

0. ENGLISH TRANSLATION by WILLIAM TYNDALE - Story
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In this image we see the first page of the Gospel of Saint John from the translation by William Tyndale. It is from a printing by Peter Schoeffer published in 1526. This version of the Tyndale Bible is now owned by the British Library. Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Click on it for a better view.

Wycliffe's death did not end people's desire for an English translation of the Bible. Working toward that objective, an obscure scholar, William Tyndale, went beyond merely translating the church's Latin Bible. Tyndale used Greek and Hebrew manuscripts to create his English translation.

William Tyndale remains significant to the English-speaking world. Using Greek and Hebrew texts prepared by the Dutch scholar Erasmus, Tyndale had a feel for the poetry of the English language. It is Tyndale who gave us phrases like:

Let there be light

Let my people go

The truth shall make you free

Am I my brother's keeper?

In fact, 85% of the King James Version of the Bible was taken directly from Tyndale's translation.

Although Tyndale's translated words are still with us today, his Bibles were burned in special ceremonies in London and Antwerp. Cardinal Wolsey, no doubt at Henry VIII's direction, wanted to eliminate all English Bibles from the land. (Wolsey, himself, was eliminated from the land. Soon after his arrest, for treason, he died at Leicester Abbey.)

Tyndale and his editor, John Rogers, were executed for translating the Bible into a language which common people could understand. As they were publicly strangled, then burned at the stake, Tyndale's last words were for the King of England.

He prayed for Henry VIII to see the light and allow Tyndale's English translation to stand. One year after Tyndale's death, Henry VIII allowed it.

Today, only three known copies of the Tyndale New Testament (which had to be published outside Britain) are known to exist. In 1994, the British Library paid more than 1 million pounds for its copy (which was published in Germany).

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ENGLISH-TRANSLATION-by-WILLIAM-TYNDALE-Protestant-Bible-A-Journey-Through-Centuries>

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William Tyndale

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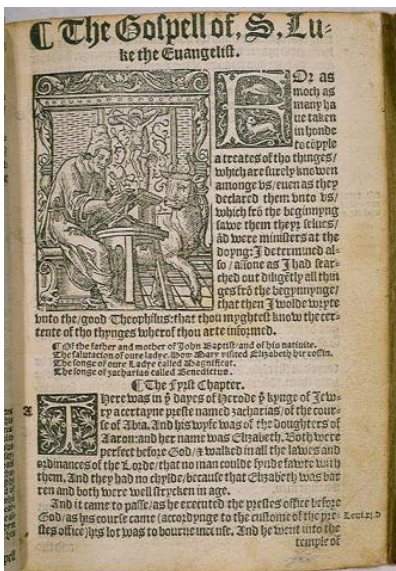


Erasmus

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Tyndale Bible - Gospel of Luke

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Cardinal Wolsey

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Hertford College Stained Glass Window

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John Rogers

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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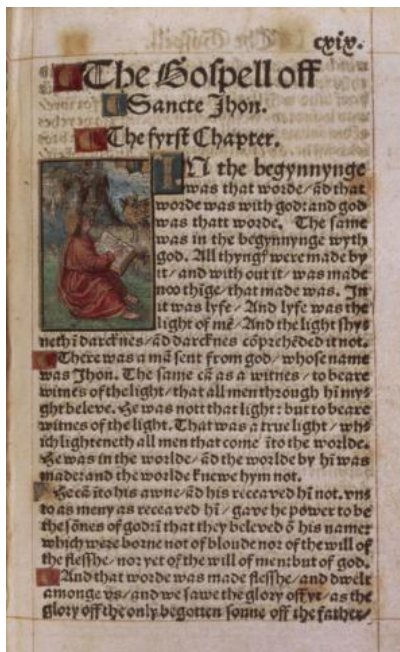


Tyndale's English Translation

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Copy of Tyndale Bible

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Cardinal Wolsey - Arrested for Treason

Clip from "[The Tudors](#)" (2007) - last episode, first season, broadcast on BBC Two - starring Sam Neill as Cardinal Wolsey. Copyright, Sony Pictures, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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