

Building the Bible

How It All Came Together

Power of STORY

How do they get shared?

Generational Gifts

What makes them “Holy”?

Personalized till Canonized

Power of STORY

Symbols

Cultural references

Layers of meaning

Power of STORY

Identity forging

Teach lessons

Share wisdom

Inspire conversation

NOT JUST STORY -- Other genres too!

Scroll 1

NTHBGNNNGWHNGDCRTDTHHVNSNDT
HRTHTHRTHWSFRMLSSVDNDDRKNSSC
VRDTHFCFTHDP

Scroll 2

NTHBGNGWSTHWRDNDTHWRDWSWT
HGDNDTHWRDWSGDTHWRDWSHTLGH
FTHWRLDNDDRKNSSDDNTVRCMT

Scroll 4

LTTHCHLDRNCMTM,FRTNSSCHSTH
SBLNGTHKNGDMFGD.

Scroll 5

IPSSNTYWHTIRCVDFRMTHLRDNTHNGHTHWSBTRY
DHMTWTHHSDSCPLSNNPPRRMTTTHPSSVR.HTKBR
DADBLSSDTNDGVTTLLFTHMSYNGWHNYDTHSRMM
BRMLKWSHTKTHCPNDSDTHSSLKMYBLDPRDTRY
DTHSNRMMBRNCFM.

Fragmentary ancient papyrus scrolls with handwritten text in a cursive script, likely from the Dead Sea Scrolls. The fragments are arranged vertically and show significant damage and wear.





Fragment of an ancient Hebrew manuscript on parchment, showing several lines of text in a cursive script. The parchment is heavily stained and has several large holes, suggesting it was part of a scroll or a book. The text is written in a cursive Hebrew script, likely from the Talmudic or Rabbinic period. The fragment is set against a black background.

Beginning or an End?

**These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when
they were created.**

Genesis 1 and 2 -- Side by Side

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—

E

J

Genesis 1 and 2 -- Side by Side

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created
them;
male and female he created them.

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

E

J

Timeline of the Story: Hebrew Bible

PreHistory	Creation and Flood Stories
2000 BCE	Abraham Story Begins
1500 BCE	Exodus under Moses
1000 BCE	David's Kingdom
900 BCE	Divided Kingdom
580 BCE	Jerusalem Falls
500 BCE	Exiles Return
430 BCE	Rebuilding and Resettling

E - Elohist

Uses Elohim as name for God.

Writing around 900's BCE

Genesis 1 Creation story

Much of Genesis and Exodus

J - Jahwe,” the German translation of “YHWH” or “Yahweh”

- YHWH is name used for God
- Genesis 2 creation story
- **Large portions of Genesis and Exodus**
- Written after Exile - shows literary markers of post 600 BCE

P - Priestly

Written just at the end of the exiles

500 - 600 BCE

- Focuses on dietary laws
- Emphasis on Aaron as first Priest
- **Heavy voice in Leviticus and Numbers**
- Includes Arabic words brought into Hebrew
- Cultural ties to modern Iraq, showing exile influence

D - Deuteronomist

Written (or discovered) around 640 BCE

Part of Josiah's reforms and rebuilding (claimed to find the scrolls during renovations)

Talks about the "time passed" between the story and "current day" of writing

Matched cultural expectations of Josiah's kingdom

Book of Deuteronomy primarily from here

PROPHETS

Each prophet was writing in a different time and circumstance

Some prophets are compilations of multiple voices (Isaiah, for example)

Some prophets are from Israel (North) and some Judah (South)

Major and Minor prophets divided by how much they wrote - not importance or context

Prophets primarily from here

WISDOM LITERATURE

Different writers for different books

Most edited over time, evolving

Range from 700 -400' BCE

Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, etc. are part of this category

PSALMS

Collected and evolving from pre-exile to post-exile use

Actively used for worship, like a hymnal.

Many show impact of exile and return in their language and subject matter

Often attributed to “King David” more likely he is an honorary author.

Timeline of the Story: New Testament

5 CE

Jesus Born / “Augustus” becomes “Caesar”

27 CE

Jesus’ Ministry begins

30 CE

Jesus’ Death and Resurrection

34 CE

Saul becomes Paul

48-67 CE

Paul’s letters and travels

95 CE

Revelation

Timeline of the Story: Hebrew Bible

PreHistory

Creation and Flood Stories

2000 BCE

Abraham Story Begins

ORAL TRADITION

1500 BCE

Exodus under Moses

1000 BCE

David's Kingdom

900 BCE

Divided Kingdom

580 BCE

Jerusalem Falls

500 BCE

Exiles Return

430 BCE

Rebuilding and Resettling

250 BCE

Oldest "Dead Sea Scrolls"

WRITTEN TRADITION

5 CE

Jesus Born / "Augustus" becomes "Caesar"

27 CE

Jesus' Ministry begins

30 CE

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

34 CE

Saul becomes Paul

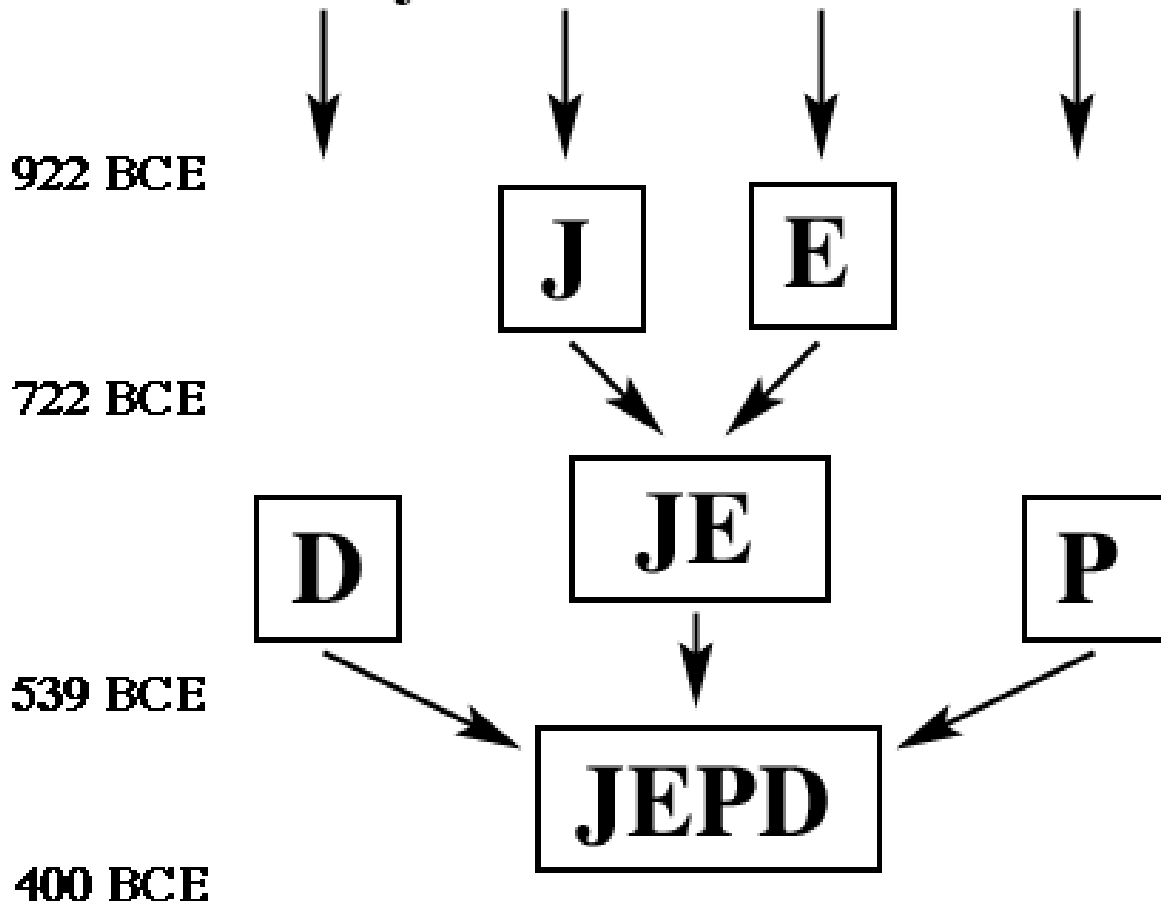
Timeline of the Story: Hebrew Bible

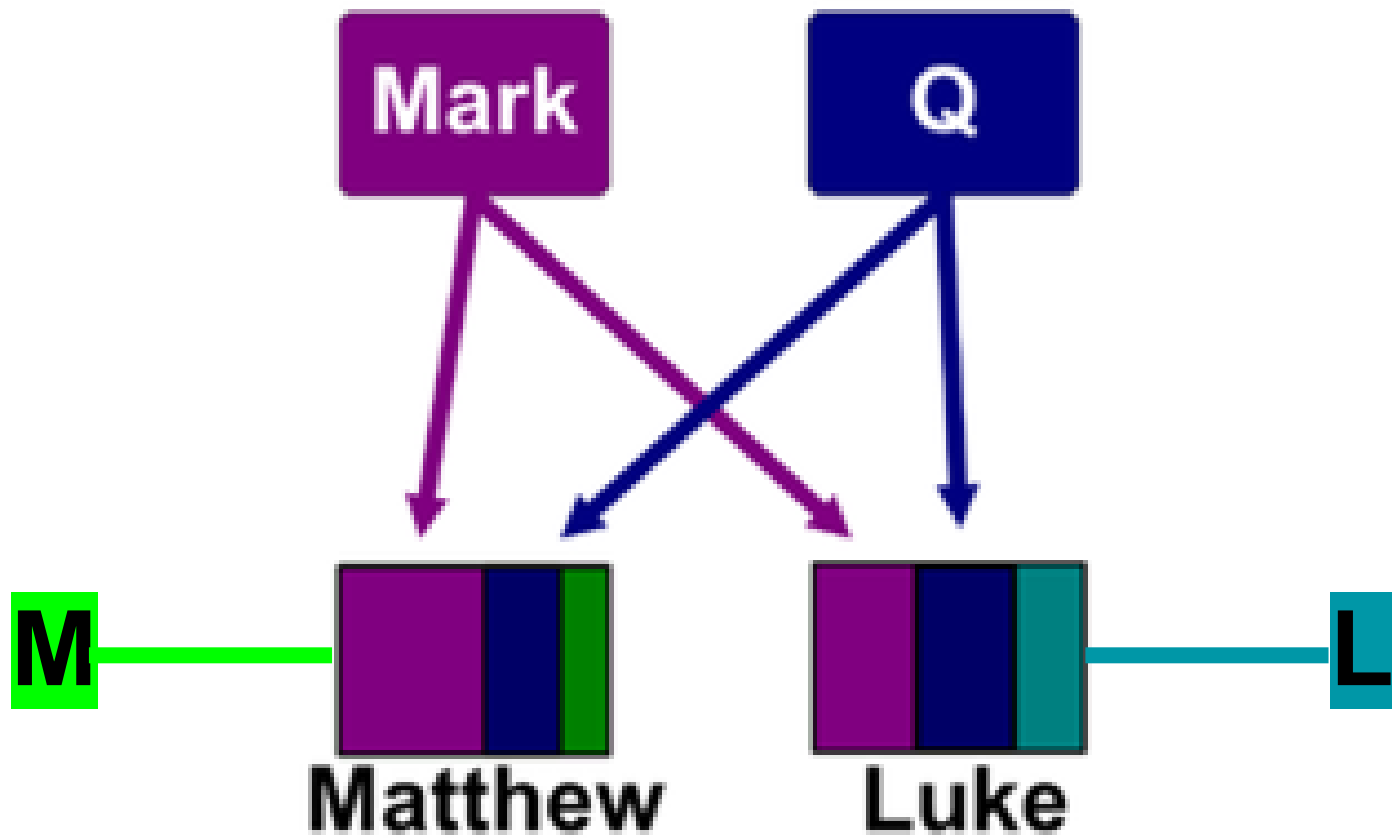
75-85 CE	Mark Written
70-90 CE	Theoretical council on Hebrew Bible canon
100 CE	John Written
200s CE	Hebrew Bible seems firm

COMPILED TRADITION

367 CE	Gospels and Acts in a list together
400s CE	New Testament finds consensus
930 CE	Aleppo Codex - Fullest Hebrew Bible
1500s CE	Reformation changes canon
1611 CE	King James Bible - with the King's edits

Early Oral & Written Sources





John

Letters

and

Such

Revelation

How Pieces Got In

- **Connection to Apostles**
- **Importance to the Receiving Community**
- **Conformity to Theology**

What Got Left out

- **Gnostic writings**
- **Other Gospels**
- **Conformity to Theology**

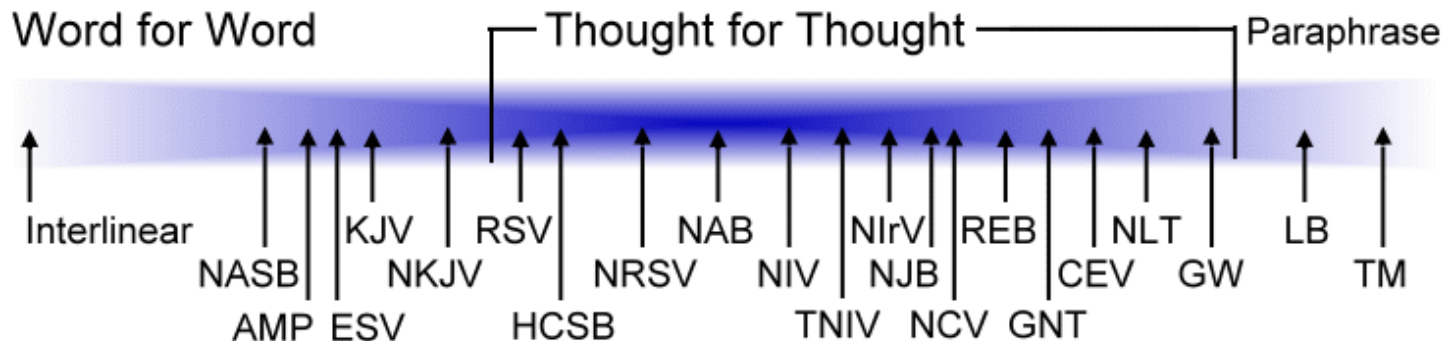
How We Translate:

Word for Word (Static)

Vs.

Thought for Thought (Dynamic)

English Bible Translation Comparison



NASB - New American Standard (11.5)
AMP - Amplified Bible (11)
ESV - English Standard Version (8)
KJV - King James Version (13)
NKJV - New King James Version (9.5)
RSV - Revised Standard Version (11)
HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)
NRSV - New Revised Standard (10.5)
NAB - New American Bible (7)
NIV - New International Version (8)
TNIV - Today's NIV (7.5)

NIRV - New International reader's (3)
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)
NCV - New Century Version (3.5)
REB - Revised English Bible (7)
GNT - Good News Translation (6)
CEV - Contemporary English (5.5)
NLT - New Living Translation (6.5)
GW - God's Word (4.5)
LB - Living Bible (8.5)
TM - The Message (4.5)

How We Translate:

Original Sources

Vs.

Building on Others

Translation History

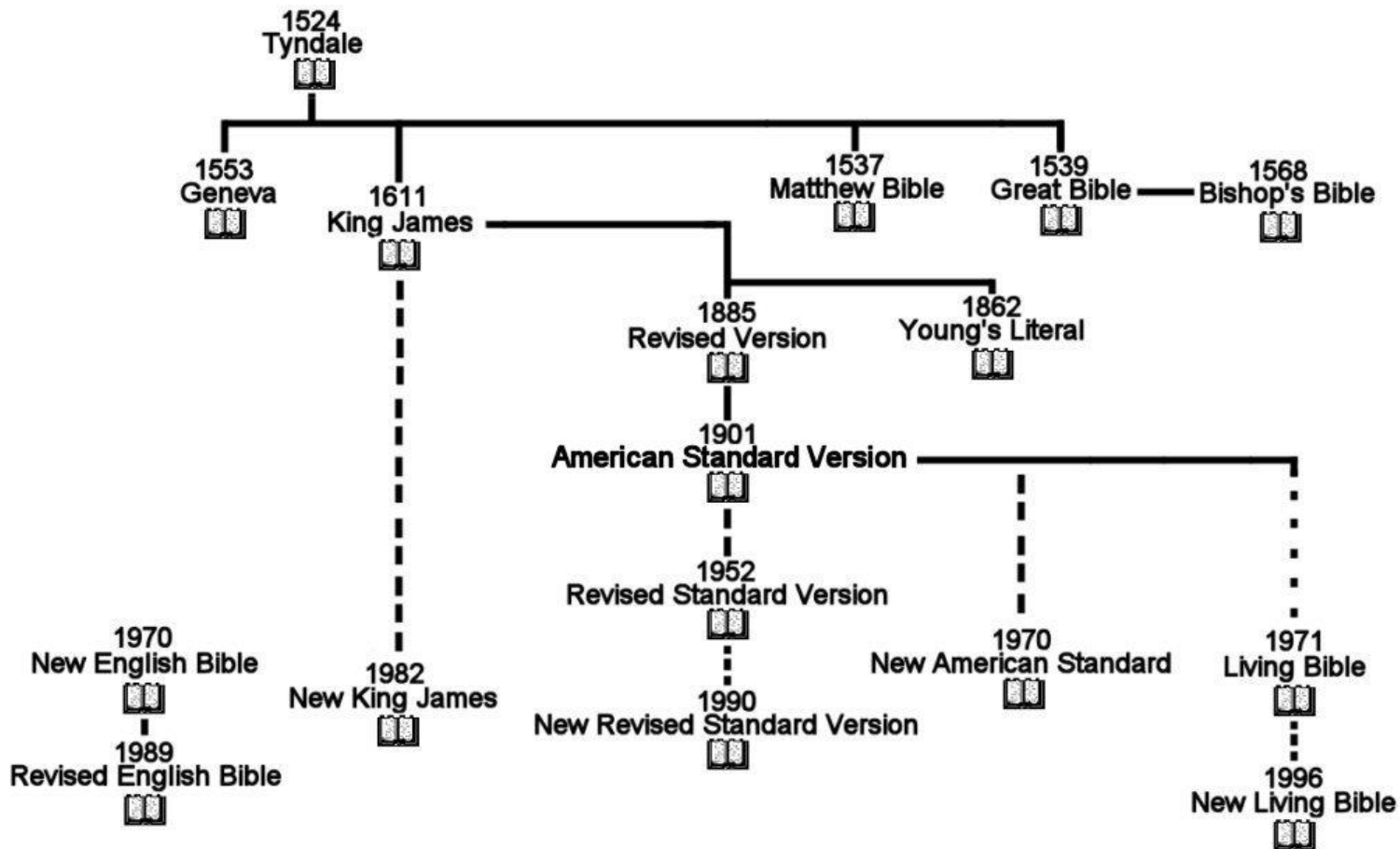


CHART OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

3rd-2nd Century B.C.
SEPTUAGINT GREEK
OLD TESTAMENT

4th Century A.D.
JEROME'S LATIN BIBLE
(VULGATE)

ca. 1384
WYCLIFFE'S BIBLE

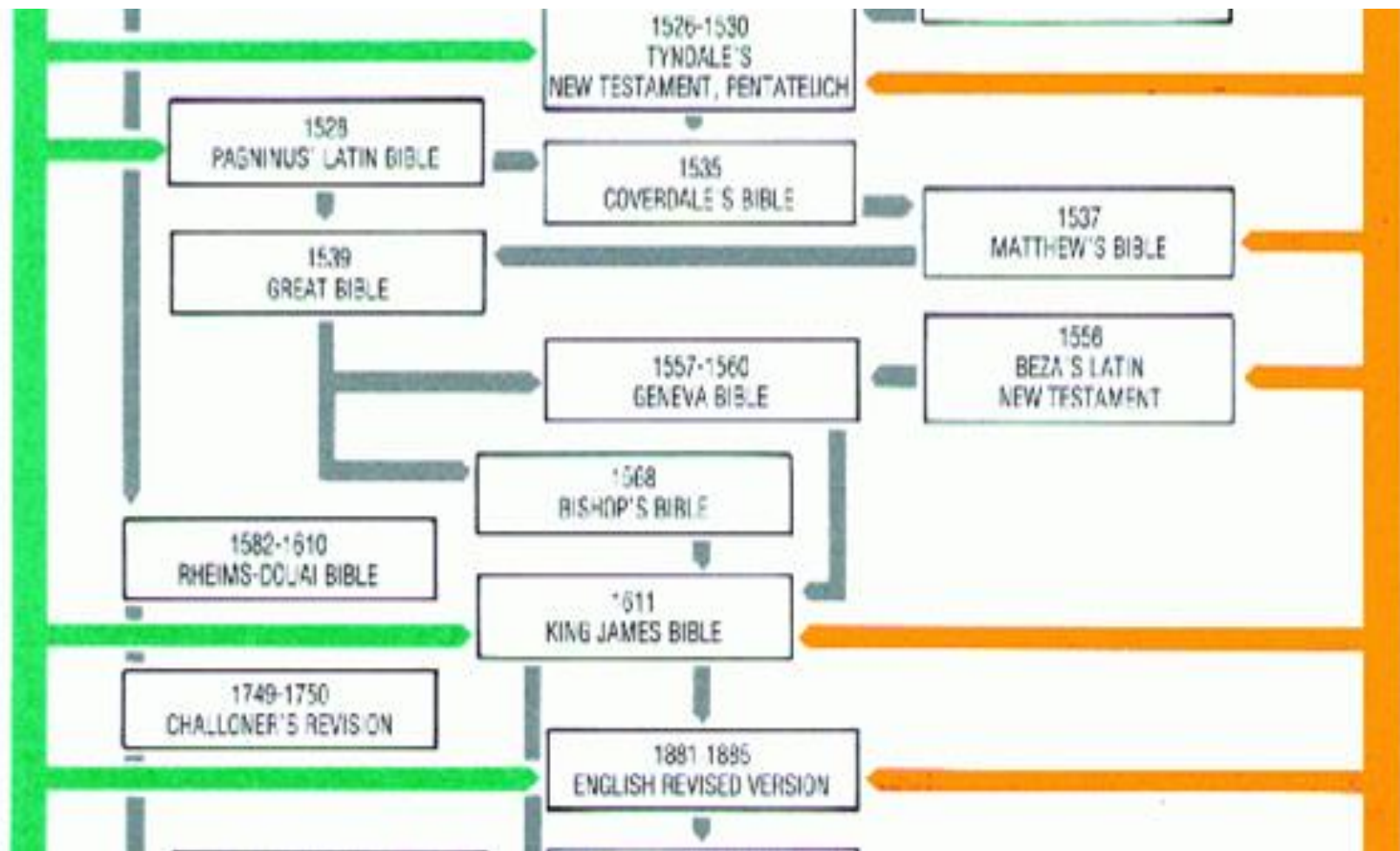
GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

700-1000
(Anglo-Saxon
Paraphrases)

735
(BEDE'S JOHN?)

1522-1534
LUTHER'S GERMAN BIBLE

1526-1530
TYNDALE'S
NEW TESTAMENT, PENTATEUCH



RHEIMS-COLAÏ BIBLE

1749-1750
CHALLONER'S REVISION

1917
JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY
OLD TESTAMENT

1941
CONFRATERNITY NEW TESTAMENT
1944-1949
KNOX BIBLE

1611
KING JAMES BIBLE

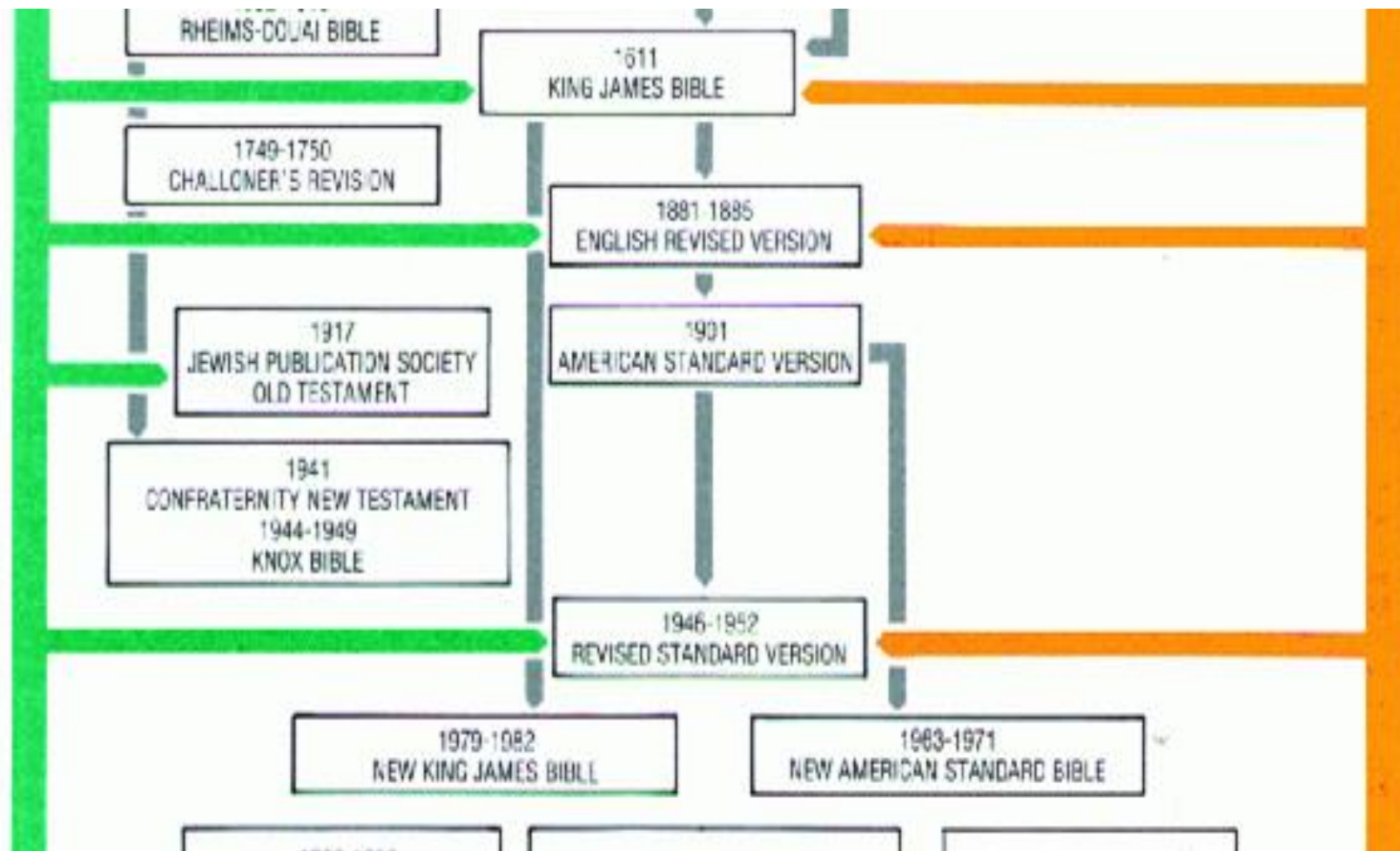
1881-1885
ENGLISH REVISED VERSION

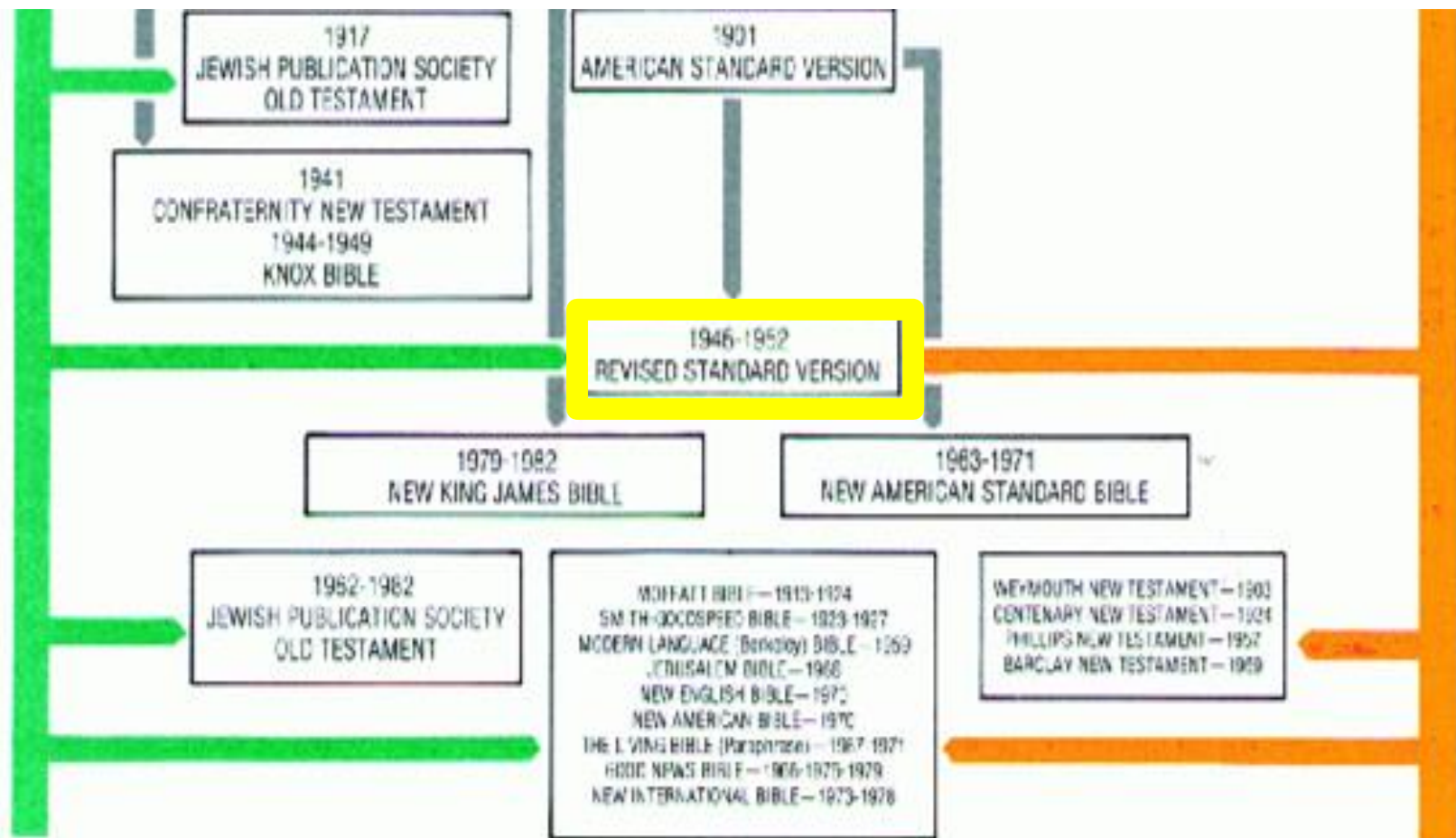
1901
AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION

1946-1952
REVISED STANDARD VERSION

1979-1982
NEW KING JAMES BIBLE

1963-1971
NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE





www.BlueLetterBible.org

HEBREW - Hebrew Bible / Old Testament

GREEK - New Testament