

# Twentieth Century Translations

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Grace Baptist Church of East Flat Rock

From God to Man: How We Got Our Bible

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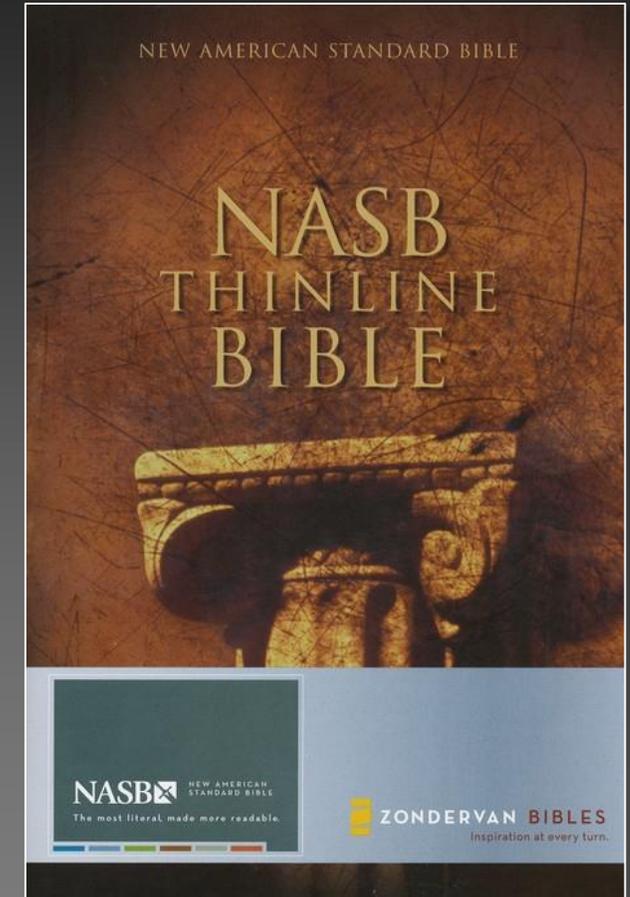
# The Principle of Literal Translation

- A. The most accurate and useful translations express original meaning in the target language using word-for-word correspondence as much as possible while respecting the literary context of words
- B. This philosophy of translation is called formal equivalence
- C. Word meanings matter, plurality matters, and verb tense matters!

# Twentieth Century Translations using the Literal Principle

## A. The New American Standard Bible (1971)

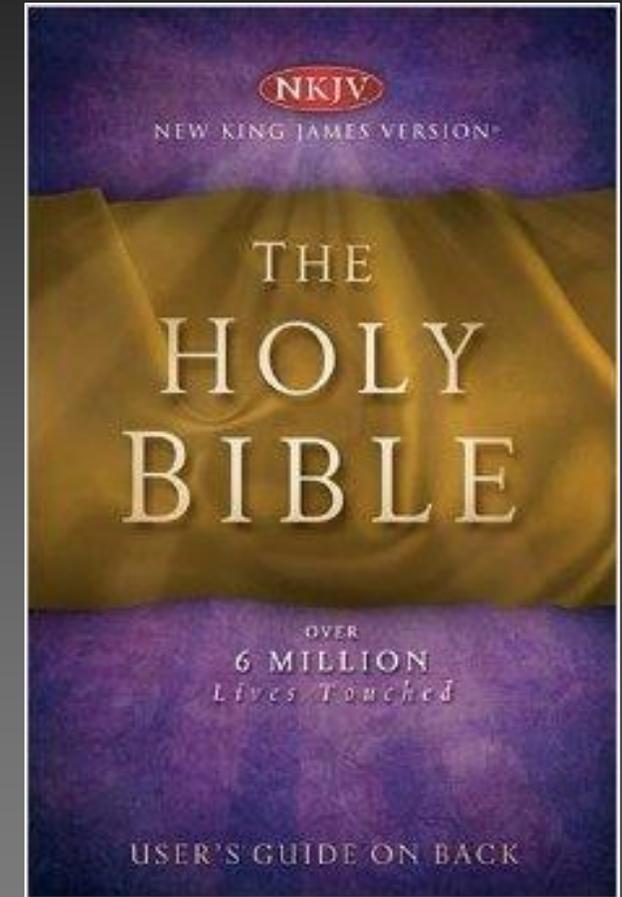
1. A new translation revised from the 1901 American Standard Version
2. Made full use of recent refinements in the NT Greek text
3. Many consider it to be the most literal of all English translations



# Twentieth Century Translations using the Literal Principle

## B. The New King James Bible (1981)

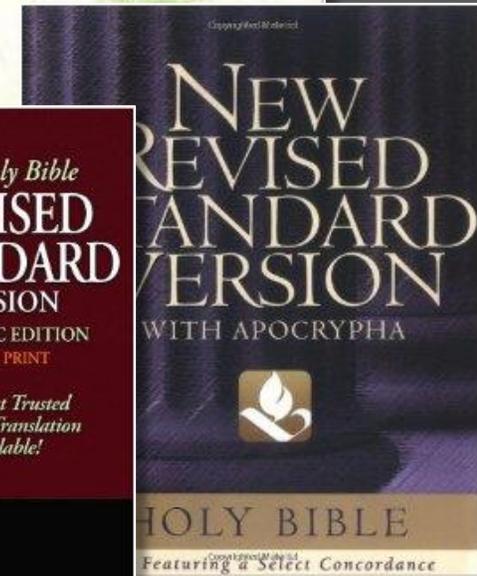
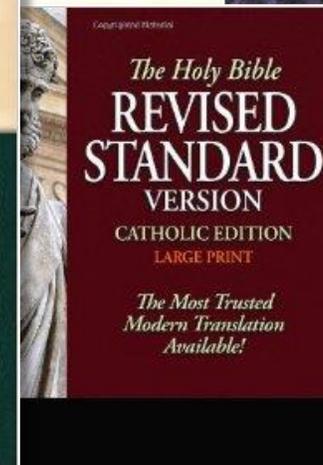
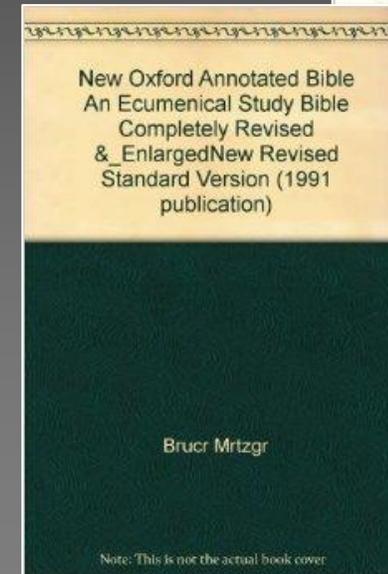
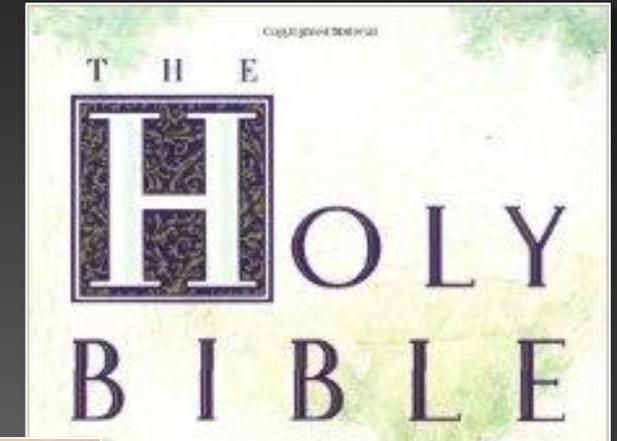
1. A modern language translation that maintains the KJV structure and beauty
2. For the OT it used the Masoretic Text plus the Leningrad Manuscript
3. For the NT it used the Textus Receptus



# Twentieth Century Translations using the Literal Principle

## C. The Revised Standard Version (1952)

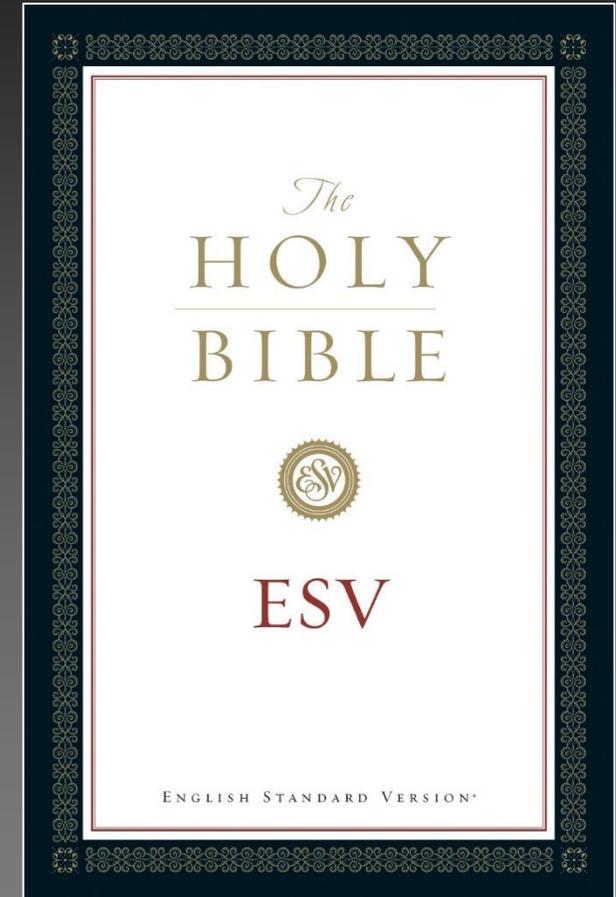
1. Published by the ecumenical National Council of Churches
2. The translation committee was theologically liberal and ecumenical
3. Denounced by fundamentalists and conservatives



# Twentieth Century Translations using the Literal Principle

## B. The English Standard Version (2001)

1. A revision (overhaul) of the 1971 Revised Standard Version
2. The members of the translation committee were from broader evangelicalism
3. Excels in its readability



# Comparisons

<sup>KJV</sup> Psalm 23:1-2 <A Psalm of David.> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He **maketh** me to lie down in green pastures: he **leadeth** me beside the still waters.

<sup>NKJ</sup> Psalm 23:1-2 <A Psalm of David.> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

<sup>NAU</sup> Psalm 23:1-2 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside **quiet** waters.

<sup>ESV</sup> Psalm 23:1-2 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

# Comparisons

<sup>KJV</sup> John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

<sup>NKJ</sup> John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

<sup>NAU</sup> John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have **eternal** life.

<sup>ESV</sup> John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal** life.

# Comparisons

<sup>KJV</sup> Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself **shall** give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

<sup>NKJ</sup> Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **the** virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

<sup>NAU</sup> Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin **will be with child** and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

<sup>ESV</sup> Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, **the** virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

# Comparisons

<sup>KJV</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **and** have not **charity**, I am become **as** sounding brass, or a **tinkling** cymbal.

<sup>NKJ</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I **have** become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

<sup>NAU</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:1 **If** I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but **do not have** love, I **have** become a **noisy gong** or a clanging cymbal.

<sup>ESV</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:1 **If** I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a **noisy gong** or a clanging cymbal.

# Comparisons

<sup>KJV</sup> Hebrews 1:1 God, who at **sundry** times and in **divers manners** **spake** in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

<sup>NKJ</sup> Hebrews 1:1 God, who at **various** times and in **various** ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

<sup>NAU</sup> Hebrews 1:1 God, **after** He spoke **long ago** to the fathers in the prophets in **many portions** and in **many** ways,

<sup>ESV</sup> Hebrews 1:1 **Long ago**, at **many times** and in **many** ways, God spoke to **our** fathers by the prophets,

# Comparisons

<sup>KJV</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of **iniquity doth** already work: only he who now **letteth** will **let**, until he **be** taken out of the way.

<sup>NKJ</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already **at** work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

<sup>NAU</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already **at** work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

<sup>ESV</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already **at** work. Only he who now restrains **it** will do so until he is out of the way.

# Comparisons – Impact of Older Manuscripts

<sup>KJV</sup> John 1:18 No **man hath** seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

<sup>NKJ</sup> John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

<sup>NAU</sup> John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten **God** who is in the bosom of the Father, He has **explained** Him.

<sup>ESV</sup> John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the **only God**, who is at the Father's side, he has **made him known**.

# Comparisons – Johannine Comma

<sup>KJV</sup> 1 John 5:7-8 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. <sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

<sup>NKJ</sup> 1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. <sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

<sup>NAU</sup> 1 John 5:7 For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

<sup>ESV</sup> 1 John 5:7 For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

# Conclusions

- A. Differences in translations are greatly exaggerated by some
- B. Several modern English translations have maintained a high degree of literalness
- C. Modern English translations are helpful in terms of their readability