

# A HISTORY AND COMPARISON OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

## Most Popular Bibles by Reading Level

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| KJV<br>Reading Level: 12   | NASB<br>Reading Level: 11  | ESV<br>Reading Level: 10   | NIV<br>Reading Level: 8   | NLT<br>Reading Level: 6  | NCV<br>Reading Level: 5   | NIRV<br>Reading Level: 3  |
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| <p><b>King James Version</b><br/>Published 1611</p> <p>An anchor of Protestantism, and arguably still the most important book in the history of Western Civilization.</p> <p>Poetic grandeur occasionally sacrifices precision for style. Antiquated vocabulary causes difficulty for many readers. While the KJV perpetuates a number of traditional errors, in many instances it is more literal than many modern Bible translations.</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:<br/>26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:<br/>27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>And of some have compassion, making a difference:</p> | <p><b>New American Standard Bible</b><br/>Published 1971</p> <p>Based upon the best available Hebrew and Greek texts, purportedly aims for literal, word-for-word accuracy.</p> <p>The present version has evolved from the American Standard Version of 1901, which in turn traces its pedigree to the Revised Version of 1885.</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,<br/>And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.<br/>26 Even after my skin is destroyed,<br/>Yet from my flesh I shall see God;<br/>27 Whom I myself shall behold,<br/>And whom my eyes will see and not another.<br/>My heart faints within me!</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>And have mercy on some, who are doubting;</p> | <p><b>English Standard Version</b><br/>Published 2001</p> <p>Aims for literal, word-for-word accuracy. Purports to build upon the legacy of the Tyndale Bible, King James Version, and the Revised Standard Version.</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.<br/>26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed,<br/>yet in my flesh I shall see God,<br/>27 whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.<br/>My heart faints within me!</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>And have mercy on those who doubt;</p> | <p><b>New International Version</b><br/>Published/Revisions 1978, 1984, 2011</p> <p>Currently the most popular translation in modern English. Its translation philosophy is said to be a balance between "thought-for-thought" and "word-for-word"; however, its literal accuracy suffers in some places.</p> <p>Also, NIV "Study Bible" versions should be approached with the caution that contributors' theological positions range from conservative to liberal.</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.<br/>26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;<br/>27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.<br/>How my heart yearns within me!</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>Be merciful to those who doubt;</p> | <p><b>New Living Translation</b><br/>Published 1996</p> <p>Non-literal "thought-for-thought" translation, rather than a word-for-word translation.</p> <p>Originally conceived as a revision to the Living Bible paraphrase published in 1971.</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 "But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,<br/>and he will stand upon the earth at last.<br/>26 And after my body has decayed,<br/>yet in my body I will see God!<br/>27 I will see him for myself.<br/>Yes, I will see him with my own eyes.<br/>I am overwhelmed at the thought!..."</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering</p> | <p><b>New Century Version</b><br/>Published 1987</p> <p>A revision of the International Children's Bible, which was originally written for 3rd graders, and now is said to be at a 5th grade level. Current revision is also said to be "gender neutral."</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 I know that my Defender lives,<br/>and in the end he will stand upon the earth.<br/>26 Even after my skin has been destroyed,<br/>in my flesh I will see God.<br/>27 I will see him myself;<br/>I will see him with my very own eyes.<br/>How my heart wants that to happen!</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>Really, it is not that I want to receive gifts from you, but I want you to have the good that comes from giving.</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>Show mercy to some people who have doubts.</p> | <p><b>New International Reader's Version</b><br/>Published 1992</p> <p>A simplification of the NIV, intended for children and non-native English language speakers.</p> <p><b>Job 19:25-27</b><br/>25 I know that my redeemer lives.<br/>In the end he will stand on the earth.<br/>26 Though my skin will be destroyed,<br/>in my body I'll see God.<br/>27 I myself will see him with my own eyes.<br/>I'll see him, and he won't be a stranger to me.<br/>How my heart longs for that day!</p> <p><b>Philippians 4:17</b><br/>It is not that I want your gifts. What I really want is what is best for you.</p> <p><b>Jude 1:22</b><br/>Show mercy to those who doubt.</p> |

