

A HISTORY AND COMPARISON OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

Most Popular Bibles by Reading Level

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 KJV Reading Level: 12	 NASB Reading Level: 11	 ESV Reading Level: 10	 NIV Reading Level: 8	 NLT Reading Level: 6	 NCV Reading Level: 5	 NIRV Reading Level: 3
 Young's Reading Level: 12	 AMP Reading Level: 11	 NKJV Reading Level: 8	 Living Reading Level: 8	 CEB Reading Level: 7	 Holman Reading Level: 7	 Message Reading Level: 6

<p>Young's Literal Translation Published 1862</p> <p>Based on Textus Receptus (Stephanus) and Masoretic Hebrew texts.</p> <p>Interesting for study, though not recommended as a primary Bible translation. It can be difficult to read because it attempts to follow the original word order in the Greek. Young also uses traditional King James English words such as thy, thou, thine, mayest, etc.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> And he hath believed in Jehovah, and He reckoneth it to him -- righteousness.</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> our appointed bread be giving us daily;</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 And He who is searching the hearts hath known what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because according to God he doth intercede for saints. 28 And we have known that to those loving God all things do work together for good, to those who are called according to purpose;</p>	<p>Amplified Bible Published 1965</p> <p>Uses the American Standard Version as its base text, with added explanatory text and alternative renderings in brackets, using sources including Vincent's <i>Word Studies in the New Testament</i>.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> Then Abram believed in (affirmed, trusted in, relied on, remained steadfast to) the LORD; and He counted (credited) it to him as righteousness (doing right in regard to God and man).</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> Give us each day our daily bread.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes [before God] on behalf of God's people in accordance with God's will. 28 And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.</p>	<p>New King James Version Published 1982</p> <p>A conservative revision of the 1611 King James Version. Includes marginal notes based on later scholarship. Considered to be a literal translation. It appears to be marketed toward those who particularly enjoy the poetic sound of the original King James Version, in that its publishers highlight its "beauty" as one of its most important attributes.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> Give us day by day our daily bread.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.</p>	<p>Living Bible Published 1971</p> <p>A paraphrase (that is, it has been reworded to give a general idea) and not a word-for-word or a thought-for-thought translation. Popularized by Billy Graham Crusade.</p> <p>Advocates say it is easy to read, while critical reviewers say its theology is biased against Calvinism.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> And Abram believed God; then God considered him righteous on account of his faith.</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> Give us our food day by day.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows, of course, what the Spirit is saying as he pleads for us in harmony with God's own will. 28 And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.</p>	<p>Common English Bible Published 2011</p> <p>A completely new translation. Said to be a balance of "word-for-word" and "thought-for-thought" to achieve both accuracy and readability. However, it incorporates paraphrases and novel reinterpretations that venture far from the literal text.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> Abram trusted the LORD, and the LORD recognized Abram's high moral character.</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> Give us the bread we need for today.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. 28 We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.</p>	<p>Holman Bible Published 2004</p> <p>The Holman Bible has been revised and is now the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). Originally promoted as rendering the divine name of the Lord as Yahweh, however, the revised CSB subsequently abandoned that feature and now uses the traditional "Lord," and also includes gender-inclusive language.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> Give us each day our daily bread.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 And He who searches the hearts knows the Spirit's mind-set, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.</p>	<p>The Message Bible Published 2002</p> <p>The only translation that Pastor Scott unequivocally doesn't recommend. A free and colorful paraphrase, often degrading into folly for the sake of keeping a reader's attention, and tossing the word of God aside to the four winds. It tends to make use of the author's own idiosyncratic expressions over universally understood idioms.</p> <p><i>Genesis 15:6</i> And he believed! Believed God! God declared him "Set-Right-with-God."</p> <p><i>Luke 11:3</i> Keep us alive with three square meals.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:27-28</i> 27 He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. 28 That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.</p>
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