

reversed Edward's reforms and enforced Romanism in England. The following year John Rogers which was Tyndale's close surviving friend, who also published the English version of the Bible, was martyred and burned at the stake. And also the archbishop of Canterbury, English reformer Thomas Cranmer, was also burned at the stake.

Geneva Bible

The Christians fled Queen Mary's brutality and sought refuge down in Geneva, Switzerland. William Whittingham, the brother-in-law of the Puritan and French reformer John Calvin, set out at Geneva to improve the English translation. In 1557 Whittingham published the first English New Testament printed in roman type, and was the first to divide it with numbered verses (originally made by Robert Stephanus for his Graeco-Latin Bible of 1551). In 1559 Queen Elizabeth rejected Romanism, and expelled the Romanist bishops. Soon after, being safe now, the Christian leaders could return home to England.

After the initial work of William Tyndale and John Roger's, the 1560 Geneva Bible was the first complete Bible which based its translation on the original Greek and Hebrew Scriptures, rather than on the Latin Vulgate. And in 1560 A.D. William Whittingham, along with his colleagues, produced the highly esteemed Bible at Geneva, a complete Bible, translated according to the Hebrew and Greek, and conferred with the best translations in divers languages, and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth I. The "Geneva Bible" was sometimes called the Breeches Bible", because of the translation of Genesis 3:7: "they [Adam and Eve] knewe that they were naked, and they sewed fig tree leaves together, and made them selues breeches." It was this Geneva Bible, the "Thanksgiving Bible" which the pilgrims brought to America upon the Mayflower and settled in the English colonies of Massachusettes and the east coast, and on this- Thee Bible- in which the Bible knowledge of the Puritans was built up during the Civil War.

The Geneva Bible's marginal notes were called glosses, which were later written into the Bibles, and these angered King James so that he banned the Bible in England. King James called the Geneva Bible "seditious" and made it a felony to own one.

King James Version

The "Bishop's Bible" was introduced in England in competition but it failed to win popular support. In 1604 English bishops and Puritan leaders met with King James I in the Hampton Court Conference, and there King James set 54 scholars for the revision of the "Bishop's Bible". The scholars relied heavily upon the Geneva Bible of 1560 A.D. for their translation, but they omitted the marginal notes which enraged the king and his servants in the church. The committee of churchmen led by theologian Lancelot Andrewes, and the finest scholars in England, produced the "King James Bible". In 1611 A.D. it was dedicated to King James, and was published and authorized in England.

The Hebrew criteria of the Biblical Old Testament books

- 1) Valid authorship- the scripture had to be written by a Prophet, or holy man inspired by God. She.34:27+ Deb.6:1-8+ Yir.30:2.
- 2) Virtuous- the scripture had to be virtuous: being wonderful, enlightening, righteous, faithful, the truth, everlasting, and life-giving, (and may cause repentance- Ne.8:9-12+ Yir.23:22). Pra.119:93,97-105,129,130,137,138,142,144,151,152,154,160+ Yes.55:11.
- 3) Right doctrine- the scripture had to be in accordance with scripture already given and proven worthy. Yes.8:20+ Yir.14:14,15+ 23:21,22.
- 4) Date written- the scripture had to be written between 3507 B.C. (from the first scripting), and 458 B.C. (from Nechemiah's time).
- 5) Usage- the scripture had to be accepted and read in the hearing of the Hebrews. Ne.8:1-12.

When writings failed this criteria, they were totally rejected by the Hebraic leaders and the Jewish people, and counted as NonScripture, just as the apocrypha and pseudepigrapha writings have been rightly rejected and never a part of Holy Writ.