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## Question 73 - What are the 16 major Bible translations from 280 B.C. to 1611 A.D.?

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## 101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

### 73. What are the 16 major Bible translations from 280 B.C. to 1611 A.D.?

- A. The Greek Septuagint
  - 1. Date: 280 B.C.
  - 2. Translators: 70 Jewish scholars?
  - 3. Important facts:
    - a. It served as the Bible in Jesus' day.
    - b. It continued to be used for some six centuries.
    - c. It (probably) was history's first attempt to translate a book from one language into another.
- B. The Dead Sea Scrolls
  - 1. Date: 200 B.C.
  - 2. Translators: some Jewish Essenes
  - 3. Important facts:
    - a. These were found in 1947.
    - b. The Scrolls represent the earliest copies of the Old Testament books.
- C. The Huxapla
  - 1. Date: 240 A.D.
  - 2. Translator: Origen
  - 3. Important facts:
    - a. It was the only biblical translation to consist of six texts.
    - b. It was the most massive work ever done in regard to the Bible.
- D. The Latin Vulgate
  - 1. Date: 405 B.C.
  - 2. Translator: Jerome
  - 3. Important facts:
    - a. It would become the recognized Bible for nearly a thousand years.
    - b. It was the first Bible to be printed by Gutenberg in 1455 D.A.

E. The Wycliffe Bible

1. Date: 1380 A.D.
2. Translator: John Wycliffe and Associates
3. Important facts:
  - a. It was the first translation of the full Bible into English.
  - b. It is viewed as the first modern English version.
  - c. It adopted the chapter divisions created by Stephen Langdon in 1227.

F. The Gutenberg Bible

1. Date: 1455
2. Translators: Gutenberg and Johann Fust
3. Important facts:
  - a. It was the only 42-line Bible.
  - b. It was considered the best version at the time.

G. The Greek Text of Erasmus

1. Date: 1516
2. Compiler: Erasmus
3. Important facts:
  - a. It was the first printed edition of the New Testament in Greek.
  - b. It later formed the basis of the Textus Receptus (Received Text).

H. The Tyndale Bible

1. Date: 1525
2. Translator: William Tyndale
3. Important facts:
  - a. It was the first New Testament in English.
  - b. It became the basis for all subsequent English Bibles.
  - c. It is estimated 90% of the 1611 King James version came from the Tyndale Bible.

I. The Coverdale Bible

1. Date: 1535
2. Translator: Miles Coverdale

3. Important facts:
  - a. It was the first complete printed English Bible.
  - b. It served as the completion of Tyndale's work.
  - c. It was the first English Bible to segregate the Apocrypha from the Old Testament Canonical books.
  
- J. The Matthew's Bible
  1. Date: 1537
  2. Translator: John Rogers
  3. Important facts:
    - a. It was the first revision of the Tyndale Bible.
    - b. It was sold in England as the first "authorized" version
    - a. It was the first English Bible to be approved by an English King (King Henry VIII).
  
- K. The Great Bible
  1. Date: 1539
  2. Translator: Miles Coverdale
  3. Important facts:
    - a. It was the most massive of all the English bibles.
    - b. It was also called the Channel Bible.
  
- L. Luther's Bible
  1. Date: 1541
  2. Translator: Martin Luther
  3. Important facts:
    - a. It was the first translation of the New Testament into the German language.
    - b. It sold more copies during the life of the translator than any other New Testament.
  
- M. The Geneva Bible
  1. Date: 1560
  2. Translators: William Whittingham and various English Puritans in Geneva
  3. Important facts:
    - a. It was the first version to divide the text into verses.

- b. It was the first to omit the Apocrypha.
- c. It was kissed by Queen Elizabeth (daughter of Henry VIII) at her coronation, a policy which is still followed by English kings and queens.
- d. It was the most-beloved Bible of the common people up to that time and went through more than 160 editions.
- e. It was the Bible of Shakespeare and John Bunyan.
- f. It was the Bible the pilgrims brought with them on the Mayflower in 1620 to America.

N. The Bishop's Bible

- 1. Date: 1568
- 2. Translators: Matthew Parker and various English Bishops
- 3. Important facts:
  - a. It became the official Bible of the Church of England.
  - b. It was however, the most unsatisfactory and useless of all the old translations.

O. The Douay/Rheims Bible

- 1. Date: 1582
- 2. Translators: Gregory Martin and William Allen
- 3. Important facts:
  - a. It was the first official Roman Catholic Bible.
  - b. Its footnotes strongly attacked all Protestant "heresies."

P. The King James Bible

- 1. Date: 1611
- 2. Translators: John Reynolds and 53 other English scholars
- 3. Important facts:
  - a. It was to serve as a rallying point for all Christians everywhere.
  - b. It became the most beautiful and beloved translation of all time.
  - c. It was especially prepared to be publicly read.