

Appendix A

A Brief Survey of English Translations of the Bible

The first English translation was produced by **John Wycliffe** in the 1380's. During that time the Roman Catholic Church threatened anyone possessing a non-Latin Bible with execution!

- 1 In the bigynnyng was the word, and the word was at God, and God was the word.
- 2 This was in the bigynnyng at God.
- 3 Alle thingis weren maad bi hym, and withouten hym was maad no thing, that thing that was maad.
- 4 In hym was lijf, and the lijf was the liyt of men; and the liyt schyneth in derknessis,
- 5 and derknessis comprehendiden not it.

William Tyndale produced his copy of the Bible in English in 1525-26

Myles Coverdale's edition was published in 1535

John Rogers (aka Thomas Matthew), published in 1537

Myles Coverdale produced the Great Bible (it was big) in 1539

The **Geneva Bible** was produced in 1560; it first introduced verse numbers; it had notes in the margins throughout; it was the preferred Bible for over 100 years, and was the Bible the Pilgrims brought to America

The **King James Bible** was first produced in 1611; the Church of England wanted a Bible without the controversial marginal notes of the Geneva Bible (proclaiming the pope as the anti-Christ!) and included the Apocrypha; it is ironic that the KJV is honored by Protestants today, as it was produced in opposition to Protestants! (The Church of England persecuted Protestants.) The KJV in print today is not the 1611 but the 1769 edition.

The **English Revised Version** was published in England in 1880

The **American Standard Version** was published in America in 1901, and later revised several times, the most recent in 1995

The **New International Version** was published in 1973

The **English Standard Version** was published in 2002

Keep in mind that the original intent of the Protestant Reformers was to get the Bible out of a language few could understand (Latin) and bring it into the language that people normally used. William Tyndale fought and died for the right to print the Bible in the common, spoken, modern English tongue of his day... as he boldly told one official who criticized his efforts, "*If God spare my life, I will see to it that the boy who drives the plowshare knows more of the scripture than you, Sir!*"