

## Which Bible?

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Looking for a Bible? There are dozens of English Bibles available, all claiming their translation is from the original languages. With all the choices, choosing a Bible can be a daunting task. Do these Bibles differ one from another? If so, how and why? Do you rely on the recommendation of a friend, or maybe someone from the religion you frequent?

The Internet is, so far, a good tool in your search for a Bible, if you can trust the site offering the information. Organizations and groups have their own ideas as to what the Bible should say based on their theological leanings and this is a major consideration when choosing a Bible. The Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, didn't like what the real Bible had to say on some of their pet doctrines, so they printed their own Bible to make sure it aligned with their beliefs. That's kinda cheating...

Then there's the "Queen James" version where they leave out the naughty bits and pieces they would rather not hear, things that don't go along with their vision for the world, and includes a perspective they prefer. You can remove and change all you want, but it doesn't make it go away.

A recommendation from a friend is only as good as the friend's theology, knowledge, and understanding. What does your friend believe or know about the Bible and true doctrine? Maybe a friend of your friend gave them a recommendation and their friend knows little to nothing about the Bible. Maybe your friend just likes the the color of the cover.

Much of Protestant religion today follows Covenant Theology. Many of the Bible translations come from Covenant theologians who are Amillennial, believing there is no tribulation, no rapture, no 1000 year reign of Christ, and many ideas that lack biblical support. A Bible from these sources will have various subtle verse changes to accommodate their opinions. One consistent difference in Bible translations is the penchant to diminish Christ's deity.

Some religious groups proudly proclaim themselves KJO believers, meaning they only use the King James Bible, believing it alone is God's Bible to the English-speaking world. They even go so far as to say the Queens English is the only inspired diction for the Bible. Really? That said, the KJO camp has some good points that one should consider before purchasing a Bible or Bible software.

Comparing many Bibles over the years, my choice is the King James Version. It has the best history and translation process considering the rest of the Bibles available. I particularly appreciate the accuracy. Some may hesitate due to a perceived readability issue, but adapting to the old English is not a problem and takes little time. The trade-off in accuracy is more than worth the slight effort of adapting to the diction.

Most importantly, the car is no good without gas and the Bible is worthless without the Spirit of God. With God's Spirit, the child of God can understand the Word of God. While the Bible translation you choose is important, all the good ones get you in the ballpark and the Spirit will do the rest.