

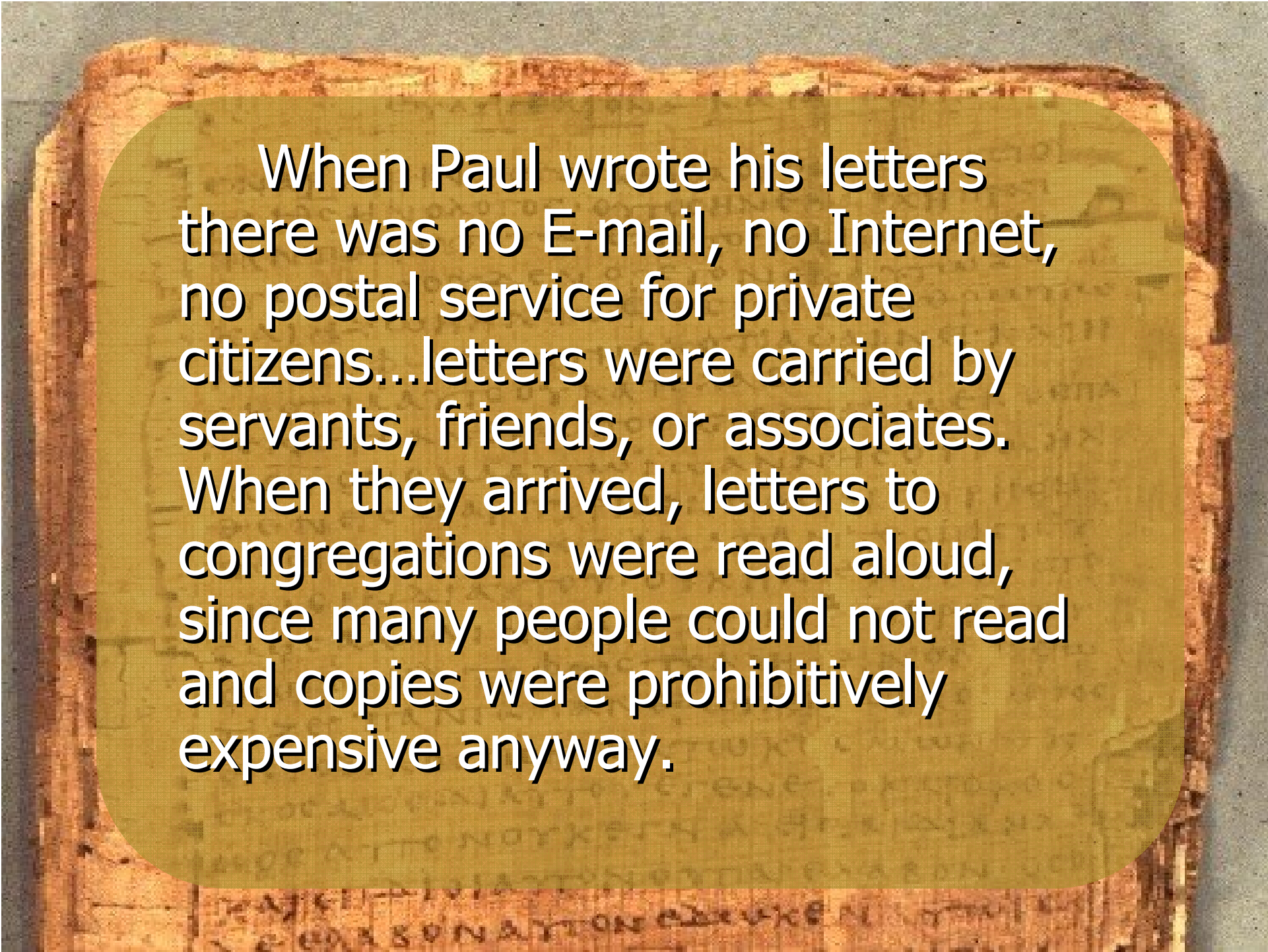


A Bible Without Boundaries:

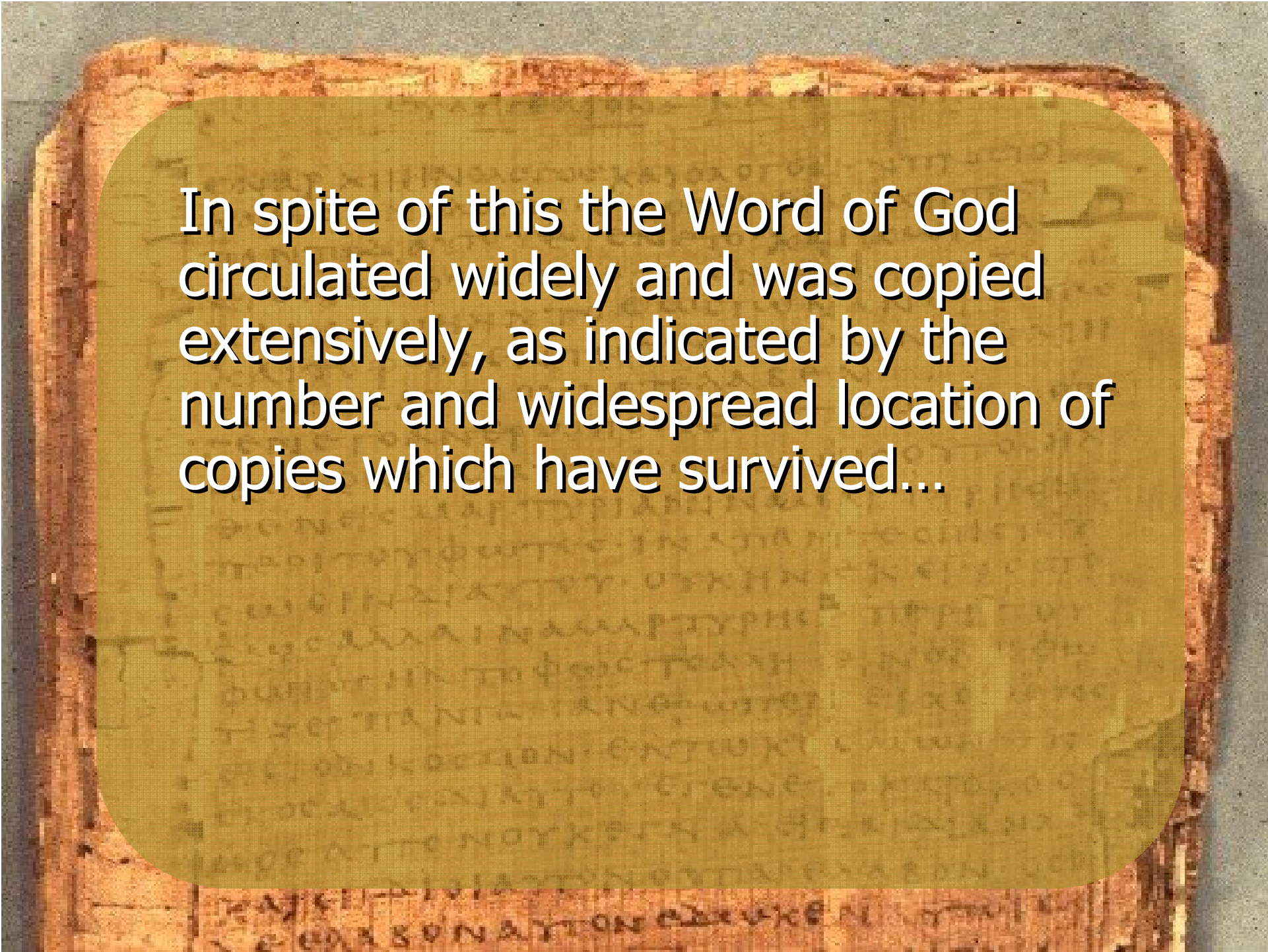
The NET BIBLE Story

Then and Now...

In the beginning...
the Author and the Word

The image shows a close-up of a parchment scroll, likely representing an ancient letter. The scroll is made of light brown, textured material and is partially unrolled. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the center of the scroll, containing white text with a black outline. The text describes the historical method of sending letters before modern communication technologies.

When Paul wrote his letters there was no E-mail, no Internet, no postal service for private citizens...letters were carried by servants, friends, or associates. When they arrived, letters to congregations were read aloud, since many people could not read and copies were prohibitively expensive anyway.

The image shows a close-up of an ancient papyrus scroll. The scroll is made of light brown, fibrous material and has several lines of text written in dark ink. The text is in a cursive script, likely Greek or Latin. A semi-transparent green oval is superimposed over the center of the scroll, containing white text. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

In spite of this the Word of God circulated widely and was copied extensively, as indicated by the number and widespread location of copies which have survived...

Translating the Word

The work of translating the Old Testament began long before the New Testament was even written. In the second and first centuries B.C., the Hebrew scriptures were already being translated into Greek, the trade and commercial language of the entire known world. The Bible many early Christians used was a Greek Bible, known as the **Septuagint** because of the tradition that seventy scribes had translated it.



It was not long until the early Christians began translating the Bible, including the New Testament, into other languages: **Latin** was one of the earliest, but many others followed...

**Syriac,
Coptic,
Armenian,
Georgian,
Gothic...**

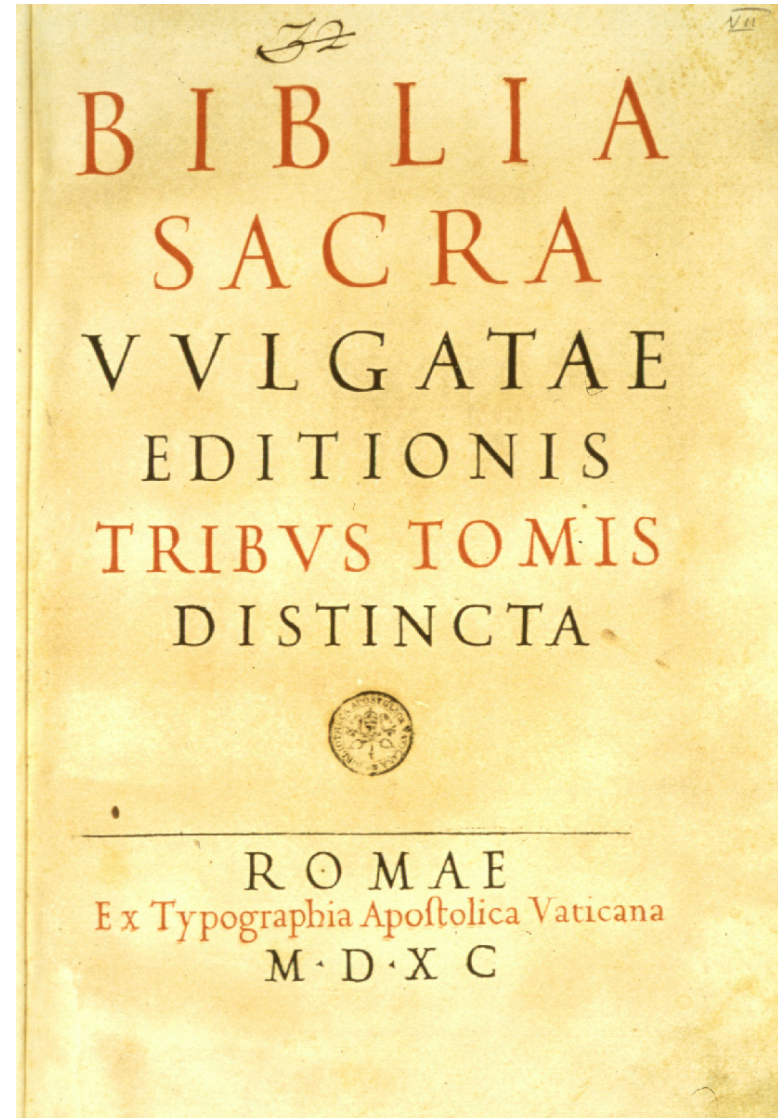
Jerome
and the Latin Vulgate

Saint Jerome in His Study

inscribed 1442, attributed to

Jan van Eyck

(Flemish, ca. 1390-1441)



At the end of the fourth century Jerome, the greatest biblical scholar of his day, was commissioned by Pope Damasus to prepare a new improved Latin translation, which became known as the **Vulgate**. Basically the work of one man, it would become the standard translation of the Bible for hundreds of years, throughout the Middle Ages and up to the very eve of the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation...

The Bible into English



During the Middle Ages bits and pieces of the Bible were translated into Old English by King Alfred the Great, a scholar-king who died in 901.

**Alfred the Great
(died A.D. 901)**

Later, parts of the Old Testament plus the Gospels were translated by Abbot Ælfric in the 10th century. By 1300 some Psalms and the NT had been translated into Middle English...

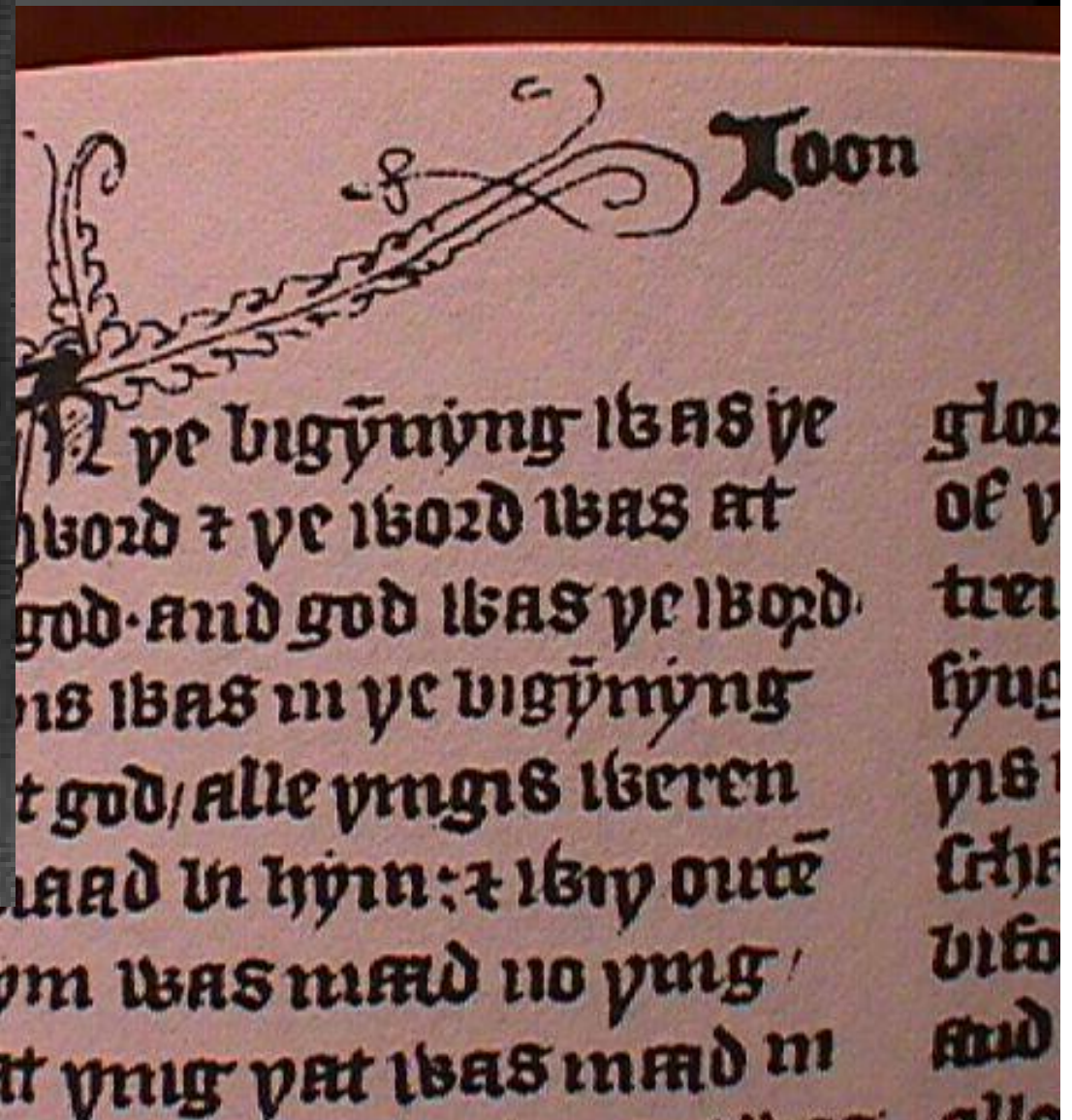
Ælfric's Homilies

but there ^{on} was still
~~no English Bible...~~
and *The Maccabees*

John Wycliffe

In the second half of the fourteenth century Wycliffe and his followers translated the Bible into English. The source they translated from was the Latin Vulgate. As the first translation of the Bible into English, this was a major milestone.

Wycliffe's 1385 New Testament (John 1:1)



At the time, translating the Bible into English was prohibited and penalties were severe.

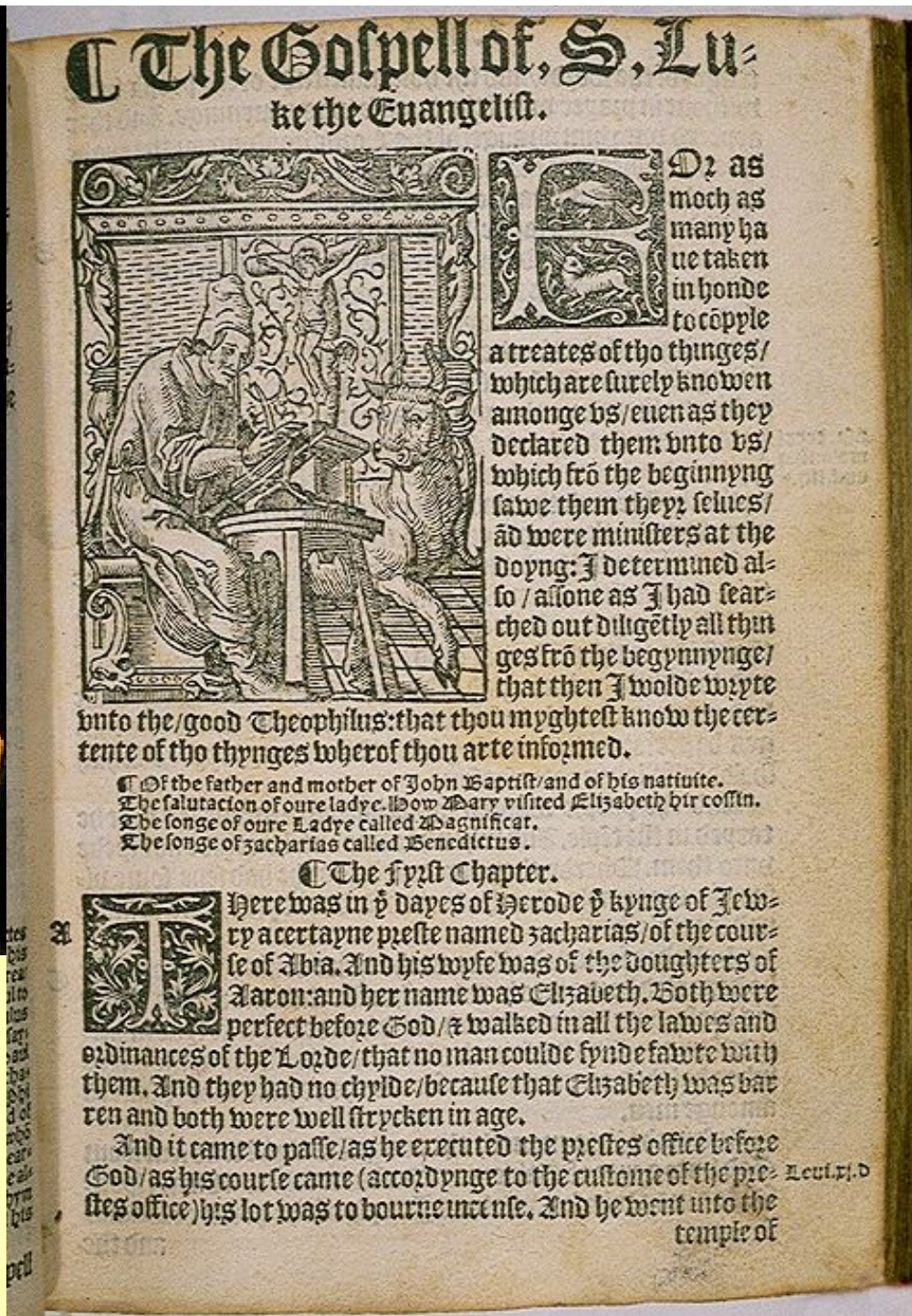
Nevertheless Wycliffe died peacefully in his bed in 1384.

A Martyr for the Word

By 1525 William Tyndale had translated the New Testament into English from the Greek, the original language in which it was written. Tyndale's translation was also the first Bible printed in English, since printing with moveable type had begun some 75 years before. Since it was immediately suppressed by the authorities, it had to be printed on the continent and smuggled into England.



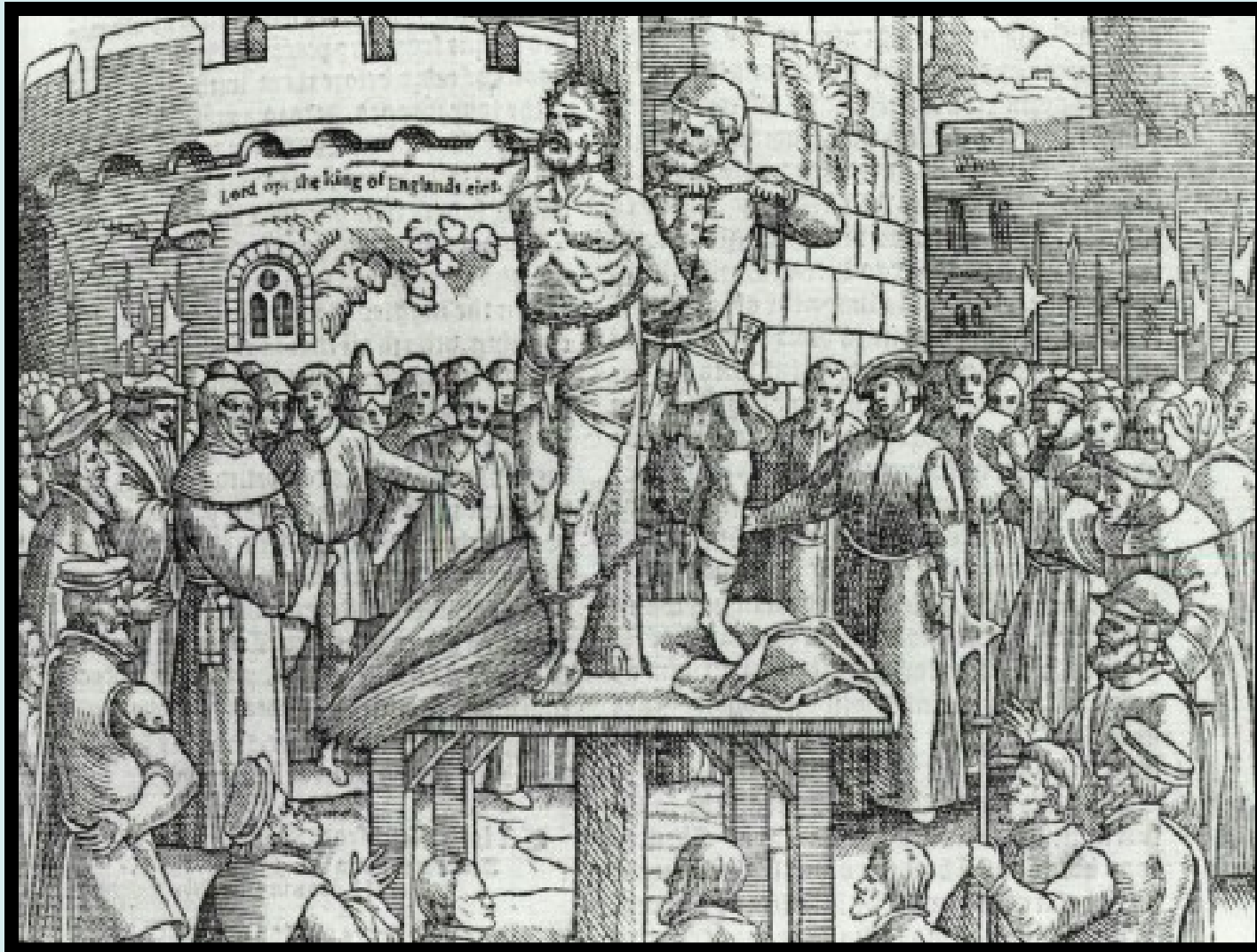
William Tyndale
New Testament, 1525



Tyndale was betrayed and arrested in Antwerp, Belgium in 1535 and executed for translating the Bible into English. He was strangled and then burned at the stake as a heretic on Friday, October 6th, 1536.

His last words were,
“Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.”

William Tyndale



Martyr for the Word of God, 1536

All the King's Men



**King James I
of England**

not that we should appeare approued, but that ye should doe that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

9 For we are glad when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, euen your perfection.

10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present, I should vse sharpenesse, according to the power which the Lord hath giuen me to edification, and not to destruction.

11 Finally, brethren, farewell: Bee perfect, bee of good comfort, bee of one minde, let vs in peace, and the God of loue and peace shall bee with you.

12 Greet one another with an holy kisse.

13 All the Salutes salute you.

14 The grace of the Lord Iesus Christ, and the loue of God, and the communion of the holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

The second Epistle to the Corinthians, was written from Philippios, a citie of Macedonia, by Titus and Lucas.

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians.

CHAP. I.

5 He wondereth that they haue so soone left him, and the Gospel, 8 And accuseth those that preach any other Gospel then hee did, 11 He learned the Gospel, not of men, but of God: 14 and sheweth what he was before his calling, 17 and what he did presently after it.

Paul an Apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Iesus Christ, & God the Father who raised him from the dead,

2 And all the brethren which are with mee, vnto the Churches of Galatia:

3 Grace be to you and peace, from God the Father, and from our Lord Iesus Christ,

4 Who gave himselfe for our finnes that hee might deliuer vs from this present euill world, according to the will of God, and our Father.

5 To whom bee glory for euer and euer Amen.

6 I maruell that you are so soone remooued from him, that called you into his grace of Christ vnto another Gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would peruert the Gospel of Christ.

8 But though wee, or an Angel from heauen, preach any other Gospel vnto you, then that which we haue preached vnto you, let him bee accursed.

9 As wee sayd before, so say I now againe, If any man preach any other Gospel vnto you, then that ye haue receiued, let him be accursed.

10 For do I now perswade men or God? or doo I seeke to please men? For if I yet please men, I should not be the seruant of Christ.

11 But I certifie you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of mee, is not after man.

12 For I neither receiued it of man, neither

me from my mothers wombe, and called me, by his grace,

16 To reuente his Some in mee, that I might preach him among the heathen, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I by to Hierusalem to them which were Apostles before mee, but I went into Arabia, and returned againe vnto Damascus.

18 Then after three yeeres, I went by to Hierusalem, to see Peter, and abode with him fifteene dayes. *Or, returned.*

19 But other of the Apostles saw I none, save James the Lords brother.

20 Now the things which I write vnto you behold, before God I lie not.

21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia,

22 And was vnknowen by face vnto the Churches of Iudaea, which were in Christ.

23 But they had heard onely, that hee which persecuted vs in times past, now preacheth the faith, which once he destroyed.

24 And they glorified God in me.

CHAP. II.

1 Hee sheweth when hee went vp againe to Hierusalem, and for what purpose, 3 And that Titus was not circumcised, 11 And that he resisted Peter, and told him the reason: 14 why hee and other being Iewes, doe beleue in Christ to bee iustificed by faith, and not by works, 20 and that they liue not in sinne, who are sanctified.

Then foure yeeres after, I went by againe to Hierusalem with Barnabas, and couke Titus with me also.

2 And I went by by reuelation, and communicated vnto them that Gospel, which I preach among the Gentiles, but I privately to them which were of reputation, (least by any means I should runne, or had runne in vaine. *Or, secretly.*)

Page from
pre-1650
King James
Bible

King James was unhappy with the doctrinal notes in the Geneva Bible. This led to a ban on such notes in the KJV, although alternate translations and word meanings could be shown.

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians.

CHAP. I.

5 He wondereth that they have so soone left him, and the Gospel, 8 And accuseth those that preach any other Gospel then hee said, 11 He learned the Gospel, not of men, but of God: 14 and sheweth what he was before his calling, 17 and what he did presently after it.

Did an Apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, & God the Father who raised him from the dead, 2 And all the brethren which are with mee, unto the Churches of Galatia:

3 Grace be to you and peace, from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 Who gave himselfe for our sinnes that he might deliuer us from the present euill world, according to the will of God, and our Father.

5 To whom bee glory for euer and euer

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21 And I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia,

22 And was knownen by face vnto the Churches of Iudea, which were in Christ.

Marginal
Notes
in KJV

might preach him among the heathen, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

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19 But other of the Apostles saw I none, save James the Lords brother.

20 Now the things which I write vnto you behold, before God I lie not.

**85% of the words
in the KJV were Tyndale's
words...**

Printing the Word



**Johannes
Gutenberg**



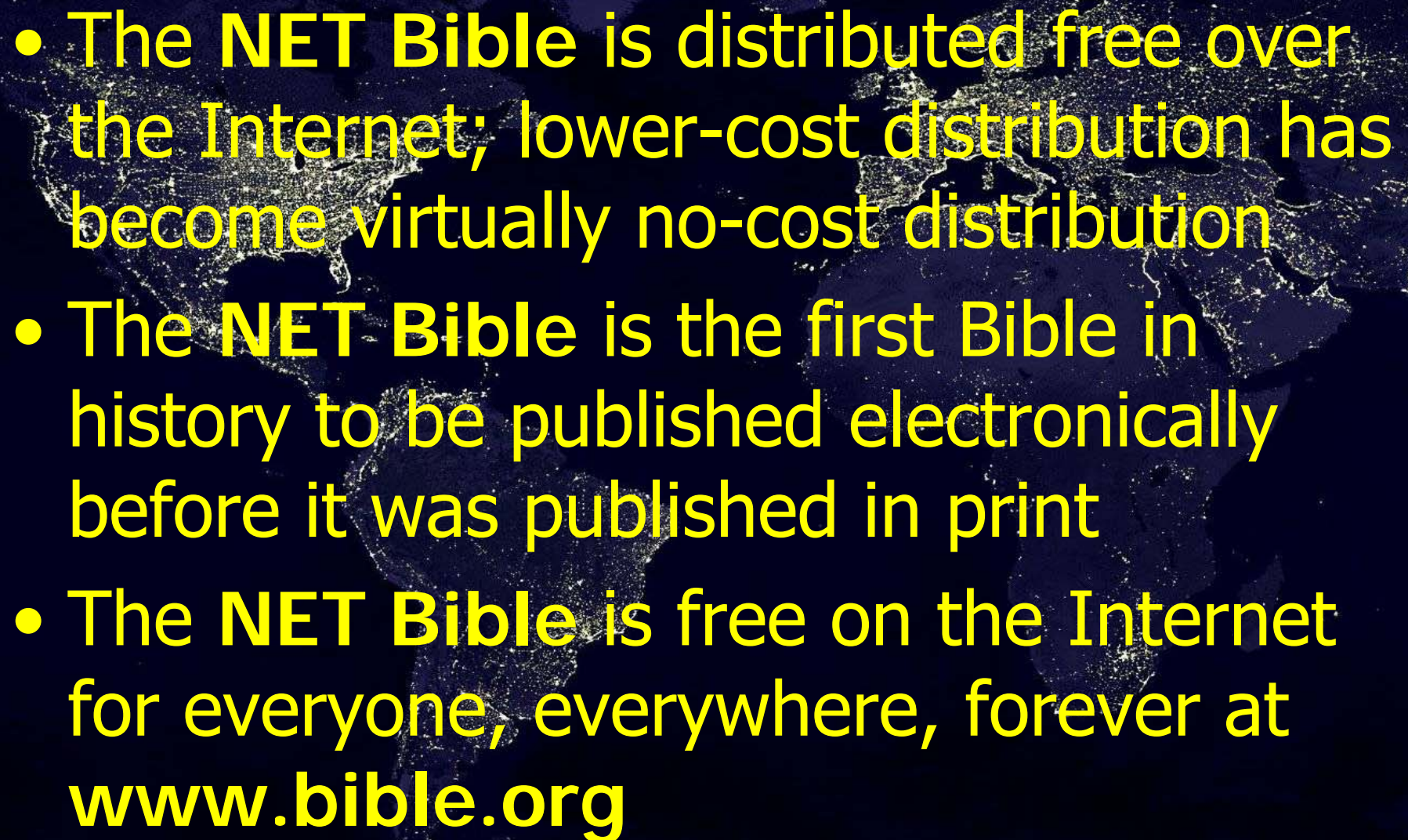
A century and a half before the King James Bible, the German Bible was being printed for the first time.



Johannes Gutenberg, Mainz 1455

- Lower cost distribution of Bibles was now possible
- From Gutenberg's printing press there is a direct line to the rise of Bible Societies which aimed to distribute the Scriptures widely and affordably

The Bible Without Boundaries

- 
- The **NET Bible** is distributed free over the Internet; lower-cost distribution has become virtually no-cost distribution
 - The **NET Bible** is the first Bible in history to be published electronically before it was published in print
 - The **NET Bible** is free on the Internet for everyone, everywhere, forever at www.bible.org

Copyrighting the Scriptures

©2005

The Copyright Challenge

- The KJV (AV) is copyrighted in the UK
- The ASV (1901) was the first Bible to be copyrighted in the US
- All modern translations are copyrighted to protect the text
- ***But*** royalties are charged for use in both printed and electronic format

A New Approach:
“Ministry First”

A New Approach to Copyright

- The NET Bible is copyrighted too, to protect the integrity of the text and to prevent unwanted associations
- *But* royalties are *not* charged for printed copies distributed free in ministry or for other worthwhile ministry use (“Ministry First”)

Trusting the Translators

Today, with more than 25 English translations of the Bible and 40 of the New Testament, the question of trust has become more important than ever: How can you know your preferred translation is faithful to the original writings of John, Peter, or Paul? How do you know the reference tools used by the translators were up to date? How do you know their scholarship is current or what materials they used?

It's in the Notes

In the NET Bible...

- The translators and editors preserved in the notes why they made the translation decisions they did— **now you know.**
- The notes also show major interpretive options— **no more guessing.**
- The notes explain cultural differences and historical difficulties— **all in one place.**
- The notes show major textual variants (places where some biblical manuscripts have different wording from others).

Why is my favorite verse
translated that way?

“ Never before
in the history of the English Bible
has so much information
been given to the readers
about why the translation reads
the way it does. ”

W. Hall Harris III, Ph.D.
Project Director and Managing Editor
The NET BIBLE

John 3:16 in the NET Bible

“For **this is the way** God loved the world: he gave his one and only Son that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

NET Bible Note on John 3:16:

- **tn** Or “this is how much”; or “in this way.” The Greek adverb οὕτως (*houtos*) can refer (1) to the *degree* to which God loved the world, that is, to such an *extent* or *so much* that he gave his own Son (see R. E. Brown, *John* [AB], 1:133-34; D. A. Carson, *John*, 204) or (2) simply to the *manner* in which God loved the world, i.e., by sending his own son (see R. H. Gundry and R. W. Howell, “The Sense and Syntax of John 3:14-17 with Special Reference to the Use of Οὕτως...ὥστε in John 3:16,” *NovT* 41 [1999]: 24-39). Though the term more frequently refers to the manner in which something is done (see

Note on John 3:16 (con't.):

BDAG 741-42 s.v. οὕτω/οὕτως), the following clause involving ὥστε (*hoste*) plus the indicative (which stresses actual, but [usually] unexpected result) emphasizes the greatness of the gift God has given. With this in mind, then, it is likely (3) that John is emphasizing **both** the *degree* to which God loved the world as well as the *manner* in which He chose to express that love. This is in keeping with John's style of using double entendre or double meaning. Thus, the focus of the Greek construction here is on the *nature* of God's love, addressing its mode, intensity, and extent.

The NET Bible Vision

- When Paul asked Timothy to bring from Troas “the scrolls, especially the parchment ones,” they had to be hand carried over Roman roads or by sea
- Today the NET Bible travels around the world at the speed of light on the Internet and is accessible anywhere, anytime, at no cost

- The NET Bible's copyright is flexible to allow for individuals and organizations to distribute it royalty-free in ministry use
- The NET Bible will always be available for free access and free download at the website of bible.org (www.bible.org)

- The NET Bible's notes provide unparalleled user confidence that the translation is faithful, accurate, based on up-to-date reference tools and recent scholarship

From Roman Roads to Internet

bible.org
Trustworthy Bible Study Resources™

Home
of the



Paul used Roman roads...
Gutenberg used a press...
We use the Internet...

GALILEE AND THE NORTH

...and we use Satellite Maps



MAP 1

How important is this
new translation?

“The NET BIBLE is the most
significant accomplishment
in the history of Bible publishing
since Tyndale in the 16th century!”

Craig Lampe, Ph.D.
Biblical Historian
Curator, The Bible Museum
Collector of Biblical Antiquities

