

A Brief History of the Bible Pastor Charles A. Hall – February 16, 2023

The bible is comprising 66 books, starts with Genesis, and ends with Revelations, 39 Old Testament books, and 27 New Testament books. The Bible was written by approximately 40 men of diverse background over a period of 1500 years .

- Old Testament written between 1200 to 165 BC.
- New Testament written between 70 to 100 AD.
- The bible is the written word of God Himself.
 - **2Timothy 3:16**

- All present a different prospective, but they all proclaim the same one true God, and the same way of salvation:
 - **John 14:6**
 - **Acts 4:12**

- Before the English translations, the official language of the medieval or primitive church was Latin, the language of the Roman Empire.

- Christianity was adopted during the 4th century, however without any legal protection.

- In 1401 Archbishop of Canterbury England introduced a law outlawing the translation of the Bible.

- Around 1401 – 1415 John Wycliffe work on a translation of the bible, he died in 1415, he was labeled a heretic and his bones were exhumed and burned along with his books.

- Many were killed who supported the translation of the Bible, one was Williams Sawtre, a Priest in London, who taught and preached from John Wycliffe teaching.

- About 100 years passed before another attempt would be made to translate the Bible from Latin to English.

- Around 1520 the preaching of Martin Luther a Germany theologian and religious reformer challenged the authority of the Pope.

- The Pope condemned Martin Luther's writing and ordered them to be burned.

- King Henry James V111 opposed Martin Luther views and the Pope conferred on King Henry the title "Defender of the Faith".

- The protestant reformation movement began with Martin Luther who played a key role in the development of the North American colonies and eventual the United States. The movement resulted in the splitting of Christianity into 2 groups Catholic and Protestant.

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- Catholic beliefs:
 1. Believe in one God
 2. Believe in one Lord Jesus Christ
 3. Believe in Holy Spirit
 4. Believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

- Protestant basic beliefs:
 1. Bible ultimate authority
 2. Human beings are saved by God's Grace
 3. All Christians are priests (direct access to Jesus through the Holy Spirit).

- Another influential person of the reform movement was John Calvin who stressed the doctrine of predestination. **Romans 8:29-30**

- However in England it was forbidden to translate the bible.

- First English translation of the New Testament done by Williams Tyndale, published in Germany in 1525, he was later burned to death around 1536.

- In 1526 Pope Clement V11 of Rome refused to annul the marriage between King Henry V111 and his marriage to Catherine.

- In 1534 King Henry V111 was declared by the Parliament as the head of the church, as a result he divorced Catherine and married Anne Boleyn, who also failed to produce a male heir and was divorced and beheaded 3 years later.

- In 1539 King Henry V111 gave approval to a biblical translation done by Myles Coverdale who had worked with William Tyndale, the translation was completed in 1540 and became known as the "Great Bible".

- King Henry V111 decreed that the Myles Coverdale translation should be available to everyone and every church in England.

- 1611 the King James V1 and 1 (coming together of the Scottish and English crowns) Authorized Bible appeared, translated by a team of 47-50 scholars, ministers and other theologians appointed by King James, utilizing the work of Tyndale.

- KJV Bible was the Standard for over three centuries.

- The KJV Bible is the most-printed work in English in the world.