

A paraphrase is different from a translation. For a paraphrase, authors take an English text and put it into their own words, that is, the way they would say it themselves. A paraphrase does not begin with the Hebrew and Greek texts as a translation does.

CEV: Contemporary English Version

Translation done in contemporary style using common language marked the American Bible Society's translation of the Contemporary English Version Bible that was first published in 1995. It was designed to be understood when read and heard out loud, not just when it is read silently. It is one of the best Bibles for children and youth, as well as for new Bible readers who are not familiar with traditional Bible and church words.

GNT: Good News Translation

The Good News Translation, formerly called the Good News Bible or Today's English Version was first published as a full Bible in 1976 (revised in 1992) by the American Bible Society as a "common language," or "meaning based" Bible. It is a clear and simple modern translation that is faithful to the original Hebrew, Koine Greek and Aramaic texts. The GNT is a highly trusted version.

KJV: King James Version

Translated in 1611 by 47 scholars using the Byzantine family of manuscripts, the King James Version Bible has served as a standard of measurement for subsequent English translations. It is a word-for-word translation published at the request of King James I of England. It was frequently reprinted and its spelling updated, and most copies today are slightly adapted from a 1769 edition. Many of the best and most ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts of Bible books have been discovered since 1850, and so the KJV could not make use of them. It continues to be a time-honored translation that has been enjoyed for almost 400 years, although its Elizabethan style Old English is difficult for modern readers, especially children and youth.

NKJV: New King James Version

The NKJV Bible published in 1982 is the fifth revised version of the King James Bible using the work of 130 translators. It retains both the standard and theological terms in a poetic and devotional style, while being updated to modern English with minor translation corrections and retention of traditional phraseology.

NIV: New International Version

The NIV was published in 1978 by 100 translators as a completely new translation, but was strongly influenced by the King James tradition. It is a "thought-for-thought" open translation and not a literal translation with broad audience appeal for both older and younger readers, being revised in 1984.

NASB: New American Standard Bible

The complete NASB Bible published in 1971 (updated in 1995) is a conservative yet literal (word-for-word) translation of 58 scholars working from Kittel's Biblia Hebraica and Nestle's Greek New Testament of Alexandrian roots. It retains traditional theological words and is academic in tone. Because of this, the NASB is a good version to use in Bible study where one is concerned with the form of the original Hebrew and Greek.

NRSV: New Revised Standard Bible

The NRSV translation has been labeled "An Ecumenical Edition," that has been widely used by both Protestant and Catholic worshippers since it became a 1989 revision of the RSV. It is the

latest authorized translation in the King James tradition and has become a standard translation for serious Bible study.

TLB: The Living Bible

A paraphrased rendition of the K1901 American Standard Version by Kenneth Taylor in 1971, this is not a genuine translation, but a type of phrase-by-phrase commentary that was originally intended to help the author's own children understand the scriptures. It is useful for inspiration and commentary, but for serious Bible study it should only be used in conjunction with a legitimate translation.

NLT: New Living Translation

A meaning-based revision of the Living Bible, it made changes by comparing it to the original language texts. It is a helpful translation for youth and adults who have difficulty with traditional language.

NAB: New American Bible

Originally published in 1970 as a meaning-based translation intended primarily for Roman Catholic readers, The New Testament was revised in 1986, shifting more toward a word-for-word or formal translation.

NJB: New Jerusalem Bible

The NJB is a 1985 revision of the older Jerusalem Bible (JB) which was translated from the original languages, but it developed out of a popular French translation done in Jerusalem, which is why it was called the Jerusalem Bible. It is a word-based translation.