



From “In the Beginning” to Amen - Introduction to the Bible

Icebreaker: Do you make New Year’s Resolutions? Why or why not?

Review of Biblical translations:

- Translation Philosophies of Different Bibles
- Formal Translation - The motto for this is “as literal as possible, as free as necessary.”
- There is usually some indication of the form/structure of the underlying Hebrew and Greek.
- Keeps Hebrew/Greek metaphors and idioms intact, which means even if the saying is dead or non-relevant, it will stay as is.

Examples: KJV, NKJV, ESV

- Functional - The motto here is “translate the meaning.”
- The focus is to get to the meaning of the text, which means it will naturally step closer to interpretation of unclear passages.
- It’s usually easier to read and follow.
- It captures thoughts and phrases in a more concise way.

Examples: NIV, CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

- Dynamic - The motto is “translate for readability and accessibility.”
- It is highly readable.
- Modernizes dead metaphors and idioms so we can try to understand what they actually mean.
- It is more theologically accessible.
- A step further into interpretation.

Examples: NLT, Amplified

- Paraphrase
- A Retelling: It's a retelling of the biblical message from a modern perspective, not a literal rendering
- Easy to Read: Designed for accessibility, it reads at a much lower grade level, making it popular for first-time Bible readers.
- Interpretive: It offers an interpretation of the text, which can differ from other versions.
- Good for Overview: Useful for getting a feel for familiar passages in a fresh way.

Examples: Message, Passion

The Layout of the Bible - Old Testament

- The Bible is the historical account of God's creation, pursuit of, and engagement with mankind through a specific lineage.
- The traditional layout has books of the Bible in groupings by type of literature.
- Historical, Law, Wisdom/Poetic, Prophetic
- The Chronological version puts it in the order of events and God's interaction and man's response throughout the historical narrative.

Discuss:

- What were some things that you did not know before this teaching?
- What was your biggest takeaway from the teaching this week?
- On a scale of 1-10, how excited are you for the reading through of the Bible this year?
- What emotions are you feeling most as you approach reading the full Bible this year?

Pray:

- Ask God to show you what version He would have you read this year as we work through the Bible.
- Ask God to give you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of His word.
- Ask God to help you see things you may have never noticed before.
- Ask God to keep you humble as you read and learn.
- Ask God to correct any lies you've believed about His word.
- Ask God to help you understand things you may have misunderstood or been misinformed.

*** Check back next week for the slide that shows all the books of the Old Testament in Chronological layers.***