

or version, made either in Wyclif's time, or since, be read, either in whole or in part, publicly or privately, under penalty of the greater excommunication, till the said translation shall be approved, either by the bishop of the diocese, or a provincial council, as occasion shall require." The last two decrees dealt with the deprivation of the disobeyers, and the process to be employed in dealing with the so-called heretics. John Wyclif died on December 31, 1384. And in 1428 Richard Fleming, the bishop of Lincoln under the command of pope Martin V, dug up and burned Wyclif's bones and cast his ashes into the "Swift River" which flowed by Lutterworth.

Every copy of Wyclif's Bible was transcribed by hand, and could take up to a whole year for a single copy. But then in 1454-1455 A.D. the Bible became the first book that was ever printed by moveable type. This was the latin Gutenberg Bible printed in Johann Gutenberg's shop in Mainz, Germany.

Cardinal Francisco Ximenez de Cisneros, founder of the trilingual university at Alcala de Henares (Complutum, in latin), supported the polyglot work of the Hebrew and Greek scholars by providing the manuscripts from Venice and Rome. The Polyglot Bible of Alcala consisted of the Hebrew text, Jerome's Latin, the Greek Septuagint, Targum Onkelos (Aramaic translation) with a latin translation, the New Testament in Greek, and various indexes and study aids. All six volumes were completed in 1514-1517 A.D., but the Biblia Poliglota Complutense (the Polyglot Bible of Alcala) was not officially published and set into type until 1522 A.D. Ximenez asserts in the 1517 preface that the "meaning of heavenly wisdom" can emerge from any language; nonetheless after translation, Scripture remains full of meanings, "which are not able to be understood in any way other than from the very fount of the original language."

At a table sitting in company, a certain learned theologian and learned doctor said, "We were better to be without God's laws [being, the Holy Scriptures], than the pope's [being, the Decretals]." After hearing this, Tyndale exclaimed, "I defy the pope and all his laws! If God spare me life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scriptures than you do."

William Tyndale

In 1526 A.D. William Tyndale was the first to use the original Greek

scriptures to translate the New Testament scriptures into English. Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of London, aggressively traced throughout all the country trying to buy up all the copies and burn them. His acts to censor, silence, and expunge Tyndale's work was almost completely thorough. But in 1534, Tyndale resumed publishing and revised it very slightly in 1535 A.D.

In 1534, right before Tyndale's publication was about to appear, an English refugee, named George Joye, purposely distorted a copy of Tyndale's New Testament English, and published it in Tyndale's name. One instance of Joye's grievous corruption was altering the word "resurrection" into the "life after this life", as one that abhorred the name of the resurrection. This New Testament altered by Joye, was a great offense: First, he had daringly corrupted the word of God. Second, he had done this in order to introduce and disseminate his own heretical doctrine. Third, he had done this in such a way as to cause his errors to be ascribed to Tyndale, as though Tyndale had been guilty of this gross dishonesty in translating, and as if he held these erroneous doctrines. In consequence of this, Tyndale prefixed another prologue to his genuine translation, saying, "As concerning all I have translated or other wise written, I beseeche all men to reade it, for that purpose I wrote it: even to bringe them to the knowledge of the scripture. And as farre as the scripture approveth it, so farre to alowe it, & if in anye place the worde of God dysalow it, there to refuse it, as I do before oure savyour Christ & his congregacion. And where they fynde fautes, let them shew it me, if they be Nye, or wryte to me if they be farre of: or wryte openly against it & improve it, & I promyse them, if I shall perceave that there reasons conclude, I will confesse myne ignorance openly." Englishman Henry Phillips then betrayed Tyndale to the Antwerp authorities, and he was kidnapped and martyred. He was accused of heresy and imprisoned at Vilvorde, near Brussels, for sixteen months. And on the morning of October 6, 1536 A.D., he was tied to the stake, strangled, and burned.

In 1540 English parliament adopted the Act of Six Articles which reaffirmed various Roman Catholic teachings, and the "Lutheran's" (adherents to excommunicated Martin Luther and his principles) were subjected to persecution. In 1543 A.D. English Parliament banned Tyndale's version, and all public reading of the Bible by laymen. Edward VI became king of England in 1547, and Parliament repealed the censorship Act of Six Articles, and rescinded the restrictions on printing and public reading of the English versions. In 1554 the Queen, "Bloody" Mary Tudor,