

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE



You will never look at the Bible the same way again!

- Publishing the Bible was a real struggle.
- Many people gave up their lives so we can have the Bible today.
- As we should soon see!!
- Let's begin the Story!



John Wycliffe

- The **first hand-written English Bible** were produced in the **1380's AD**
- He **opposed** to the teaching of the organized Church, which he believed to be contrary to the Bible.
- Wycliffe produced dozens of English language manuscript copies of the scriptures.
- The Pope was so infuriated by his teachings and his translation of the Bible into English, that 44 years after Wycliffe had died, he ordered the bones to be dug-up, crushed, and scattered in the river!



One of Wycliffe's followers, **John Hus**, believed that people should be permitted to read the Bible in their own language,

Hus was burned at the stake in 1415, with Wycliffe's manuscript Bibles used as kindling for the fire.

The last words of John Hus were that, "*in 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed.*"

Almost exactly 100 years later, in **1517**, Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 grievances on the door of Catholic church at Wittenberg.

The prophecy of Hus had come true!

Johann Gutenberg



Invented the printing press in the **1450's**, and the first book to ever be printed is Latin . It was printed in Mainz, Germany.

He had created what many believe to be the most important invention in history,

- meant that Bibles could be produced in large quantities .



In 1496, John Colet, started reading the New Testament into English for the public at Saint Paul's Cathedral in London.

The people were so hungry to hear the Word of God in their language, that within six months there were 20,000 people packed in the church and at least that many outside trying to get in!



William Tyndale translated the New Testament in English for the first time in history.

Tyndale came to Germany in 1525 to assist Luther, and by year's end had translated the New Testament into English.

Tyndale had been forced to flee England, inquisitors were constantly on his trail to arrest him. But God prevented their plans, and in **1525-1526 the Tyndale New Testament became the first printed edition of the scripture in the English language.**



Martin Luther

On Halloween in **1517**, Luther nailed his 95 grievances on the door of Wittenberg Church.

Luther, who would be exiled following the Diet of Worms Council in **1521** and was sentenced to be martyred.

Luther published a the German New Testament in 1529.

English Bibles were burned as soon as the Bishop could seize them.

But copies trickled through and actually ended up in the bedroom of King Henry VIII.

The more the King and Bishop resisted its distribution, the more fascinated the English became with getting a copy.

Having God's Word available to the public in the language of the common man, English, would have meant disaster to the church.

No longer would they control access to the scriptures.

They could not possibly continue to get away with selling the forgiveness of sins.

Tyndale was caught: betrayed by an Englishman that he had befriended. Tyndale was jailed for 500 days before he was burned at the stake in **1536**.

Tyndale's last words were, *"Oh Lord, open the King of England's eyes"*.

His prayer would be answered three years later in **1539**, when King Henry VIII finally allowed the printing of an English Bible known as the "Great Bible". He actually funded the printing of the Bible.

It was not that King Henry VIII had a change of conscience.



This was the result of the Pope not allowing the King a divorce from his first wife.

Henry VIII created the Church of England -- no longer answering to the Catholic Church.

After the reign of King Henry VIII and King Edward VI, Queen "Bloody" Mary ascended to the throne.

She was driven in her quest to return England to the Roman Church.

In **1555**, Thomas Rogers and Thomas Cranmer were both burned at the stake.

Mary went on to burn 300 protestant reformers .

The refugees fled from England with little hope of ever seeing their home or friends again. Most Fled to Holland.



With the end of Queen Mary's bloody reign, the reformers could safely return to England.

Queen Elizabeth supported the Protestant movement.

Queen Elizabeth I tolerated the printing and distribution of Geneva version Bibles in England.

