

1. Transmission

- a. **Autographs** - the original versions of the OT and NT books penned by the author in the original Hebrew/Aramaic or Greek. Lost to history.
- b. **Manuscripts** - copies of the OT and NT texts in the original language made by historical scribes. Rarely complete due to age.
- c. Scribal Texts - Like the **Masoretic Text** (Hebrew OT) and the **Textus Receptus (TR)** (Greek NT), passed down through strict scribal tradition.
- d. Historical Translations - **Vulgate** and **Septuagint (LXX)**, useful for establishing original text due to how close to the source documents they were translated.
- e. **Critical Texts** - complete OT and NT texts assembled by scholars which attempt to reassemble or replicate (as best as possible) the original autographic text.

2. Early Bible Translations

- a. **Septuagint (LXX)** is the Greek Translation of the OT
- b. **Vulgate**, Latin of OT and NT, Translated by Jerome in the 380s
- c. Catholic Church used the vulgate as its official text until the 1500s

3. Early English Bible Translations

- a. Wycliffe Bible (1380), translated from Vulgate, martyred
- b. Tyndale NT (1530), based on TR, martyred
- c. Matthew Bible (1537), based on TR and Masoretic, martyred
- d. Geneva Bible (1560), Bible of the Protestants, Shakespeare, and the Puritans
- e. King James Authorized Version (1611), based on TR and Masoretic

4. Modern English Translations

- a. KJV (1769), the revised version of the 1611 Authorized Version. Modern KJV.
- b. English/American Revised Version (1885/1901), first english bibles to use Modern Critical Texts while still based on KJV.
- c. **Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)**- discovered in caves at Qumran, West Bank in 1947. Included several OT hebrew manuscripts dating back to 300 B.C. Most notably, the Great Isaiah Scroll. Before this, our earliest manuscripts were from 700 AD.

- d. RSV (1952), NRSV (1989), NASB (1971) use notes from the E/ARV plus updated Critical Texts to include the DSS.
- e. ESV (2001) based on the RSV with a focus on readability, uses updated Critical Texts.
- f. NIV (1984, rev. 2011), HCSB (1999) translated independently from previous versions using modern Critical Texts, including the DSS
- g. YLT (1862), NKJV (1982), MEV (2014) are modern translations which translate from the Textus Receptus (TR) and the Masoretic Text. They *do not* account for modern textual criticism or the data from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

5. Translation Philosophy

- a. **Formal Equivalence** - word-for-word translation. Accurate, less readable.
- b. **Functional (or Dynamic) Equivalence** - thought-for-thought translation. More readable, less accurate.
- c. Extremes of the scale
 - i. Formal: Interlinears, maintains original language's grammar and syntax
 - ii. Functional: paraphrases, *The Message*
- d. CSB is at a good midpoint in the scale, ESV leans towards formal-center and NIV functional-center.
- e. NASB is a modern formal equivalence translation which uses critical texts.
- f. NLT is a modern functional equivalence translation which uses critical texts

6. Summary

- a. Translations are based on different original language texts. Critical Texts are the most reliable (most likely to resemble the original manuscripts). Make sure your translation is based on these critical texts
- b. Translation philosophies differ based on whether word-for-word or thought-for-thought translation is preferred. Pick based on what you need.

BIB-101 Class 2 Key Terms and Ideas

Answer Key

Autographs - the original versions of the OT and NT books penned by the author in the original Hebrew/Aramaic or Greek. Lost to history.

Manuscripts - copies of the OT and NT texts in the original language made by historical scribes. Rarely complete due to age.

Masoretic Text - Hebrew Old Testament passed down through generations of the scribes.

Textus Receptus (TR) - Greek New Testament passed down through scribes until the Reformation.

Vulgate - The Latin Bible translated by Jerome in the 4th century. Was the only Bible allowed by the Catholic church until after the Reformation.

Septuagint (LXX) - Greek translation of the Old Testament in common use by Jesus' time.

Critical Texts - complete OT and NT texts assembled by scholars which attempt to reassemble or replicate (as best as possible) the autographic text in its original language.

Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) - discovered in caves at Qumran, West Bank in 1947. Included several OT Hebrew manuscripts dating back to 300 B.C.

Formal Equivalence - a translation philosophy which tries to render original language text into modern English on a word-by-word basis. Often more difficult to read.

Functional (or Dynamic) Equivalence - a translation philosophy which tries to render original language text into modern English on a thought-by-thought basis. Often fails to capture the full meaning in the original text.

The King James and New King James (KJV/NKJV) were translated primarily from *the Textus Receptus and Masoretic Text*.

Modern Bible Translations like the NIV, ESV, and NASB are translated primarily from *Critical Texts*, and notably, implement insights from the *Dead Sea Scrolls*.

BIB-101 Class 2 Key Terms and Ideas

Autographs -

Manuscripts -

Masoretic Text -

Textus Receptus (TR) -

Vulgate -

Septuagint (LXX) -

Critical Texts -

Dead Sea Scrolls -

Formal Equivalence -

Functional (or Dynamic) Equivalence -

The King James and New King James (KJV/NKJV) were translated primarily from which of the above source documents?

Modern Bible Translations like the NIV, ESV, and NASB are translated primarily from which of the above source documents?