

*Have you ever wondered
why there are so many different
versions of the Bible?*

How to compare **BIBLE** VERSIONS

*The Bible is God's **FREE** gift to mankind.
So why do so many publishers claim that
their versions are "All Rights Reserved"?*

*Here is a practical guide
to help you find a trustworthy,
easy-to-read, accurate translation.*

The Bible is the greatest book in the history of the world.

It is, without rival, the best selling and the most widely read and studied book of all time. No other “best seller” has ever come close to the Bible in sales *every* year, year-after-year, or in the total number of copies in print.

The complete Bible (*comprised of more than 790,000 words*) has been translated into more than 400 languages, and key portions have been translated into more than 2,400 languages. It is significant that in most languages, there is only one version. That is as it should be, because there can never be such a thing as different valid and trustworthy versions of the truth in any one language.

Therefore, it is strange to realize that far more than 300 different versions of the Bible have been published in English. (*Visit www.AV7.org/compare to see a list of 300*)

Why so many different versions?

Two reasons: First, regrettably, some versions of the Bible have been compiled to reflect the opinions, beliefs, and agendas of various individuals and sects. Variants published for these reasons will inevitably deviate from dependable truth.

Second, publishing Bibles is a huge and tremendously profitable business; and regrettably, too many publishers seem motivated more by money than by genuine conscientious resolve to ensure trustworthy accuracy.

Therefore, the purpose of this book is to provide a practical guide that can help you to quickly identify attributes that will distinguish and set apart the most accurate and trustworthy word-for-word translation of the Bible from interpretive paraphrases that tend to dilute and sometimes misrepresent the truth.

Bible Versions Comparison Attributes

Attribute #1

Compare the biblical principle:
“Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

-vs-

The man-made concept:
“All Rights Reserved”

Attribute #2

Word-for-word literal translation

-vs-

Interpretive paraphrase

Attribute #3

Faith -vs- Faithfulness

Attribute #4

Patience -vs- Standing firm

Attribute #5

Grace -vs- Blessing

Attribute #6

Complete disclosure -vs- Limited disclosure

Attribute #7

Free, Free, Free -vs- Purchase required

Attribute #1

Compare the biblical principle:
“Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

-vs-

The man-made concept:
“All Rights Reserved”

The Bible is God's *free* gift to mankind

The purpose of the Bible is to invite and encourage everyone in the world to join God's family ... and to show them how to discover, understand, and effectively pursue His purpose and plan for their life.

Yet, the choice to accept or not accept this invitation is up to each individual to decide of their own free will.

While God certainly does desire that everyone He has created will choose to join His family and discover His purpose and plan for their life, He does not force His will upon anyone. Instead, God gives everyone free will to make their own choices.

Those who *choose* to accept His invitation *will* be included in His family and they will receive the free gifts of God's love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, a true sense of purpose in life, and ultimately eternal life. (*Galatians 5:22 - Matt 4:10 - John 3:16*)

On the other hand, those who *choose* to *not* accept God's invitation (*or are too busy to stop and consider it*) will, by their own choice or inaction, *not* be included in His family. (*Mark 16:16b*)

Why would anyone choose to refuse God's invitation?

Sadly, it seems that many people are so preoccupied with the busy-ness of their lives that they have never heard or considered God's invitation.

For some, it is the daily grind of trying to make ends meet, obtain the necessities, and stay ahead of the bill collectors that seems to take all the time of their lives.

For some, it is an all-consuming drive to get ahead in life, in their job, career, or business venture.

And for some, it is simply a desire to live their lives their own way in pursuit of self-gratification ... just living to have fun ... or striving to accumulate worldly possessions, worldly success, and worldly pleasures.

Whatever consumes their lives, everyone eventually comes to a point when they wonder, within themselves, "Is this all there is? What is the meaning and purpose of life? Is life just a dead-end road ... or is it possible that God has some purpose and plan for my life?"

The Bible answers these questions ... for those who are wise enough to turn to it for trustworthy answers.

However, all Bibles are not created equal.

The problem of changing God's *free* gift into "All Rights Reserved" products

There is nothing wrong with producing Bibles to sell as a revenue and profit generating business. But it is a problem when so many different "All Rights Reserved" versions of the Bible make competing for attention and for sales and profits more important than accuracy.

And there is something very curious ... and one must think questionable ... about creating many different *unique* versions of the Bible for which the compilers and publishers claim *exclusive* “All Rights Reserved” intellectual property ownership.

How did this problem get started?

Consider for a moment, the history of how the Bible came into existence, how the English language translation was developed, and how so many different commercial variants evolved. This is a fascinating story that spans more than 3,000 years. You can find a short and a longer version here: www.AV7.org/history

The essential essence of this story is that prior to the year 1881 A.D., most efforts surrounding development of the Bible were focused on endeavoring to compile and maintain the most reliable original language texts possible *and* striving to make the most accurate word-for-word translation in the common languages that people used in their day-to-day lives.

But after 1881, Bible publishing became convoluted.

Before 1881, there were only relatively minor differences in copies of thousands of original language source texts ... and few significant differences in translations.

After 1881, a strange thing happened. Certain individuals found some old texts that had been put away in storage, unused for a thousand years. But since those texts were older than original language texts that had been preserved, copied, and recopied for a thousand years, the individuals who found those older texts speculated that simply because they were older, they must be more authentic and better.

You can read arguments on both sides of this dispute at AV7.org/history (*and in many other places*).

The regrettable result of this speculation was that after 1881, there were two competing schools of thought:

- 1) Those who believe that God has always providentially preserved His most trustworthy word in the Bible throughout all history.
- 2) Those who believe that God *did not* preserve the most trustworthy original language texts of His Word until texts that had been put away and disregarded for a thousand years resurfaced in the 1800s A.D.

What does this have to do with “All Rights Reserved” Bible versions?

Prior to 1881, the original language texts from which the Bible was translated, and the English translation of the Bible, had been developed to a point that there was stability and almost universal acceptance of *just one* source text basis and *one* Bible’s reliability.

However, in 1881, some of those who claimed that the recently found older source texts were superior, then published a new and different Greek text and a new “revised” English translation, thereby trying to cast doubt on the trustworthiness of that one great Bible which most people had come to love and trust.

This, therefore, was the beginning of what eventually became a near avalanche of new so-called “modern translations.”

Before we examine this curious phenomenon in the publishing of an ever-expanding list of unique and very different “All Rights Reserved” Bibles, let us briefly consider that one English language Bible first published in 1611, which, for almost 300 years, had nearly put an end to having a diversity of many different versions of the Bible in English.

The venerable 1611-1769 English Bible commonly called the “KJV”

The English language Bible published in 1611 was not really a new translation as much as it was, for the most part, a further revision and improvement upon the work of its many predecessors. *For more details, see the history of the Bible at www.AV7.org/history*

Today, the 1611-1769 English text continues to be very popular ... and with good reason. It is still considered by many to be more accurate than the many so-called “modern versions” that have sought to replace it.

Yet, it is important to understand that this venerable English language translation of the Bible was revised many times between 1611 and 1769. Through all of those revisions, though, it held fast to the same basic content. Its revisions and reprintings corrected many minor errors in the original 1611 and subsequent printings; and it was continuously revised and updated in spelling, word choices, font styles, and more, until 1769.

Today, both the 1611 and 1769 versions, along with many further updated versions of the same basic text, continue to be very highly regarded.

But one must wonder: Why is it called “The King James Bible?”

In fact, should *any* Bible ever be called or known by *any* human person’s name? The Bible is God’s Bible.

The fact is, that James, who became king of England in 1602, had virtually nothing to do with making the 1611-1769 Bible. He did not initiate it. He did not sponsor it. He did not participate in its translation or development. He did not finance it. And neither he nor any other governing institution ever officially “authorized” it.

Furthermore, King James' well documented reputation certainly did *not* provide any good reason or justification for his name to become a commonly accepted title for the 1611-1769 version of the Bible.

While it is true that a dedication to King James was included in the first printing in 1611, it surely should be apparent to any objective reader that that dedication was just done for "politically correct" reasons simply because James was the king of England at that time.

Again, the point is that *no* Bible should *ever* be called by or be known by *any* mere man's or woman's name, because the Bible is God's Bible, and His alone.

About "KJV-only" advocacy

The so-called "KJV" is an excellent Bible, however, it must be remembered that it is a translation, and as such it certainly is not infallible, as some "King James Only" advocates have claimed. Some have even gone so far as to claim that the "KJV" translation is superior to and actually corrects the Greek and Hebrew original language sources from which it was translated.

If the so-called "KJV" truly is the *only* correct Bible, then which "KJV" version is the *only* perfect one -- the 1611 text, the many times revised 1769 text, or one of the many revisions in between or after 1769?

The 1611-1769 Bible is a good translation that has few significant flaws. However, it uses many archaic words (*including some obsolete words that are not even found in some modern dictionaries*) and much archaic phrasing that is sometimes grammatically incorrect. It also imposes a masculine bias throughout that is not required or indicated by the underlying original language source texts.

Consequently, for many people, the "KJV" is a very difficult version of the Bible to read and understand.

A new era of unique “modern-language” versions

In 1881, the English Revised Version was the first in what would soon become an ever-expanding list of new, so-called “modern language” versions of the Bible.

Instead of just updating the archaic words and phrasing in previous versions and correcting minor flaws, the 1881 “Revised Version” made substantial changes.

Many of these changes were the result of this new English Revised Version being the first Bible to be based on those very different, supposedly older source texts.

The “ERV” also started a new trend of omitting or footnoting many words, portions of verses, and even entire verses and passages that had been standard for a thousand years in the preserved “majority” source text and in the 1611-1769 Bible. But now some began to call those passages “disputed.” Thus, the floodgates were opened, and soon there would be a plethora of new, very different versions of the Bible.

Now, many of these new “modern language” versions began to display a copyright notice with this warning:

“All Rights Reserved”

In other words, the new versions of the Bible bearing that copyright warning now asserted new, man-made “intellectual property” ownership laws ... instead of following the God-established principle:

**“Freely you have received,
freely give.”**

Matthew 10:8

One must wonder ... how is God honored, blessed, and served by making His Word “All Rights Reserved?”

What is the benefit to God or to mankind in imposing an “All Rights Reserved” restrictive copyright on *any* valid version of God’s Bible?

May we hope and pray and urge that Bible publishers will replace that “All Rights Reserved” restriction on all Bibles that they publish with this:

**Only commercial rights are reserved.
All others may freely copy.**

Attribute #2

Which is more trustworthy?
word-for-word literal translation

- or -

interpretive paraphrase

Any version of the Bible that encourages and helps anyone to draw closer to God serves a useful purpose.

Our purpose in this small book is not to demean or to disparage or speak negatively about any version of the Bible. Rather it is to challenge and encourage you to grow in faith and understanding of the Bible.

Study to show yourselves approved to God,
a worker⁺ who does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

At the same time, it is important to understand the very great difference that there is between accurate, word-for-word, literal translation and interpretive paraphrase.

A word-for-word literal translation of the Bible is one in which each and every Greek or Hebrew word in the original language source texts is translated to a word that is as directly equivalent as possible in the target language. The sequence of words may be adjusted and a few interpolative words may be added to clarify the meaning of certain words, but every effort is made to hold fast to accurate word-for-word translation.

Any translation method that is *not strictly* word-for-word literal translation is, to one degree or another, an interpretive paraphrase.

The definition of the word “paraphrase” is:

- ◆ A restatement of a text or passage in other words.
- ◆ To express, interpret, or translate with latitude.
- ◆ An intentional re-wording to make a point.

Some have described their Bible versions as “dynamic equivalence” or “thought-for-thought” translations; however, the fact of the matter is that any version that is not a word-for-word literal translation is, to one degree or another, a paraphrase.

Consider a few classic examples:

(1) In 1768, Edward Harwood’s interpretive paraphrase of Matthew 6:9-10 extrapolated those two simple verses into his own lavishly embellished commentary:

From this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Into this: “O Thou great governour and parent of universal nature who manifestest thy glory to the blessed inhabitants of heaven - may all thy rational creatures in all the parts of thy boundless dominion be happy in the knowledge of thy existence and providence, and celebrate thy perfections in a manner most worthy of thy nature and perfective of their own.”

(2) Even the venerable “KJV” is not entirely free from paraphrasing. One non-literal paraphrase it uses 15 different times is the colloquialism: “God forbid.” (*For examples, see Luke 20:16, Romans 3:4, and Galatians 2:17*) In each case, the underlying Greek words are μη γενοιτο which literally mean: “Not be.” or “*May it not be.*”

In the most vigorously promoted and prominently seen “All Rights Reserved” commercial Bibles in book stores today, there are many thousands of non-literal paraphrased renderings. Many of these significantly alter the meaning of the text. Following are a few examples:

(Note: Because it is not our intent or objective to cast stones at any particular version, we will just identify three example versions by the three non-descriptive letters: X, Y, and Z.)

(3) In Matthew 5:39

The Greek source: μη αντιστηναι τω πονηρω

Literally translated is: not resist⁺ the evil

-or- “resist not evil” -or- “do not resist evil”

The Greek αντιστηναι actually means “stand against”

Version “X” has it: do not resist him who is evil

Version “Y” has it: do not resist an evil person

Version “Z” has it: do not resist the one who is evil

The added words “him who is” and “person” and “the one who is” are not indicated in the Greek text, but are subjective, meaning-altering, interpretive paraphrase.

(4) In John 6:65

The Greek source: εκ του πατρος μου

Literally translated is: by the father my

-or- simply “by my Father”

Version “X” has it: from the Father

Version “Y” has it: unless the Father has enabled him

Version “Z” has it: by the Father

The important personalizing word “my” is clearly in the Greek source, but is omitted from the paraphrases.

(5) In Matthew 4:7

The Greek: ουκ εκπειρασεις κυριον τον θεον σου
Literally is: not tempt lord the god your
-or- “you shall not tempt the Lord your God”

Version “X”: You shall not put the Lord your God
to the test

Version “Y”: Do not put the Lord your God
to the test

Version “Z”: You shall not put the Lord your God
to the test

It is interesting to note the way so-called “modern versions” seem to copy one another in thousands of places. In this case, inserting the extra word “put” (*which is not in the Greek source*) and changing the word “tempt” to “to the test” (*adding two more words that are not in the Greek source*) creates a paraphrase. This alters and dilutes the meaning, making God’s command a weak colloquialism ... for no good reason.

(6) In John 5:19 (*abbreviated to feature the key words*)

The Greek: ος - - λυση μιαν

Literal is: whoever - - shall break one

“whoever breaks one of these least commandments”

Version “X”: whoever then annuls ...

Version “Y”: anyone who breaks ...

Version “Z”: whoever relaxes ...

The wording changes made in two of these paraphrases alters the meaning of this verse ... for no good reason. The Greek word “λυση” means “shall break,” and neither “annuls” nor “relaxes” is equal to that. It serves no good purpose or benefit to paraphrase this.

In the third example, changing the word “whoever” to “anyone who” is inconsequential, but one wonders why, for what benefit or reason such a pointless change was made ... other than just to be different.

(7) John 6:47

The Greek: ο πιστευων εις εμε εχει ζωην αιωνιον

Literal is: who believes in me has life everlasting
-or- *Those who believe in me have eternal+ life*

Version "X": he who believes ?? has eternal life

Version "Y": he who believes ?? has everlasting life

Version "Z": whoever believes ?? has eternal life

Notice the extremely important words "in me" are omitted from versions X, Y, and Z. Why would they do that? It is clear and unmistakable that the very important words "εις εμε" ("in me") *are* in the Greek source text. So why are these key, crucially important words omitted in all three example paraphrases?

These examples demonstrate the very serious problem with interpretive paraphrasing. This omission prompts the question, in what or in whom should one believe? These paraphrases wrongly imply that anyone can "believe" in just about anything to attain eternal life. Omitting the key words "in me" is a serious error.

(8) Mark 16:16a *Those who believe and are baptized will be saved.*

Which is best: "he that" or "he who" or "Those who"

The Greek: ο πιστευσας

Literal is: who believe

Version "K": He that believeth (from the "KJV")

Version "X": He who believes

Version "Y": Whoever believes

Version "7": *Those who believe* (from The AV7 Bible)

This example demonstrates an error that permeates most versions of the Bible, including the 1611-1769 in which the error actually originated - an improperly imposed male bias. The phrase "he that" (*which is grammatically incorrect*) occurs hundreds of times in the "KJV." Some "modern" versions have changed this to "he who," but that is still an incorrect translation of the Greek because it unjustifiably imposes a male bias.

The point of the preceding examples ...

... is to demonstrate that whenever any Bible version deviates from faithfulness to accurate, word-for-word, literal translation by substituting interpretive paraphrase, the result will inevitably be dilution, distortion, or some degree of misrepresentation of the original message.

Interpretive paraphrasing may be lengthy extrapolations (*such as shown in the first example in this section*), or it may be only a few subjectively added and/or changed words.

Following are three key “proof” texts to examine in every Bible version to discover how trustworthy it is.

Attribute #3

Faith -vs- Faithfulness

“**Faith**” is one of the most important foundation stones in the entire Bible. While “faithfulness” certainly is an important attribute in both personal character and in Bible translation, God clearly established “**faith**” as a cornerstone.

- ◆ Jesus said: Have **faith** in God. -- *Mark 11:22*
- ◆ According to your **faith** be it to you. -- *Matthew 9:29*
- ◆ If you have **faith** as a grain of mustard seed ...
Nothing will be impossible to you. -- *Matthew 17:20*
- ◆ Be of good comfort. Your **faith** has made you whole.
Go in peace. -- *Luke 8:48 -&- Luke 17:19*

- ◆ The righteousness of God is revealed from *believing faith* to *faith fully persuaded*. As it is written: The righteous⁺ shall live by faith. -- *Romans 1:17*
- ◆ The righteousness of God *comes* by **faith** in Jesus Christ to all and upon all who believe. -- *Romans 3:22*
- ◆ So then, **faith** *comes* by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. -- *Romans 10:17*
- ◆ Examine yourselves *to see* if you are in the **faith**. -- *2 Corinthians 13:5*
- ◆ By grace you are *being* saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves. *It is* the gift of God. -- *Ephesians 2:8*
- ◆ The just shall live by **faith**. -- *Hebrews 10:28*
- ◆ **Faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. -- *Hebrews 11:1*
- ◆ Through **faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, -- *Hebrews 11:3*
- ◆ Without **faith** *it is* impossible to please God ... He is a rewarder of *those* who diligently seek Him. -- *Hebrews 11:6*
- ◆ The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, **faith**, meekness, and temperance. -- *Galatians 5:22-23*

When we realize how important the word faith is, it is ironic that most so-called “modern versions” of the Bible have removed that word “faith” from the fruit of the spirit in the verse quoted above.

The Greek word “*πιστις*” appears 37 times in the Bible, and in almost every instance, in most English language Bibles, it is uniformly translated as “**faith**” ... except in this one instance where most “modern versions” substitute the word “faithfulness.” “Faithfulness” has a very different meaning. So why did they change it?

The point is ...

... that to delete the crucially important word “**faith**” in the cited passage, and in its place substitute the word “faithfulness” (*which has a dramatically different meaning*) is a radical and totally baseless change in one of the most important words in the entire Bible. Consider:

The definition of the word “**faith**” is:

- ◆ belief and confidence or trust in a person or thing
- ◆ belief in God and trusting acceptance of God’s will
- ◆ trust in God and in His promises as made through Christ and the Scriptures
- ◆ belief that does not require logical proof
- ◆ belief in a divine, supernatural power

The definition of the word “faithfulness” is:

- ◆ being thorough in the performance of one’s duties
- ◆ being true to one’s word, promises, or vows
- ◆ being steady in allegiance or affection, loyal
- ◆ being reliable, trusted, or trustworthy
- ◆ being devoted, dependable, steadfast

Notice the distinctly different meanings of these two words. “**Faith**” is *believing in* and *trusting God*. In contrast to that, “faithfulness” refers to how good someone may be in *their own* strength. The word “faithfulness” is almost opposite in meaning to having “**faith**” in God and believing in and trusting in Him.

Therefore, it is curious and one must think questionable that virtually all so-called “modern versions” of the Bible being promoted today have followed this change that first appeared in the 1881 English Revised Version. We hope that these facts will persuade all publishers to correct this very serious error.

Galatians 5:22-23 might be considered the first “proof” text to examine to test the trustworthiness of any Bible.

Attribute #4

Patience -vs- Standing firm

Here is a second key “proof” text to examine when investigating the trustworthiness of a Bible translation.

Shown below are the original language Greek source, a word-for-word literal translation, the 1611 version, The **AV7** Bible text, and three other commercially promoted versions for the verse Luke 21:19

Greek: εν τη υπομονη υμων κτησασθε τας ψυχας υμων

Literal: in the **patience** you possess the souls you

1611: In your **patience** possess ye your souls

AV7: In your **patience**, possess your souls

Vers. “X”: By standing firm you will save yourselves

Vers. “Y”: By standing firm you will gain life

Vers. “Z”: By your endurance you will gain your lives

As you can see, the literal word-for-word translation directly corresponds to the original Greek source, showing three key words that are essential to correctly reading this verse: “**patience**,” “possess,” and “souls.”

The version X paraphrase gives a radically different interpretation. One must ask, is it really possible for anyone to “save themselves” as version X states?

Versions Y and Z paraphrases are not quite so extreme, but they also suggest an interpretation that significantly departs from what word-for-word translation conveys.

Versions X, Y, and Z all translate the Greek word υπομονη as “**patience**” elsewhere in their Bible versions, but in this one instance, they inject a very different meaning with the words “endurance” and “standing firm.” One certainly should question this.

Attribute #5

Grace -vs- Blessing

Here is a third revealing “proof” text to examine when investigating the trustworthiness of a Bible translation.

Shown below are the original language Greek source, a word-for-word literal translation, the 1611 version, The **AV7** Bible text, and three commercially promoted versions for the central portion of the verse John 1:16. The entire verse is properly translated as follows:

“Of His fullness we *have* all received,
and grace *for everyone*
instead⁺ of grace *for a favored few.*”

Greek: χάριν ἀντι χάριτος (reference #s 5484+473+5487)

Literal: grace anti grace (= two different kinds of grace)

1611: grace for grace

AV7: grace *for everyone* instead⁺ of grace *for a favored few*

Vers. “X”: grace upon grace

Vers. “Y”: one blessing after another

Vers. “Z”: gift after gift after gift

Upon examining hundreds of different versions of the Bible, one will find many more speculative interpretations. Here are just a few: grace after grace, grace instead of grace, grace because of his grace, favor on top of favor, one gift after another, and many more.

The problem with all these speculations is that most fail to properly reflect the meanings of the three key Greek words used here: χάριν (#5484) means “grace offered to everyone;” ἀντι (#473 literally “anti”) means “against” or “instead of;” and χάριτος (derived from #5487 χηαριτοο) means “grace extended to a highly favored or highly honored few.” (For example, χάριτος is used in addressing the “highly favored” virgin Mary in Luke 1:28)

Attribute #6

Complete disclosure -vs- Limited disclosure

As stated early in this book, any version of the Bible that encourages and helps anyone to draw closer to God serves a useful purpose. Again we want to emphasize that it is not our intent to demean other Bible versions.

Rather, one of our objectives is simply to encourage Bible readers to be aware of the significant differences that exist between word-for-word literal translations of the Bible and non-literal interpretive paraphrases.

A corresponding objective, is to encourage readers to carefully compare any non-literal version that they wish to use with a word-for-word literal translation.

As has been demonstrated and explained in the foregoing examples, paraphrases often take great liberties in changing the Bible to say something very different than what an accurate literal translation will reveal.

We hope that the publication of this book will urge Bible publishers to begin providing complete and visible disclosure of the changes that they make in creating their own unique versions, and that they will provide detailed explanations for their reasons for each and every change that they believe has a credible basis.

Wherever and whenever challenges are presented, such as those in this book, Bible publishers certainly should be willing to provide *full-disclosure* explanations and answers to all such challenges on their websites.

Ideally, there should be only one version of the Bible in English, and in every language. All variant versions should provide exhaustive documentation to explain their variances from that trustworthy foundation.

Attribute #7

Free, Free, Free **-vs-** Purchase required

The Bible is God's *free* gift to all of mankind. Without question, it is His desire that everyone in the entire world should have *free*, unrestricted access to His Word in the Bible. For He has stated:

Go into all the world
and proclaim⁺ the Gospel to *everyone*.

-- Mark 16:15

Freely you have received, freely give.

-- Matthew 10:8

Of course, it costs money to print and distribute the Bible; and, as we acknowledged earlier in this book, there is certainly nothing wrong with publishing Bibles to sell as a revenue and profit generating business.

At the same time, it must always be remembered that *the Bible is God's book*. He alone is the Author and the *only* rightful "copyright" owner.

Therefore, all translations and versions of the Bible that anyone may compile surely should be made freely accessible in some form *without any restrictions* on how or how much any such version may be used for any non-commercial purpose.

Look closely at the copyright notice in every Bible. If the publisher claims exclusive "*All Rights Reserved*" ownership of a version, or if they impose restrictions on its use, or if a purchase is required to obtain a copy, and no free copy is offered, then urge them to adopt this:

**Only commercial rights are reserved.
All others may freely copy.**

Bible Versions Comparison Charts

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Key Bible Features & Attributes:

- 1 Features an invitation to readers to join God's family
- 2 Features "quick-start" easy-to-read opening pages
- 3 Features the Bible's Most Essential Truth passages
- 4 Features an easy-to-read "inside-out" format
- 5 Text is a word-for-word literal translation
- 6 Text based on Tyndale-1611-Majority-text continuity
- 7 Full accountability documentation is available
- 8 Word-for-word translation tables are available
- 9 Phrase-by-phrase translation tables are available
- 10 Non-literal words are shown in reduced italics
- 11 Key word flags⁺ identify significant revisions
- 12 Obsolete and archaic words are replaced
- 13 Improper masculine wording is replaced
- 14 Confusing pronoun sequences are clarified
- 15 Comfortable type size is used for easy reading
- 16 Text is uncluttered by opinion notes and footnotes
- 17 Key Old Testament links embedded in small italic
- 18 Only commercial rights are reserved
- 19 Text may be freely copied for non-commercial use
- 20 Free e-Book download edition is provided

Year		Bible version name:	1	2	3	4
1611	1611	The 1611 Bible - later called KJV	no	no	no	no
1769	KJV	1769 Oxford revision – later called KJV	no	no	no	no
1958	AMP	Amplified Bible	no	no	no	no
1960	NASB	New American Standard Bible	no	no	no	no
1969	NLV	New Life Version	no	no	no	no
1970	NAB	New American Bible	no	no	no	no
1971	LBP	Living Bible Paraphrase	no	no	no	no
1973	NIV	New International Version	no	no	no	no
1978	NCV	New Century Version	no	no	no	no
1982	NKJV	New King James Version	no	no	no	no
1989	NRSV	New Revised Standard Version	no	no	no	no
1989	NRSV-c	New Revised Standard Catholic Edition	no	no	no	no
1992	CEV	Contemporary English Version	no	no	no	no
1993	MSG	The Message	no	no	no	no
1996	NIRV	New International Reader's Version	no	no	no	no
1996	NLT	New Living Translation	no	no	no	no
1999	HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible	no	no	no	no
2001	ESV	English Standard Version	no	no	no	no
2002	TNIV	Today's New International Version	no	no	no	no
2006	AV7	AV7 ~ The Invitation Bible	yes	yes	yes	yes

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The features and attributes listed on the facing page are explained in detail at the AV7.org website.

A full sized version of the small chart shown below and several additional Bible versions comparison charts are available and being further developed there also.

Every effort has been made and will continue to be made to ensure that this chart and all related charts provide an accurate representation of the information shown in these charts.

All information and charts at this website will be continually updated as additional information, corrections, and suggested revisions are provided. We gladly welcome any and all information that anyone will provide to help improve the accuracy and the relevance of all Bible Version Comparison information and charts presented at the AV7.org website.

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	n/a	yes	no	Public domain
yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	n/a	yes	no	Public domain
no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	All Rights Reserved
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yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	All Rights Reserved
no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	Copy restricted
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no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	All Rights Reserved
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no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	All Rights Reserved
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Free download

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2 Timothy 2:15

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