

Coloring Page



John Wycliff was the first to translate the Bible into English.

Parent's Initials:



PK1

The Bible

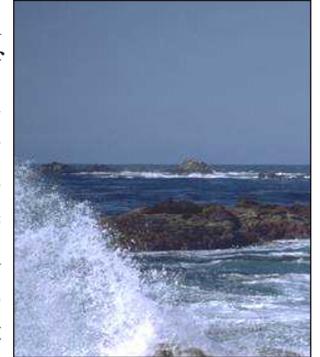
- Lesson Nineteen -

The Bible

The History of the Bible (2)

I. Overview.

In the previous lesson we looked at the history of the writing of the Bible. In this lesson we will look at the history of the translation of the Bible. The Bible was written mostly in two languages. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. It is very important that God's word in the Bible has been translated into the different languages that people speak.



The Bible has been translated into many, many languages.

Over the centuries, since the Bible was written, the languages that people have used have changed. Some languages like English have become very important. Other languages, like Latin, have fallen out of use. The first translation of the whole Bible into a single language was in 390 A.D. when Jerome translated the Bible into Latin. But it was nearly another 1,000 years before the Bible was translated into English.

II. Memory Verse.

“But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.”

(John 20:31)

III. Lesson.

The first English translation of the Bible was done by John Wycliff in 1384. The writing of his translation of the Bible was done entirely by hand. It was later that a German man named Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press which enabled books like the Bible to be printed by machine. Before



John Wycliff writing his English translation of the Bible by hand.

the invention of the printing press, all books had to be copied by hand, one by one. The first book that was printed on Gutenberg's press was the Bible, but it was the Latin version.

Translations by Luther and Tyndale

In 1522, another German name Martin Luther translated the Bible into German. This translation became very popular and is in fact an important German version even today.

In England, William Tyndale was a student of the Greek language and had read the New Testament in Greek. What he read excited him so much that he wanted others to know about it. The problem was that there were no Bibles printed in English. He determined that he would produce an English translation and have many copies of it printed on a printing press. But because God's enemy did not want this to happen, he faced much opposition. Eventually he had to flee to Germany where he finished the printing in 1526.

The King James Version and Other Versions

One of the most important translations of the Bible is the King James version. It was called the "Authorized Version" because it was commissioned by King James of England. It was finished in 1611 and quickly became the standard for English

speaking people. The King James Version is still read much today, but the English language it used is now somewhat old. An American edition of this Bible, called the American Standard Version was completed in 1901.

The Recovery Version

Today we are very blessed to have an excellent translation of the Bible called the Recovery Version. The Recovery Version is translated into the modern English spoken by a large portion of the world. With both the New and Old Testaments completed in 1999, it will certainly be very useful to God.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Why did the Bible need to be translated?

2. Who was the first person to translate the Bible into the English language?

3. What was the importance of the printing press?

4. What is the Recovery Version of the Bible?

