



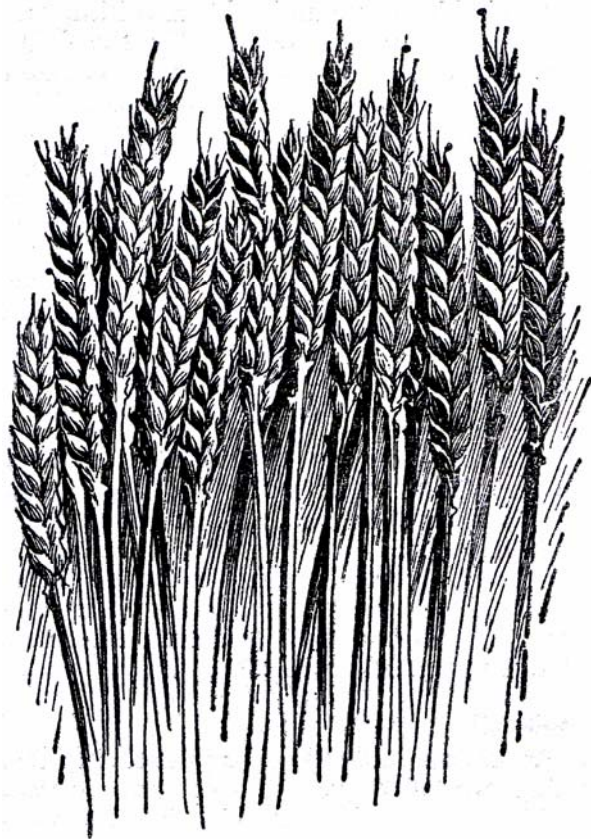
LINE UPON LINE

studying our pure Bible...

LESSON THREE — GATHERING INTO ONE

¶ Gathering

When seeds are scattered into the ground, plants grow, and these produce food.



Jesus said: "And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth,

immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." (Mark 4:26-29).

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." (Matthew 12:30).

Satan and general sin have been behind the scattering of the Word of God. Also, many Christians have scattered the Word by sowing it in many places around the world. All this must come to fruit. And that is exactly what already has been happening in history.

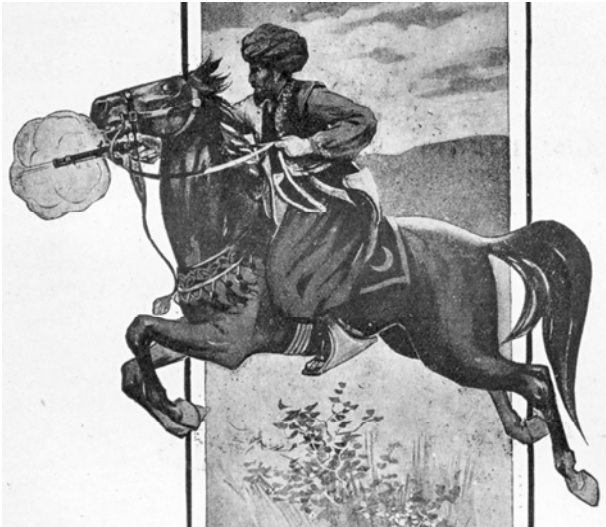
¶ Key events

There is a series of key events which occurred in history which allowed Englishmen to have their own Bible.

The first thing was that the Turks, using gunpowder weapons, were able to conquer Constantinople.

Constantinople was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and the head of the Orthodox Church. It had been the centre for the preservation of the New Testament in Greek, but as the Turks overtook the Greek lands, the copies of the New Testament were being brought into Western Europe. Once there, scholars could view these manuscripts for the first time.

Another thing of vital importance was the invention and development of the printing press.



A Turkish warrior

European scholars could look at accurate copies of the New Testament written in Greek, and began to see which words really did belong to Scripture. They then printed these Bibles, which were more accurate than the Latin translations.

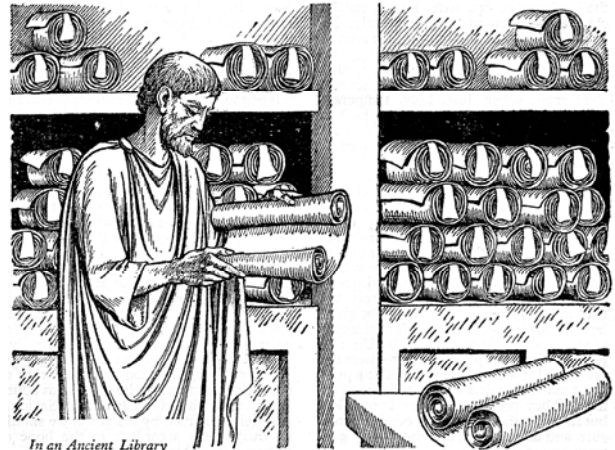


From Wycliffe to Gutenberg's press

In the Reformation, the Protestant scholars were able to take the accurate printed Greek and translate into European languages. Soon the Bible was able to be in the hands of both rich and poor folk.

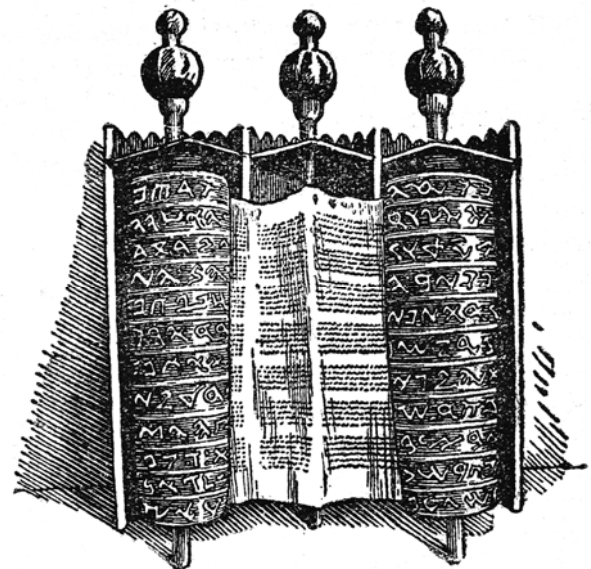
Thirdly, at the same time that the printing press was invented, and the Turks were overrunning Eastern

Europe, the English language, not French, was settled as the language of England. This is because for over a hundred years, the French-speaking English kings had been fighting against the French, and lost.



In an Ancient Library

The story of the Old Testament is similar. The Old Testament was once housed in copies, whether at Jerusalem, or at synagogues, or in possession of scattered Jews.



A Hebrew scroll

The old scrolls were also printed, ready to be used as accurate copies of the Hebrew Old Testament, which were then used by the Reformers to translate Bibles into the common languages of Europe, especially English.

¶ Good Tradition

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 1:13).

Christians were able to receive of the good tradition which had come down to them through the years. The English Bible was begun, and soon improved upon in a series of purifications.



William Tyndale

¶ English Bibles

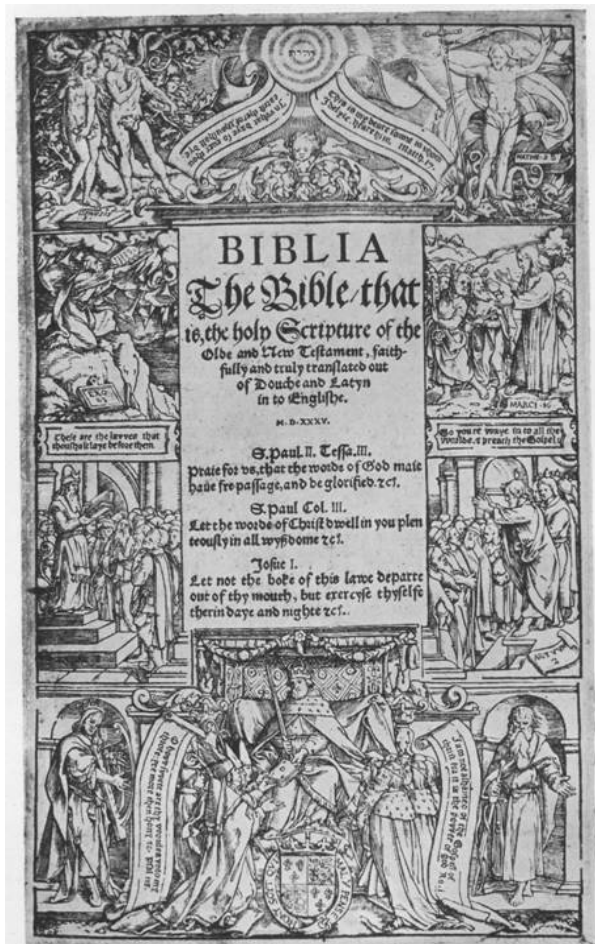
"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:6, 7).

The Scripture shows that God's Word has gone through a process of purification in the Earth.

It must be a sign from God that there are seven major English Bible versions leading to the King James Bible.

When the King James Bible was translated, their instructions were to follow the following versions:

- Tyndale's (1525, 1534),
- Matthew's (1537),
- Coverdale's (1535),
- The Great (1539),
- The Geneva (1560), and primarily,
- The Bishops' (1568).



Coverdale's Bible

Were the English Bibles bad, that the King James Bible had to be made? No, but out revising many good

ones, they were able to produce one principal good one.



The Bishops' Bible

In 1604, King James the First ordered that "there should be one more exact Translation of the Holy Scriptures into the *English Tongue*". The translators recognised that this would be the final English Bible.

A great number of learned men (Anglicans and Puritans) from London, Oxford and Cambridge were to be employed in the translation. Then it was edited where all the learned men had input into it, and it was finally printed in 1611. It became Britain's national treasure, the literary touchstone.

The King James Bible is both the most loved and (by others) the most hated book. Millions of copies of it have been distributed all across the world, and today it is freely available anywhere on Earth (by the internet).



King James the First

The King James Bible is particularly important in fulfilling some major Bible prophecies.

"But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith" (Romans 16:26).

Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matthew 24:14).