

Many people are unaware of just how far back the development of our bible in the English language extends.

The following is a very brief chronology of the most significant milestones in the evolution of the Bible into the English language, plus a few other interesting historical tidbits.

This is not intended to be thorough or exhaustive, only to give some introduction to this subject and hopefully spark interest in further study.

- 500 BC Completion of all the original manuscripts that now make up the Old Testament in their original Hebrew.
- 300 BC Completion of the earliest translation of the Old Testament into another language, the Septuagint, translated into Greek at Alexandria in the third century BC.
- AD 390 Jerome's Latin Vulgate manuscripts are produced at the direction of Roman Emperor Constantine I, containing 80 Books (39 Old Testament, 14 Apocrypha, 27 New Testament).
- 500 The Bible has been translated into over 500 different languages.
- 632 Muhammad completes the Qur'an, marking the start of the rise of Islam.
- 1054 The unified Christian Church splits into the Western (Catholic) Church and the Eastern (Orthodox) Church.
- 1384 John Wycliffe produces the first hand written manuscript copy of the complete Bible in English (80 Books) from the Latin Vulgate that was exclusively in use at that time. This is known as the Early Wycliffe Bible.
- 1395 John Purvey revises the Wycliffe Bible and produces what has become known as the Later Wycliffe Bible. This was also a hand written manuscript.
- 1455 Gutenberg invents the moveable type printing press and prints the first book ever printed, the Gutenberg Bible in Latin.
- 1516 Erasmus prints the first consolidated New Testament in Greek from original manuscripts.
- 1517 Martin Luther nails his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church, in Wittenberg Germany, marking the officially recognized start of the Protestant Reformation.
- 1522 Martin Luther prints the first New Testament in German translated directly from Erasmus' Greek.
- 1526 William Tyndale prints the first New Testament in English translated directly from Erasmus' Greek.
- 1530 William Tyndale prints the first Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament, the Jewish Torah or Law) in English to be translated directly from the original Hebrew.
- 1534 King Henry VIII separates from the Catholic Church and establishes the Church of England (Anglican/Episcopal Church in the US) over the issue of his divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

- 1535 Myles Coverdale prints the first complete Bible in English not derived from the fourth century Latin translation of St. Jerome. He incorporated Tyndale's New testament, Pentateuch and Jonah. He did his own translation of the Psalms, and translated much of the rest of the Old Testament from Luther's German (80 Books).
- 1537 Matthews Bible, the second complete Bible to be printed in English, John "Thomas Matthew" Rogers (80 Books).
- 1539 The "Great Bible", the first English Bible to be authorized for public use in England is printed (80 Books).
- 1560 The Geneva Bible, the first English Bible to add numbered verses within each chapter is printed, containing extensive references and commentaries (80 Books).
- 1568 The Bishops Bible, the Bible which King James ordered to be the basis for the King James Bible was first printed (80 Books).
- 1610 The Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible is finally printed in English (80 Books).
- 1611 The original King James Bible is printed (80 Books).
- 1763 Bishop Richard Challoner updates the wording of the original Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible to improve readability.
- 1769 The Oxford Standard Text of the King James Bible is printed, with spelling updates, minor word changes and corrections to numerous errors that had accumulated over the preceding 150 years (80 books). This is the wording in the 66 book King James Bibles we have today.
- 1881 Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort produce the first Greek text of the New Testament to be based on an analysis and consolidation of all known original manuscripts.
- 1881 The English Revised Version of the bible is first printed containing a New Testament based on the Westcott and Hort New Greek Text, which contained numerous changes to the original Textus Receptus of Erasmus. This was the first time a 66 book bible omitting what has become known as the apocrypha.
- 1901 The American members of the 1881 English Revision Committee who could not agree with their English brethren on the appropriate revisions to the bible publish the American Standard Version. This was also a 66 book bible with a New Testament based on the work of Westcott and Hort.