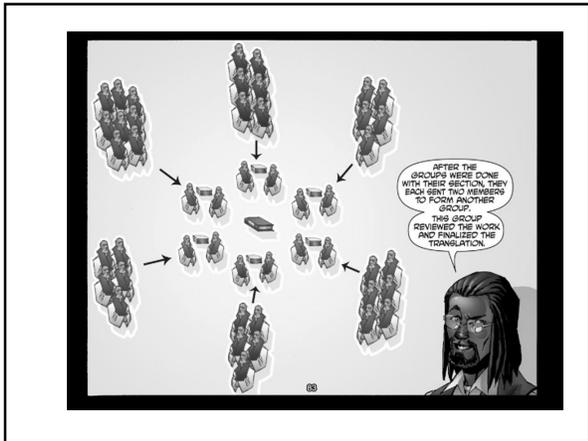
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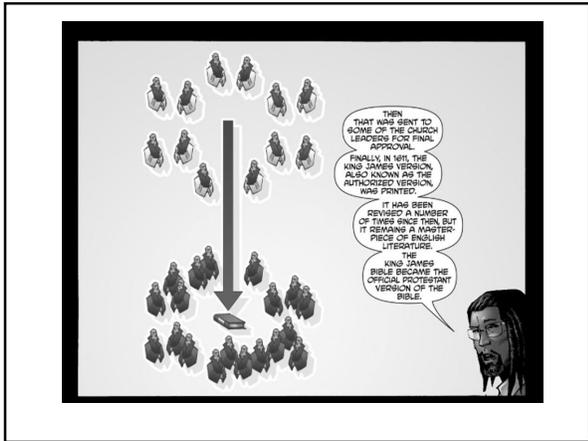
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If you want a complete, easy to follow discussion on the Bible, I would recommend the graphic novel from Kingstone Comics

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Are there errors in the King James Bible?  
Are there mistakes in the translations?  
Yes there are...  
But it has been in use for so many years that these errors have been identified

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The King James Bible is probably the most widely used version  
But all the “Thees” “Thous” and “Yea verilies” can confuse those who have not studied Shakespeare

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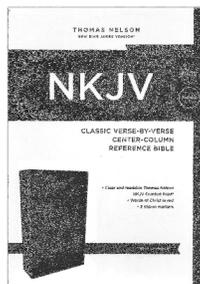
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As a result, there was the effort to put King James into Modern English  
This would be the New King James Bible



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The New King James Bible was translated in 1982

There were 130 translators

The goal was to preserve the King James Version

Make it easier to read

Correct the known mistakes

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Other groups and organizations have sought to put together their best effort at translating the Bible

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There are many different versions of the Bible  
If it is of God, then the message and the teachings will all be the same

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But it is important to understand the goal or the basis for the translation  
Some translations were written for in depth research and study

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But some translations were written to preserve the thought of the text, but not the exact translation

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And some were written with a focus on making it easy to read  
These become paraphrases of the Bible, but are not designed for research or study

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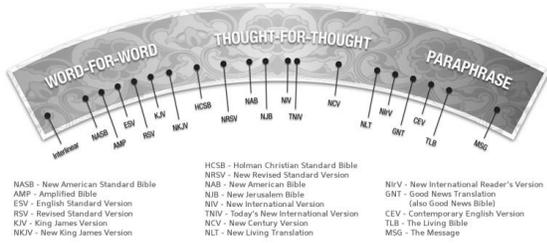
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## Types of Bible Translations




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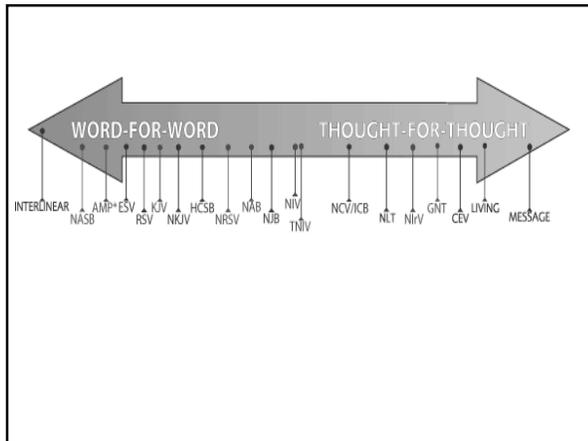
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I need to point out that not all Bibles were translated from the same manuscripts  
 This can create issues with the translation

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There was the Alexandrian Codex found in Egypt  
The author of this manuscript deleted the miracles of Jesus and references to Jesus being God

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In the 5<sup>th</sup> Century there was an effort to remove the supernatural to make the Bible appealing to the world  
Some versions use these manuscripts  
Just because a manuscript is old does not mean it is accurate

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There is a translation called the Interlinear Translation  
When I was in college these were separate books

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There was a Hebrew  
Interlinear we bought for  
Hebrew classes  
There was a Greek Interlinear  
we bought for our Greek  
classes

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This is probably the most  
accurate version for a word-  
for-word translation as the  
original words in the text are  
on the line below/above the  
English text

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This version was designed for  
the scholar who wanted to do  
an in-depth study of the Bible  
in its original text and to  
perform your own translation

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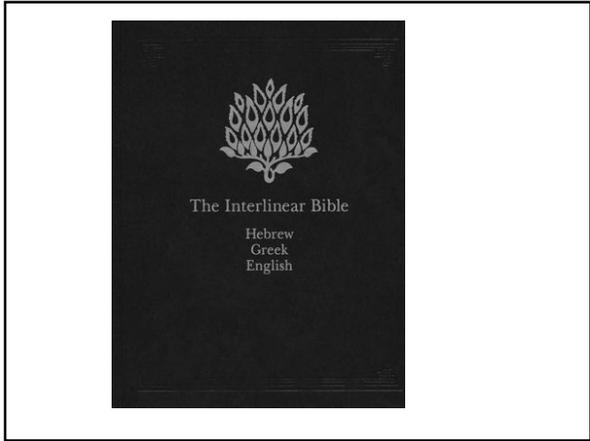
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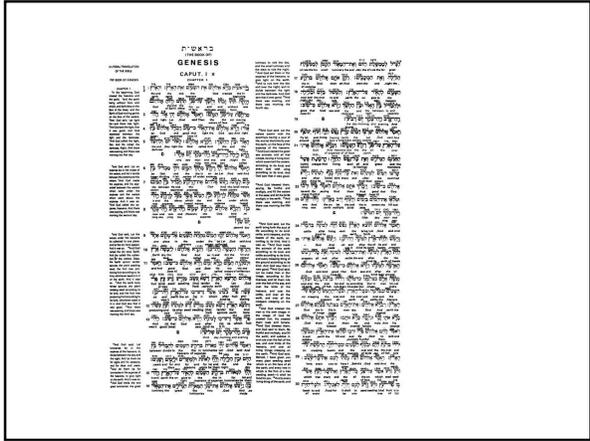
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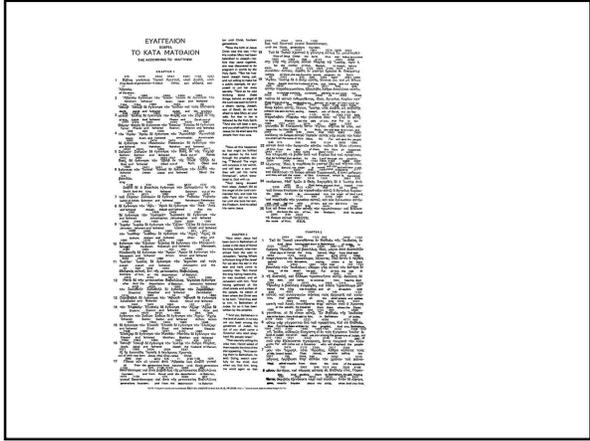
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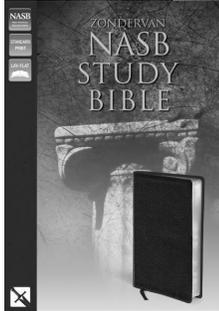
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We have the New American Standard Bible



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This was translated in 1971  
It was the work of 58 scholars  
It was revised in 1995

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This version attempted to go back to *original manuscripts* in an effort to be more accurate  
But this can create new problems

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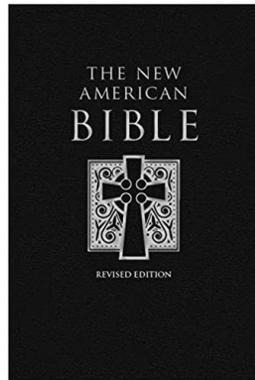
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There is also  
a version  
called the New  
American Bible



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This is not the same as the  
New American Standard  
Version  
The New American Version is  
approved by the Catholic  
Church

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This version is the result of  
Pope Pius XII's Divino  
afflante Spiritu of 1943  
The American Bible was  
published in 1970  
It was revised in 1986

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We now have  
English  
Standard  
Version  
or the  
ESV



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This Version is gaining in  
popularity  
The translator sought  
permission to revised the  
Revised Standard Version in  
1971

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The English Standard Version  
was released in 2001  
It had a “creative team” of  
more than 100 evangelicals  
and pastors  
It relied on recent critical  
editions of Hebrew/Greek texts

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It is very similar to the New American Standard Version  
It is a revision of the Revised Standard Version  
It was revised and a Second Edition was published in 2009

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It is said, "Something is lost in the translation."  
This is true in the Greek because Greek has seven verb tenses to our three: Past, Present and Future

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The Greek has Past, Present and Future, but it also has tenses that describe an action that has always taken place and always will take place

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There is an action that started at a certain time, but will continue on forever  
So sometimes a straight translation is not always the most accurate

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If you have looked up a Greek or Hebrew word in the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance as part of your research, you will discover one word may have several meanings

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The original Bible Translators limited themselves to selecting just one of those words  
It was this problem that the Amplified Bible sought to address

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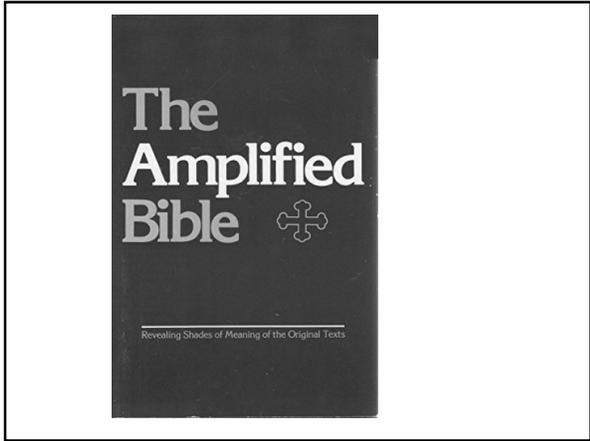
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The Amplified Bible was published in 1965  
It is a word-for-word translation with a focus on amplifying the meaning

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It is a revision of the American Standard Version published in 1901  
It uses critical text as well as the Dead Sea Versions

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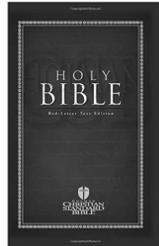
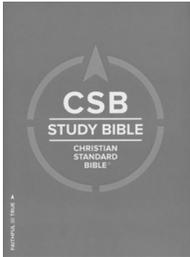
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The Christian Standard Bible is a revision of the Holman Christian Standard Bible



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The Christian Standard Bible is a revision of the Holman Christian Standard Bible

It was released in March of 2017

It is based on the efforts of 100 scholars from 17 denominations

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This version uses a description called *optimal equivalency*.

This describes a process of trying to find the right word(s) to provide a translation and meaning that is equivalent to the original text

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The CSB revision was done by the Translation and Review Team.

This was a group of 21 conservative Evangelical Biblical scholars.

Backgrounds represented include Southern Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, conservative Anglican, and non-denominational Evangelical churches

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Per Wikipedia, the Christian Standard Bible was up-date again in 2020.

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We now shift from word-for-word translation and want to consider the thought-for-thought translation

Here the translators sought to preserve the original thought in a passage rather than a word-for-word translation

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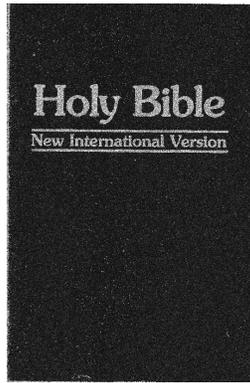
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The New International Version is considered a thought for thought translation



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The New International Version of the Bible was translated in 1978  
It was translated by over 100 scholars

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As noted, the translators sought a thought-for-thought translations and while it is good it does have problems where the translators may not have fully understood the message

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The NIV was revised in 2011 with the major change being the use of gender-neutral terminology

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At this point we are going to shift over to the paraphrase Bibles

There are many versions, but the two most popular versions have been the Living Bible

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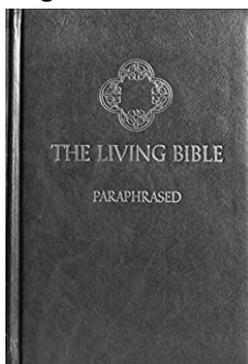
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The Living Bible



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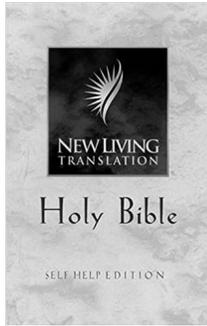
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FYI: there is now the Living Translation Bible



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And another popular paraphrase called the Good News Bible which was originally just the New Testament called Good News for Modern Man

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The Good News Bible  
And Good News for Modern Man



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These works were created by the American Bible Society  
The New Testament version was published in 1966  
The Old Testament was complete and the Good News Bible was published in 1976

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There are also versions that need to be avoided as they are deceptions used by Satan to lead people away from the truth

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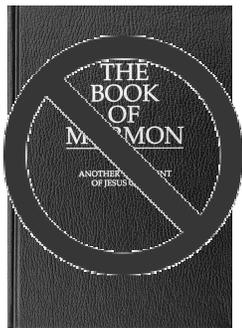
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There is the Book of Mormon



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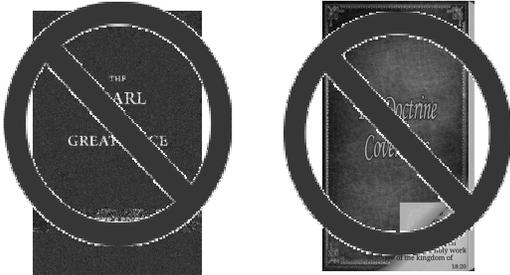
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Other Latter Day Saints publications should fall into this category



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These were written by Joseph Smith who claimed they were “Another Gospel” given to him by an angel  
These contradict all the basic teaching of the Bible

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Paul warned about this in Galatians 1:8:  
“But though we, or *an angel from Heaven*, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

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Another version to avoid is the New World Translation published by the Jehovah's Witnesses



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This version is NOT a Translation of original texts  
The Watchtower Society altered those verses that disagreed with what they taught

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They taught that Jesus was an angel and not God  
You are saved by works and not grace  
The soul is not eternal

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There are other books you have to be careful when reading



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These are what we call the Gnostic Gospels



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You can even buy them as a set



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The Gnostic Gospels were  
considered the Cults of John's  
Day  
There is an important truth  
Just because something is old  
does not mean it is true

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These books were tested and  
found wanting  
They contradicted known  
historical facts  
They contradicted each other  
They even contradicted  
themselves

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These are just a sampling of  
the many versions of the Bible  
that are available  
In closing I want to just stress  
that whichever version you use  
make sure it teaches the  
doctrines of the Bible

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Jesus was God and existed before He was born in Bethlehem  
As a result of the Virgin Birth in Bethlehem, Jesus became human

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Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins  
He rose from the dead three days later  
We are saved by grace and not of works

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Our soul is eternal and will live forever in eternity  
For those who accept Jesus as their Savior, this would be Heaven  
For those without Jesus, this will be the Lake of Fire

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God cannot lie  
God does not change  
God does not take back what  
He gives us  
All Scripture is inspired by God  
The Holy Spirit is God, the  
Third Person of the Trinity

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If your Bible/Church does not  
teach this...  
It is a counterfeit Satan is  
using to deceive  
Get rid of that version  
And find a version you can  
trust

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## QUESTIONS



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