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.