TIMELINE OF BIBLICAL TRANSLATIONS

1. Septuagint (LXX)
- Started c. 250 BCE, Completed by c. 100 BCE
- What: Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).
- Where: Alexandria, Egypt.
- Sources: Hebrew texts available at the time (Proto-Masoretic, some variations).
- Discovery: Known continuously; major copies preserved in Codex Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, and Alexandrinus.
- Notes: Widely used among Greek-speaking Jews and early Christians; quoted often in the New Testament.

2. Codex Vaticanus
Written c. 300–325 CE
- What: One of the oldest and most complete Greek Bibles (OT: Septuagint; NT: Greek text).
- Where: Likely Egypt.
- Sources: Early Greek manuscripts from the 2nd–3rd centuries.
- Discovery: Held in the Vatican Library since at least the 15th century.
- Notes: Key witness for modern critical Greek New Testament editions (e.g., NA28, UBS5).

3. Codex Sinaiticus
Written c. 330–360 CE
- What: Earliest complete New Testament, extensive Old Testament (Septuagint).
- Where: Possibly Alexandria or Caesarea.
- Sources: Very early Greek manuscript traditions.
- Discovery: Found at St. Catherine's Monastery (Sinai Peninsula) between 1844–1859 by Constantin von Tischendorf.
- Notes: Hugely important for reconstructing the earliest Greek text.

4. Latin Vulgate
Started 382 CE, Completed 405 CE
- Translator: Jerome.
- What: Latin translation of the Bible.
- Where: Bethlehem and Rome.
- Sources: Hebrew Old Testament, Greek New Testament, and Old Latin translations.
- Discovery: Known continuously; basis for Western Christianity for over 1,000 years.
- Notes: Official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church after the Council of Trent.

5. Wycliffe Bible
Started c. 1382, Finished c. 1384 CE
- Translators: John Wycliffe and followers.
- What: First complete English Bible.
- Where: England.
- Sources: Latin Vulgate (not Greek or Hebrew).
- Discovery: Copies hand-copied and preserved secretly; church banned it.
- Notes: Early attempt to bring Scripture to common English speakers; influential but outlawed.

6. Gutenberg Bible
Printed 1454–1455 CE
- Printer: Johannes Gutenberg.
- What: First major book printed with movable type (Latin Vulgate text).
- Where: Mainz, Germany.
- Sources: Latin Vulgate manuscripts.
- Discovery: Known continuously; about 49 copies still survive.
- Notes: Revolutionized the spread of the Bible through mass production

7. Textus Receptus
First Edition Printed 1516 CE
- Editor: Desiderius Erasmus.
- What: First printed Greek New Testament.
- Where: Basel, Switzerland.
- Sources: Late Byzantine Greek manuscripts (mostly 12th century), supplemented at times by back-translations from the Latin Vulgate where gaps existed.
- Discovery: Published widely across Europe; basis for many Protestant Reformation translations.
- Notes: Forms the Greek basis for the King James Version.

8. Tyndale Bible
New Testament Printed 1526 CE
- Translator: William Tyndale.
- What: First printed English New Testament translated directly from Greek.
- Where: Germany and Antwerp (secret printing).
- Sources: Greek Textus Receptus (New Testament); Hebrew Scriptures (for partial Old Testament).
- Discovery: Surviving copies are rare due to persecution and burning.
- Notes: Highly influential; about 80–90% of the King James New Testament language follows Tyndale.

9. King James Version (Authorized Version)
Started 1604, Completed 1611 CE
- Commissioned by: King James I of England.
- What: Official English translation for the Church of England.
- Where: England.
- Sources: Textus Receptus (Greek NT), Masoretic Text (Hebrew OT), earlier English Bibles (Tyndale, Geneva, Bishops' Bible).
- Discovery: Published and preserved continuously.
- Notes: Became the dominant English Bible for centuries; literary masterpiece.

Dead Sea Scrolls - Started 3rd century BCE, Completed 1st century CE
- Commissioned by: Unknown; associated with Jewish sects (likely the Essenes) living near Qumran.
- What: Ancient Jewish religious manuscripts, including parts of almost every book of the Hebrew Bible, plus sectarian writings.
- Where: Caves near Qumran, by the Dead Sea (modern-day Israel).
- Sources: Original Hebrew manuscripts, some Aramaic and Greek fragments; earliest witnesses to the Hebrew Scriptures
- Discovery: Discovered in 1947-1956 in eleven caves; about 900 documents found.
- Notes: Provided revolutionary confirmation of the antiquity and reliability of the Hebrew Bible text; key for comparing Masoretic Text, Septuagin and Samaritan Pentateuch traditions.

300 BCE 250 BCE 325 CE 360 CE 405 CE 1384 CE 1455 CE 1516 CE 1526 CE 1611 CE 1844 CE 1947 CE 2001 CE 2025 CE

Dead Sea Scrolls - Started 3rd century BCE, Completed 1st century CE
- What: Ancient Jewish religious manuscripts, including parts of almost every book of the Hebrew Bible, plus sectarian writings.
- Where: Caves near Qumran, by the Dead Sea (modern-day Israel).
- Sources: Original Hebrew manuscripts, some Aramaic and Greek fragments; earliest witnesses to the Hebrew Scriptures
- Notes: Provided revolutionary confirmation of the antiquity and reliability of the Hebrew Bible text; key for comparing Masoretic Text,

10. Modern Bible Translations
20th–21st Century
- Examples:
  - NIV (New International Version) — Started 1965, Finished 1978; Updated 2011.
  - NASB (New American Standard Bible) — First 1971, Updated 1995 and 2020.
  - ESV (English Standard Version) — Started late 1990s, Finished 2001; Permanent Text in 2016.
  - CSB (Christian Standard Bible) — Started 2010, Finished 2017.
- Sources:
  - Old Testament: Masoretic Text (Leningrad Codex, Aleppo Codex), Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint (for clarification).
  - New Testament: Nestle-Aland 28th Edition (NA28), United Bible Societies 5th Edition (UBS5), ancient papyri (P^45, P^46, P^52), Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Alexandrinus.
- Discovery: Ongoing manuscript discoveries (e.g., Dead Sea Scrolls, papyri) dramatically improved translation accuracy.
- Notes: Modern translations aim for faithfulness to earliest manuscripts using the best scholarly resources.