

“A Translation Tour” Study Guide by Pastor Ruud
Behind the Book(s): A History of How Our Bible Came to Be Series
Third of Four Presentations ~ Winter 2023

Overview

Originating in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, the Bible is now the most translated book in the entire world. According to the Wycliffe Bible Alliance, as of 2022 the Bible has been translated into 724 languages, and parts have been translated to more than 3000 languages. The number of English translations numbers nearly 900. Many different considerations go into Biblical translation including which scholars take up the work, the sources used, style, intended audience, and even theological and/or denominational claims, all which could make even choosing a single English translation a daunting task. Finding the best translation for one’s personal use could boil down to a matter of what seems to suit a person best in one’s life of faith and study. Finally, a good translation is one which helps people learn the great story, dig into the complexities and depth of wisdom and discernment, and finally helps create, deepen, broaden, and maintain the mystery, beauty, and life of faith.

Question Pre-presentation:

How did you choose your Bible? Was it a gift? Do you have a favorite Bible or translation? Why? What, if anything, do you know about the nature of the particular translation?

Questions Post-presentation:

There are different styles or methods of translation ranging from word-for-word to a more nuanced and personal paraphrase. What are some of the pros and cons of each style and/or why might one consult one particular style or another?

How much does theological or even historical merit factor into one’s choice of translation? How or when might it matter?

Prayer: *Holy and gracious God, we give thanks for your Word – written, spoken, and living. Continue to open our hearts and minds to discover, discern, and demonstrate the good news you seek to speak to us in every age and in every place. Make us to carry your Word and let it not return to you empty, in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

