

Matthew's Bible in 1537, a reissue of Tyndale and done without the knowledge of the king!

Taverner's Bible in the Tyndale tradition and completed in 1539.

The Great Bible, by Coverdale and given as the new cathedral Bible for public reading. It used a Greek text in background and compared itself with the Tyndale/Coverdale sequence in translations. It was followed by a number of "independent" translations between 1547 and 1553..products of Edwardian freedom.

The Geneva Bible, 1557. This Bible showed text and verse divisions and offered notes and commentaries, interpretative comments, etc. It was among the first of the "annotated" Bibles and is still in print today.

The Bishop's Bible, 1568, replaced the pulpit use of the Great Bible.

The Douai Bible, 1568, previously discussed and although outmoded by more recent catholic versions, is still available and a good translation overall.

Additional data on all these Bibles may be had in the CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE, among other works. Note that this is not a complete list and it tends to show the great interest in Bible translation in the years preceeding the work of the KJV. A period of intense scholarly activity sets the stage for more permanent and meaningful works...in almost every case.

Plan of the Work

A wide field of scholars was selected. Men were chosen for their scholarship and breadth of knowledge...without regard to church. So far as we can see they were all evangelical in their day and the ecclesiastical affiliations were broad. A few scholars refused to help on account of the ecumenical force of workers but by and large the finest of Biblical scholarship was enlisted for the work. The preliminary work was begun in 1604 with a basic set of four committees...each doing a section and comparing it with others. There was to be a constant consultation with other versions and original languages. The Greek text was essentially that of Erasmus in comparison with the Geneva studies of Beza, et al., and the Old Testament was essentially