

version, some feel no compulsion to obey Divine Truth. Others argue that with these differences in the Bible it is impossible to know what to believe, and so they beg eternal questions. Although these differences are no reflection on the character and composition of the Bible, they are a problem to some people. Why is it, since God gave us the Bible and the Spirit has preserved it through copies made by men, that we have varying versions and readings in the translations?

The correct answer to this question begins with the subsequent question. How many people do you know that really understand Hebrew and Greek, the languages in which most of the Bible was written? These languages are still in use; but they have changed over the years, and very few people understand them. Obviously, if people are to read the Bible, it must be translated from Hebrew and Greek into other languages.

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This was the burden of Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, and others. They felt the Bible was meaningless unless people could read it. Previously the Scriptures had been translated into relatively few languages and were known to the medieval world principally through Latin. But with the influence of these men, a change took place; and the Scriptures have since been carried into many different languages for all races of people. The fulfillment of this burden gives us several reasons for the different versions, which reasons help us understand the present composition of our Bible.

A different text may have been used as the basis for translation. For example, the reading of Acts 14:2 in the King James Version, based on the best texts, is "the unbelieving Jews . . ." But in the ancient manuscript known as Codex Bezae, the reading is "the chief rulers of the Jews and the