

## The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S5E7

### Bonus: Translations Of The Bible

**Description – Today we jump out of the Gospel of John to answer a couple of listener questions, one of the recurring questions we receive is how did we get the Bible we have and what's the difference in all the translations of the Bible?**

Today we're going to talk about Bible translations and where did they come from?

The question really is: How do we know if the word we have in our hand is correct? The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written by over 40 authors over 1500 years on three continents, written in three different languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

So how did we know to put the 27 books of the New Testament together? What sets them apart from other letters or scrolls that were written?

Collected together by the end of the 3rd / early in the 4th century.

The requirements:

1. Had to be Apostolic
  - a. Meaning, it had to be directly linked to an Apostle, one of the 12, an eyewitness account.
  - b. They had to physically see it or be with Jesus.
  - c. So books like the Gospel of Barnabas are immediately thrown out, because he wasn't a disciple of Jesus.
  - d. But what about Paul and his writings?
    - i. Paul in Galatians 1 is going to give us his credentials.
    - ii. Galatians 1:17-20 <sup>17</sup>I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.
    - iii. Many believe that Paul spent 3 years with Jesus in Arabia, in the wilderness and was directly discipled by Jesus there, in His resurrected bodily form.
    - iv. Paul already knew the scriptures, he was well versed in the OT
2. Had to be a work from Antiquity
  - a. Meaning it had to be written by the close of the 1st century.

- b. Gospel of Judas was written supposedly by “Judas” but it was written after the 1st century, same with the Gospel of Thomas.
  - c. The further away from the time of Jesus being here living on earth, the more the message could get distorted.
3. Had to have continuity
- a. It had to be consistent with other biblical texts.
  - b. It has to agree with the whole counsel of God.
  - c. Again, the Gospel of Thomas says that to be saved or to enter the kingdom of Heaven, women have to become men.

Some of the other books out there would be books from the Nag Hammadi, books that made their rounds after the dead sea scrolls came about.

**Pastor Robby’s Sermon+ Video talking about the Dead Sea Scrolls:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8K0ZRARjzfw>

Most of these are very gnostic in their teaching. Remember, Gnosticism was an early church heresy, that said that in order to be saved you have to know the “secret” teachings.

The Nag Hammadi was a collection of 13 books:

- Gospel of Thomas
- Gospel of Phillip
- The Apocraphon of John
- The Apocalypse of Paul
- And more...

Most of these are just made up stories / accounts that authors tried to add to what Jesus said / did.

Remember: if you’re a believer filled with the Holy Spirit, you can take and read God’s Word and understand what you’re reading. The Holy Spirit gives us insight into the Word that He wrote.

Translations of the Bible:

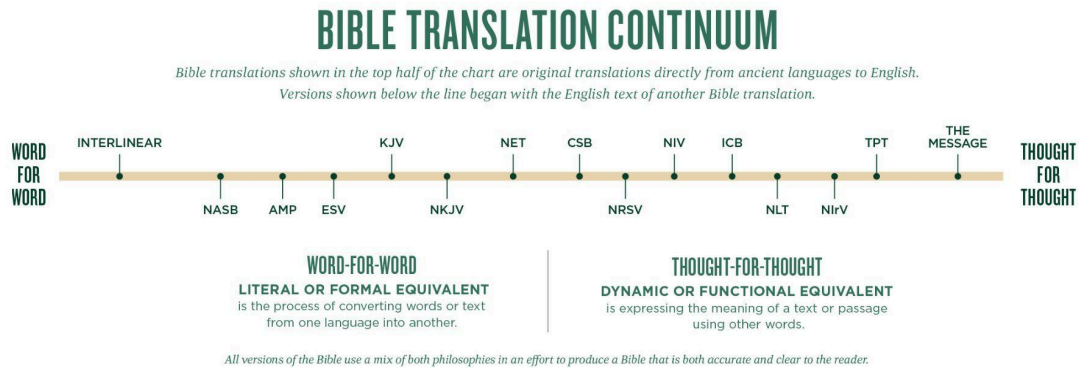
Every different translation of the bible is a work of translation where the interpreter takes the original texts and translates it to the current language. The only way to read a bible and not be reading an interpretation would be to have a greek / hebrew bible.

Some helpful bible links for studying the Word:

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

<https://www.preceptaustin.org/>

So on one side of the translation continuum of bibles, you'd have a paraphrase. And then on the far side of that would be a literal word for word translation.



So what about some bible translations that seem to have “missing” verses?

Example:

Mark 16

Most of the earliest manuscripts ended with Mark 16:8.

But most new / modern translations will put Mark 16:9-20 in the text, but include the section in brackets with the note that says, “This wasn’t in the oldest manuscripts.”