

Why do Bibles read differently?

Bibles can read differently because there are different versions of the Bible. The various translations we have today will translate the same verses with slightly different wordings.

The King James Version was translated in 1611. Many of the English words that were used in the 1600's don't make sense to us today because the English language has significantly changed over the centuries. We don't use the words "Thee" "Thou" "ye" "goest" "whither" "verily" "hath" "cometh" "saith" and many other words. For this reason, scholars have translated newer versions of the Bible that are easier for us to understand today.

The Old Testament in the Bible was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. The Bibles we have today are translations from these Hebrew and Greek texts. The different versions will sometimes arrange words in a different sequence, like the two sentences below:

On Tuesday, people bought bread at the store.
Bread was bought by people at the store on Tuesday.

Both the above sentences say the same thing but are worded differently. The same is true with various translations of the Bible—it's the same message but worded in a different way. Each translation has its own merits, but some may be easier to understand than others.

Why do the different Bible translations & version read differently?

It is because they use different translation methods. Every time a verse is translated into another language, it has to be reworded so the reader can understand.

Three different translation methods

Literal translation—(word-for-word) It strives to stay as close to the original wording as possible. Examples: New American Standard Version, King James Version

Dynamic Equivalent translation—(thought-for-thought) It says close to the original text, but translates the *meaning* and explains idioms and figures of speech in modern-day equivalents. Examples: New International Version, New Living Translation.

Paraphrase—(phrase-for-phrase) A paraphrase is not an accurate word-for-word translation of the original but tries to convey the general idea of the text in modern day language. Examples: Living Bible and The Message

Comparing Luke 9:44

<i>Literal</i>	<i>Literal</i>
KJV	NASV
Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.	Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.
sayings = words (Greek)	(Gk)delivered = give over, hand over
<i>Dynamic Equivalent</i>	<i>Paraphrase</i>
NIV	The Living Bible
Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.	Listen to me and remember what I say. I, the Messiah, am going to be betrayed. Son of Man = Messiah

If you are looking for a recommendation of which Bible to purchase, the New American Standard Version and the Holman Christian Standard Bible are both very accurate and easy to read versions of the Bible.