



GRASPING GOD'S WORD

A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible



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Reading, Interpreting,
and Applying the Bible

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This book emphasizes *grasping* the Bible.

The Bible is not to be an object that is to just be analyzed and scrutinized.

But is to be carefully read, interpreted wisely and committing to apply what we know.

John 14:21 “The person who has my commandments and obeys them is one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

“A person who truly grasps God’s Word will find that Word grasping them.”



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What is Hermeneutics?

- The word “hermeneia” means interpretation
- The science of the interpretation of Scripture
- Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 commands a believer to be involved in the interpretation of scriptures
- The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to protect us from misapplying Scripture or allowing bias to color our understanding of truth.
- Principles and Methods
 - Literal, grammatical, historical, contextually, scripture answers scripture



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What so great about the Bible?

"I choose to believe the Bible because it's a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfilment of specific prophecies and claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin."





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What is so great about the Bible?

Reliable collection of historical documents....

- It is the inspired Word of God
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Written over a period of 1500 years
- Written in three different languages. Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic
- Written on three different continents. Africa, Asia and Europe
- Written by over 40 different authors
- 66 total books make up the bible
 - 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament



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..written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses...

- Luke 1:1-4
- Archeological test – historically accurate – over 25,000 digs have occurred in the middle east
 - “As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible” -Nelson Glueck, Archeologist, *Rivers in the Desert*, 31
- Bibliographical Test
 - Ancient copies of other documents compared to that of the Bible
- Christological test – Christ multiple times confirmed the Truths
- Eyewitnesses – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

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..they report supernatural events...

- Creation out of nothing – Genesis 1
- The Global Flood – Genesis 7
- The burning bush – Exodus 3
- Ten plagues – Exodus 8-12
- Dagon's House destroyed by Samson – Judges 16
- A floating axe head – 2 Kings 6
- Daniel and the lion's den – Daniel 6
- Jonah and the big fish – Jonah 1-2
- Miracles found in the Gospels
- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead – 1 Corinthians 15
- John on the Isle of Patmos - Revelation

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..in fulfillment of specific prophecies...

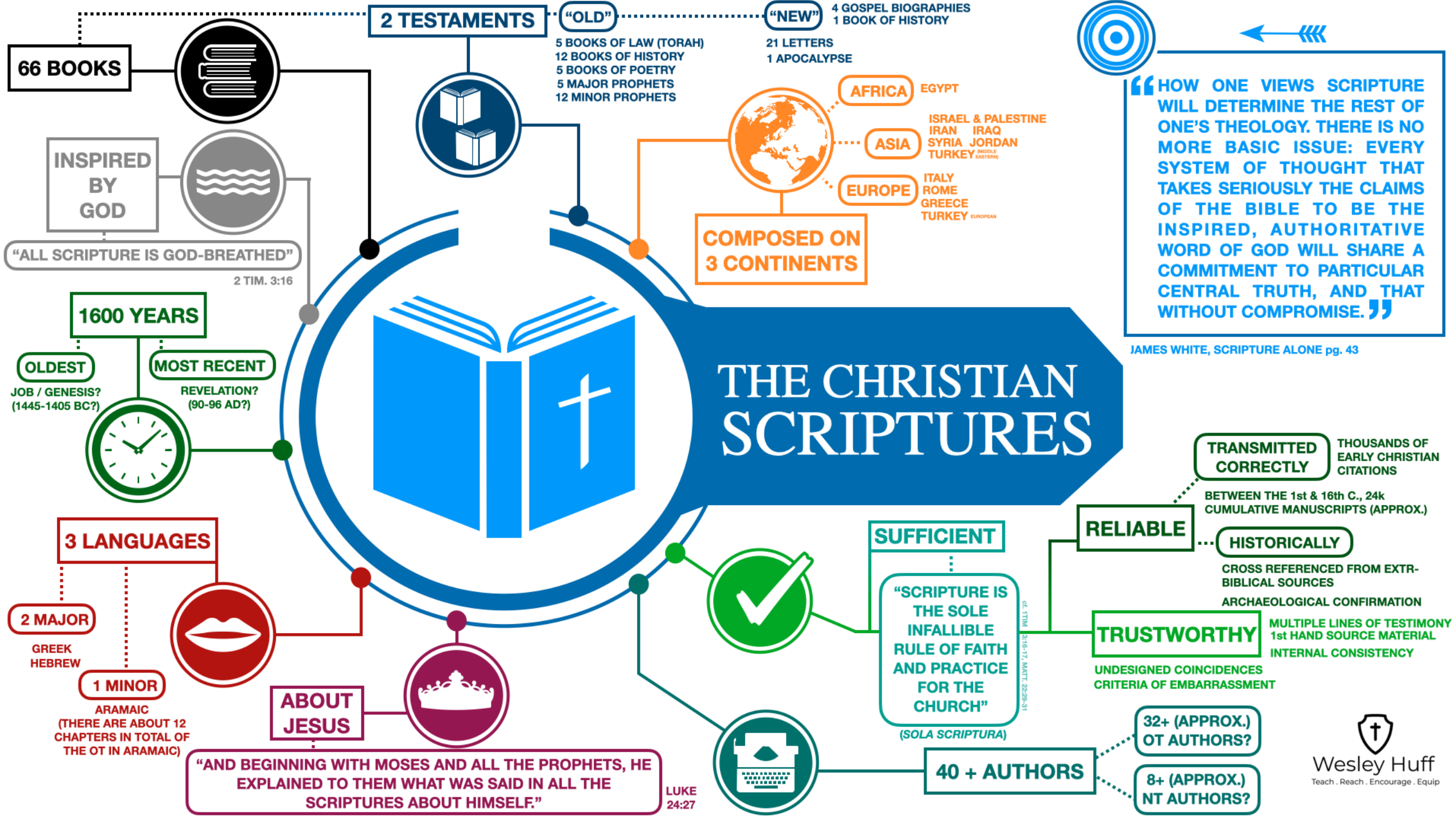
- More than 300 Messianic prophecies made in the Old Testament were all fulfilled through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The chances of one person fulfilling just eight of these prophecies are 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 or 100quintillion. For one person to fulfill 48 of these prophecies, the number becomes staggering — 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power (1 with 157 zeros after it). Add to that the 250 other prophecies, and it becomes impossible for any other person except Jesus to ever fit that particular sequence of time and events.



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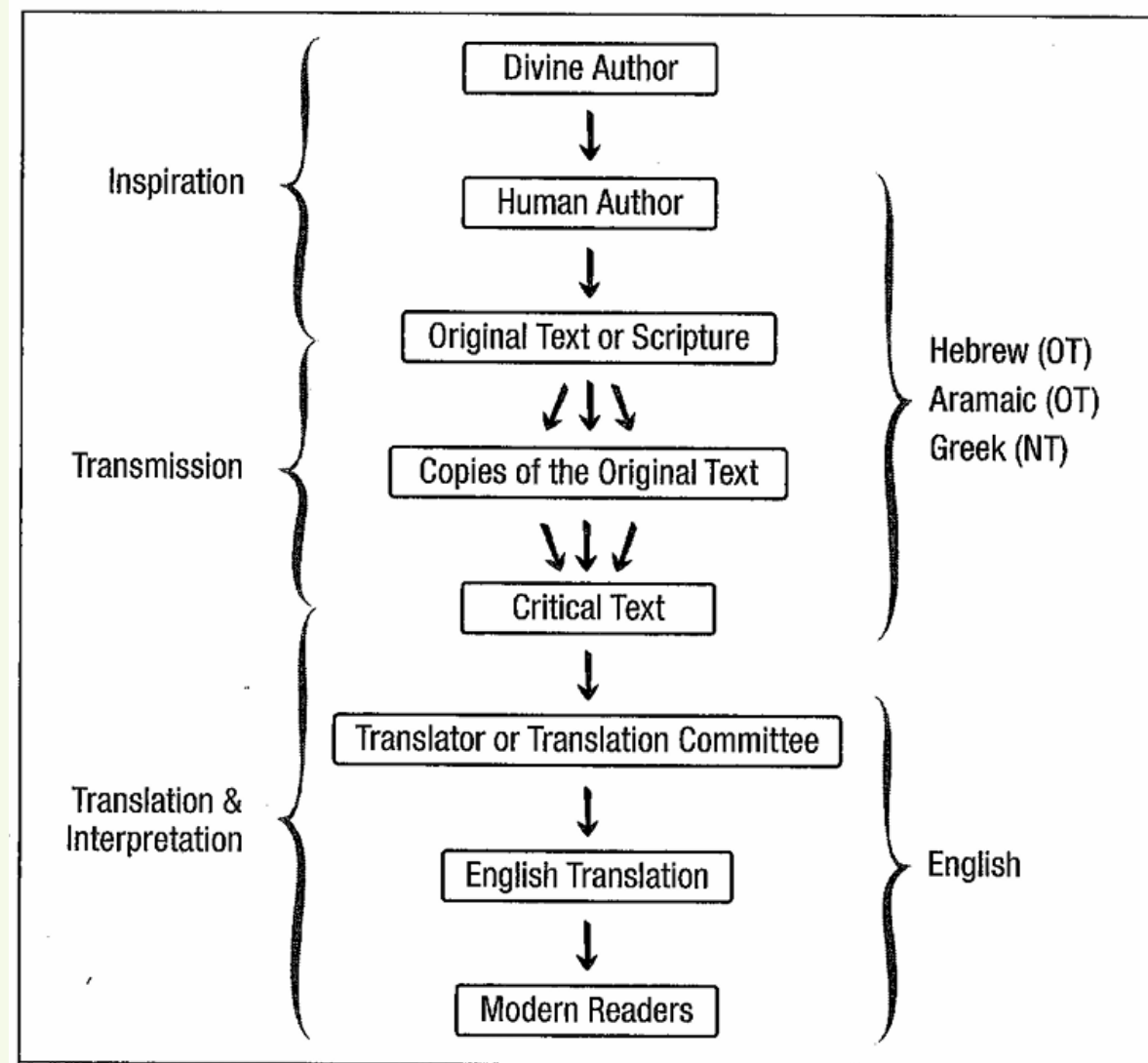
...and claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin...

- Isaiah 40:8 – “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever.”
- John 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
- 1 Thess 2:13 – “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”
- 1 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”
- 1 Peter 1:25 – “but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”



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How did we get our English Bible?



English Bibles

Prior to the King James Bible

John Wycliffe, a theologian, biblical scholar, and professor at Oxford, translated the first English Bible in 1000 years. The *Wycliffe Bible* was translated from the Latin Vulgate.



Wycliffe Bible
1382-1395

William Tyndale, a gifted English linguist, translated the first English Bible derived from the Greek and Hebrew. The hostile reception to the project caused him his life.



Tyndale Bible
1492-1536

Although numbers range, it has been estimated that as much as 80% of the 1611 KJV's New Testament and 75% of the KJV's Old Testament is near identical to the Tyndale Bible.

The *Thomas Bible* was published by John Rogers, under the pseudonym "Thomas Matthew." It was largely an amalgamation of previous translations including the Tyndale and Coverdale Bibles.



Thomas Matthew's Bible
1537

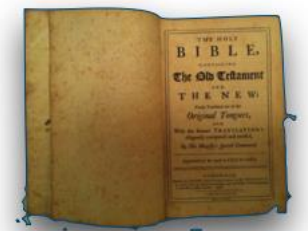
Tyndale was strangled and then burned in Oct. 1536.

The *Bishop's Bible* was a translation project by the established Church of England. As the Geneva Bible was largely associated with Presbyterianism, the Bishop's Bible was undertaken by individuals like Matthew Parker, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, in order to establish the role of the Church in English life and religion.



Bishop's Bible
1568

Benjamin Blayney, an Oxford trained linguist, is best known for his revision of the KJV in 1769. The vast majority of modern KJV Bibles sold today are not the original 1611 AV but versions of the later 1769 *Blayney Revision*.



King James Bible
(Blayney Revision)
1769

There are a total of 421 changes between the 1611 and the 1769.

We have a glut of modern English Bible translations. However, that has not always been the case. At times there were only one or two translations available, and they were often very expensive and sometimes even illegal to own. The modern translations we now have (and often taken for granted) owe a debt to individuals of the past who risked life and limb to get them out of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and into the hands of people who could read them in their own language.



Miles Coverdale Bible(s)
1488-1569

Miles Cloverdale, an Augustinian friar turned Puritan preacher, who became the Bishop of Exeter, was responsible for multiple editions of English Bibles.



The Great Bible
1539-1540

The "Great Bible" was a production by Miles Cloverdale, working under commission of Thomas Lord Cromwell



Geneva Bible 1557-1560

Proceeding the KJV by 51 years, the Geneva was arguably the primary English Bible of the 16th century. It was the Bible brought over to the Americas as the Puritans travelling on the Mayflower were skeptical of the KJV due to its political ties to the English Crown.



King James Bible
(Authorized Version)
1611

The King James Bible (or KJV) was translated between 1604-1611. It was sponsored under King James VI, accomplished by 6 panels of translators made up of between 50-60 men. An expansive project, the KJV owes a debt many to previous English translations.



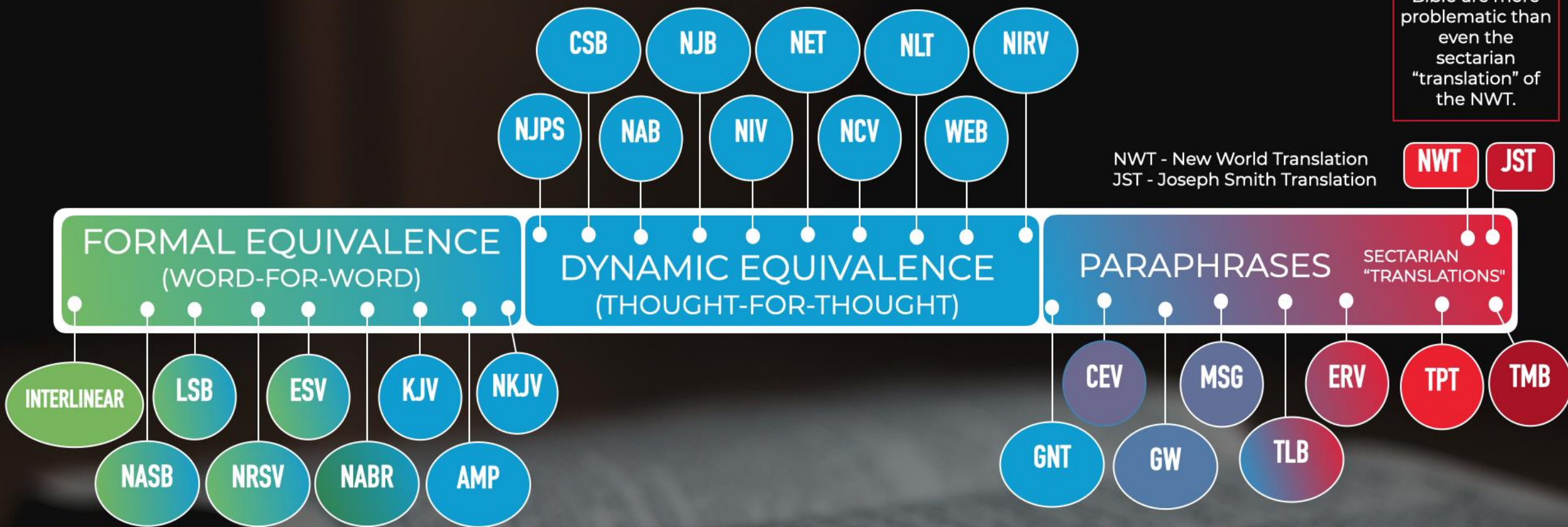
The original printing was made before the international standardization of spelling in English. Depending on the printer, words were expanded and contracted in different places so as to achieve an even column of text. V was often set for u and v. "Ye" would often replace "the" for space reasons more so than for its common use in vernacular phraseology.



BIBLE TRANSLATION PHILOSOPHIES



In many ways "translations" like TPT or the *Mirror Bible* are more problematic than even the sectarian "translation" of the NWT.



NWT - New World Translation
JST - Joseph Smith Translation

NWT

JST

SECTARIAN
"TRANSLATIONS"

NASB - New American Standard Bible
AMP - Amplified Bible
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
NABR - New American Bible Revised Edition
NKJV - New King James Bible
LSB - Legacy Standard Bible
ESV - English Standard Version

NJPS - Jewish Publication Society
CSB - Christian Standard Bible
NAB - New American Bible
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
NET - New English Translation
NIV - New International Version
NCV - New Century Version
NLT - New Living Translation
WEB - Word English Bible
NIRV - New International Reader's Version

GNT - Good News Translation
(Good News Bible)
CEV - Contemporary English Version
TLB - The Living Bible
TPT - The Passion Translation
ERV - Easy to Read Version
GW - God's Word
MSG - The Message
TMB - The Mirror Bible

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- Since the KJV 1611
 - English Revised Version – 1881-1885
 - American Standard Version – 1901
 - Revised Standard Version – 1946-1952
 - New American Standard Bible – 1971
 - New King James Version – 1979-1982
 - The New Revised Standard Version – 1989



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- *Choosing a translation*
 - Choose a translation that uses modern English
 - Choose a translation that is based on the standard Hebrew and Greek text
 - Give preference to a translation by a committee over against a translation by an individual
 - Choose a translation that is appropriate for your own particular purpose at the time.

**NEXT WEEK
INTERPRETIVE JOURNEY**

