

An Editor's Foreword

The Bible is a grand mansion with many varied rooms: on one floor is the Old Testament; on the next, the New Testament. Their books are the interconnected rooms into which pilgrims—the Christian faithful—have come and gone for nearly two millennia. Those rooms have become exceedingly familiar to many by means of standard translations such as the *King James Version* and the *Revised English Bible*. Others have made their way into the Scriptures via more recent translations. Read but a few of these recent versions and you will be struck by the distinct stylistic differences, including variations in word choices and phrasings, from one translation to the next.

English translators of the Bible have had the daunting task of coping with the very different languages and cultures that Hebrew and Greek were two or more millennia ago. They could not hope to reproduce the very style, cadence and sonority of the original Hebrew or Greek in that markedly different language called English. However, in 1525 AD, William Tyndale—in defiance of the Orthodox Christian establishment—was moved of God to successfully translate and print the Scriptures in English from the original Hebrew and Greek. Tyndale's translation set the standard for all subsequent English translations. Following in Tyndale's footsteps and on the success of the *Geneva Bible*, the *King James Bible* translators retained 95% of Tyndale's grand style that magnified the message and meaning of the original books of the two Testaments. Succeeding translations have either kept close to the *KJV* in style, borrowing from its splendor, or have abandoned its style, sacrificing it for a more modern vernacular that gains in ease of comprehension for what it loses in grandeur of expression.

What has long been needed is a restoration of balance between the two extremes. With this in mind, Fred R. Coulter has set out to fill the gap: to produce a fresh, easy-to-read translation that retains the grace and grandeur of the *KJV*—and present the biblical books in their original, inspired manuscript order. To this end, Coulter has studied the early translators who pioneered English translations of the Bible, such as Tyndale, as well as the scholarly corpus of material on the scriptural texts and on Judaic culture which has substantially enriched our comprehension of culture, language and thereby Scripture. Utilizing the fruits of such scholarship has helped to enhance the clarity of this translation.

My charge here has been to be a footnote to that grand endeavor, namely to edit the text produced as well as the commentary and appendices on the Scriptures. My focus has been a nearsighted one if you will: to closely scrutinize those refurbished rooms—the various books of the two Testaments—and inspect them to determine if any of the furniture on display needs further polishing.

This polishing concerned matters of *expression* and *convention*. With regard to *expression*, the key concern as editor was the question of clarity in diction and phrasing: Is a given word problematic in terms of being archaic or ambiguous? Does a phrasing's length, complexity or inverted syntax impede comprehension? Is the style—for example, within individual books—sustained and consistent? As for *convention*, my concern was primarily with grammar and punctuation. Are the grammar, punctuation and usage standard? If not, are the deviations permissible? Are such deviations, if allowed, distracting?

As technical editor for this edition of the Bible, I have followed Fred Coulter from one refurbished room to the next and rigorously applied the above questions. My fervent hope is that this translation sacrifices neither style nor clarity, and thereby provides a more translucent window through which to view the beauties, marvels and profundities of the Bible.

Dr. Will Tomory
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About This Second Edition

This Second Edition of *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order* includes a vital 32-page addition to the appendices—“Understanding Paul’s Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and Commandments of God” (Appendix Z). While some of Paul’s writings are admittedly difficult, widespread misinterpretations of his writings by theologians and teachers have spawned centuries of confusion—especially in Protestantism. Indeed, numerous misplaced assumptions have unfortunately led to a greatly distorted view of God’s Law. Such critical New Testament passages are systematically examined in Appendix Z, showing their correct meaning as originally intended by Paul.

As with all first editions of publications, there are inadvertent errors. In this Second Edition, the unintentional miscues and typographical errors have been corrected. In addition, approximately 1200 Old Testament passages have been brought into sharper focus, giving some a more literal reading. (While that may seem like a great number, it is less than half of one percent of all the verses in the Old Testament.) In the First Edition, for example, Psalm 12:8 reads, “The wicked walk on every side **when the vilest of them is exalted** among the sons of men.” In the Second Edition, the verse has been modified to read, “The wicked walk on every side **when vileness is exalted** among the sons of men.” In all of the passages that have been clarified, their essential meaning remains virtually the same as in the First Edition.

In Genesis chapter one, a slight alteration has been made to give a more literal rendering to how the days of creation are designated. In the First Edition, verse five reads, “And the evening and the morning **were the first day**.” More literal, it now reads, “And the evening and the morning **were day one**.” The first five days of creation are re-designated in this manner. However, the sixth day—as it is specifically the day of preparation—was left to read, “the sixth day.” Since the seventh day is the holy Sabbath of God, we also retained the reading, “the seventh day.”

The additional appendix and the adjustments to the scriptural texts warrant calling this printing a “Second Edition.” In all other aspects, this Second Edition of *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order* is identical to the First Edition published in 2008.

About the Author

Fred R. Coulter attended the University of San Francisco and graduated from San Mateo State College before graduating from Ambassador University (Ambassador College), Pasadena, California, with a BA in Theology in 1964. He was ordained a minister of Jesus Christ in 1965 and pastored churches of God in the Pacific Northwest, the Mountain States, the greater Los Angeles area and Monterey, including the central coast area of California. Coulter completed advanced biblical and ministerial studies from 1972 to 1975 under the Ambassador University Master’s Program. While completing these studies, Coulter was encouraged by his professor of *Koiné* Greek to consider translating the books of the New Testament.

After completing his formal instruction in *Koiné* Greek, Coulter continued to expand his knowledge of Greek for the next thirty years by undertaking a verse-by-verse study of the books of the New Testament using the Byzantine Text. In the course of his study, he was moved to translate the Gospel accounts into clear, easy-to-read English for contemporary readers—resulting in *A Harmony of the Gospels in Modern English*, now in its third edition. Ultimately, Coulter was inspired to translate the entire New Testament. After twelve years of diligent translating, *The New Testament In Its Original Order—A Faithful Version with Commentary* was completed and published in 2004.

Coulter has dedicated his life and talents to proclaiming Jesus Christ as personal Savior for all. Since 1983, he has had an active ministry as president and pastor of the Christian Biblical Church of God, Hollister, California. The CBCG has offices in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South Africa and the United Kingdom serving thousands of people.

Each year, nearly 400,000 people from around the world actively utilize the CBCG’s Web sites—where they find timely, inspiring audio sermons and in-depth biblical study materials covering virtually every topic in Scripture.

With his ministry now spanning 45 years, Fred R. Coulter has again been inspired to undertake the publication of this present work. Following the standard set by his earlier New Testament translation, *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order* endeavors to set forth the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, in plain, easy-to-read English—all in the original, inspired order.

Other Works by Fred R. Coulter

The New Testament In Its Original Order—A Faithful Version with Commentary is the only English New Testament in which the books are arranged in their correct, *original* order. It retains the grace and grandeur of the *King James Version* while clarifying many of its problematic passages. Included are commentaries that answer such questions as: What is the New Testament? Who wrote it? When was it written? Who canonized it? Other commentaries thoroughly explain the history and preservation of the Bible. Various appendices cover numerous controversial New Testament teachings in detail. It is no longer in print. The New Testament Text, Commentaries and Appendices have now been incorporated in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order*.

A Harmony of the Gospels in Modern English brings to life the message and purpose of the true Jesus, portraying His life and ministry in their true historical setting. This easy-to-understand, step-by-step account of the life of Jesus Christ is an indispensable study aid for every serious Bible student.

The Christian Passover details the scriptural and historical truths of the Passover in both the Old and New Testaments, leading the reader step-by-step through every aspect of one of the most vital and fundamental teachings revealed in the Bible. With over 500 pages, the book fully explains the meaning of the Christian Passover—a remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb of God—in a most compelling and inspiring manner. The full meaning of the body and blood of Jesus Christ is revealed, showing the magnitude of God’s love for every person.

The Day Jesus the Christ Died—the Biblical Truth About His Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection is the ONLY book to present “the rest of the story”—left out by Mel Gibson in his epic movie *The Passion of the Christ*. Without the true historical and biblical facts, one cannot fully understand the meaning of Jesus Christ’s horrific, humiliating and gruesome death by beating, scourging and crucifixion. The author presents the *full* biblical account in a most compelling way.

The Seven General Epistles is designed for an in-depth verse-by-verse study of the Epistles of James; I and II Peter; I, II and III John and Jude.

Lord, What Should I Do? Christians today are faced with a confusing world of compromised “Christianity”—in which false doctrinal teachings undermine the true faith of the Bible. This book clarifies the problem and shows what God requires a person to do if they are to find the true faith of Jesus Christ.

Occult Holidays or God’s Holy Days—Which? For centuries the leaders of Orthodox Christendom have sold popular holidays—Halloween, Christmas, New Years, Easter, etc.—to the masses as though they had “Christian” meaning. This book effectively demonstrates that these celebrated holidays are *not* of God—but originated from ancient, pagan religions rooted in satanic occultism. Contrary to the false ideas of men, the true biblical holy days and feasts of God have deep spiritual meaning and outline God’s fantastic plan of salvation for all mankind—past, present and future.

God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days This first-of-its-kind, 598-page work provides a comprehensive look at God’s amazing Master Plan for the human family—precisely as it is outlined by the biblical seventh-day Sabbath and annual holy days. Each chapter is a transcript of an in-depth sermon or Bible study revealing God’s purpose from Genesis to Revelation. Actual sermons are included on an accompanying set of four CDs.

On-line Studies for the serious Bible student—with written study materials and in-depth audio sermons—can be found at cbcg.org; biblicaltruthministries.org and churchathome.org.

This Bible and the above publications are available to order at:
www.amazon.com
York Publishing Customer Service
1-800-642-8346

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, all honor and glory go to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ for making this Bible project a reality. We readily acknowledge that all we have received is because of the love and goodness of God (James 1:17). Analogous to the disciples and apostles, this ministry is built on the strong foundation of all those who have labored and diligently served God before us. Indeed, Jesus' words to His disciples are quite applicable today: "For in this the saying is true, that one sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that in which you have not labored; others have labored [before you], and you have entered into their labor" (John 4:37-38).

Any contemporary translator enters into the work of thousands of faithful men who throughout the ages have fearlessly championed the Word of God—many giving their lives in martyrdom with unwavering faith, as did the prophets of old, the original apostles of Jesus Christ and countless believers. Grateful acknowledgment goes to all those faithful, honest scholars and ministers of the Word, who down through the centuries have meticulously toiled to publish lexicons, dictionaries, commentaries, and histories of the preservation of the Bible—without which this Bible would not be possible.

In countless ways, this effort is the end product of over forty-seven years of studying God's Word and teaching God's people—including over thirty-four years of studying New Testament Greek, which resulted in publishing *The New Testament In Its Original Order*, now in its third printing. An undertaking such as this has obviously required the work of many. Everyone who has shouldered this enormous project "side-by-side" gives special thanks to the brethren of God—a small, dedicated "army of defenders" of the **true faith** of God the Father and Jesus Christ—because their love, loyalty, prayers and financial support has made this publication, with God's blessing, an actuality.

I give my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to my lovely, dear wife, Dolores, for her steadfast and devoted love, patience and personal encouragement in my life, ministry and family—which have helped make this Bible, as well as other publications, possible. Obviously, being the wife of a minister, writer and publisher is no easy task.

Personal acknowledgment goes to E. Michael Heiss, Old Testament Hebrew consultant. He is to be highly commended for his knowledge of Hebrew in helping to develop this new English rendering of the Old Testament from the biblical Hebrew in a manner that is clear and easy to understand. Deep appreciation also goes to William M. Tomory, Ph.D., Professor of English, Southwest Michigan College, for his professional expertise in evaluating the expression and mechanics of the English and for his editing of this new translation. Special thanks go to our editor Philip Neal for his diligent editing of all the Scriptures, commentaries and appendices. Also, thanks go to Carl and Jeanne Franklin who were instrumental in editing *The New Testament In Its Original Order* for its initial publication in 2004. We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of others in the areas of research and writing. We are highly appreciative of Helen Manzo for her expertise in refining the structure and syntax of the English in the commentaries and appendices.

John and Hiedi Voge are to be highly commended for their tireless labor and diligence in the final formatting and proofreading of the entire text. Other proofreaders are: Margie Jacques, Judd and Jeanne Patton, Wayne Stenhouse, Phyllis Daniel, Jim Alexander and Kip Johnson. Additionally, Carl Franklin, Robert Martin, Mike Joseph and Ron Cary have assisted in providing material for chronologies, appendices and maps. The beautiful original artwork for the presentation box and the soft cover edition was designed and produced by Cindy Curley—Curley Creative.

Again, we all give thanks to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ for the blessing of being able to work in this project in the Word of God. We have labored to the end that the reader may find this translation of the Word of God faithful to the original Hebrew and Greek—one that truly reflects the meaning and divine authorship of the original texts. We pray that *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order*—with its accompanying commentaries and appendices—may guide the reader to a better understanding of the original teachings and prophecies of the Old Testament and the New Testament teachings and prophecies of Jesus Christ and His apostles—the complete revealed Word of God to mankind.

Fred R. Coulter
August 2009

A Faithful Translation

The true foundation of all Bible translations is that the *meaning* of the text should be conveyed in as *clear* and *accurate* a manner as possible in one's *own* language. But above all, a translation must be *honest* to the original Hebrew and Greek texts.

What greater responsibility could there be than to translate the Word of God in a precise, authentic and *faithful* manner—neither adding to nor taking away from the words of God! (Rev. 22:18-19). Faithfulness in translating requires fidelity to God and the love of the truth in order to correctly communicate the meaning of the words and phrases of the language being translated.

About This New Translation

The basis for this new translation is the inspired Word of God, originally written and canonized by God's chosen servants in the Hebrew and Greek languages. God the Father and Jesus Christ have jealously guarded the Word of God so it would never be lost or destroyed. Jesus promised He would uphold His words: "The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but **My words shall never pass away**" (Matt. 24:35).

In spite of the attempts of men whose goal is to modify or corrupt the Word of God, the promise of God stands sure. Down through the centuries, God has guided faithful men to reproduce accurate copies of the original God-breathed Hebrew and Greek texts. God has seen to it that authentic copies of the canonized Hebrew texts were maintained by Levitical priests and scribes (Rom. 3:2). With consistency, from the time of Ezra in the 5th century BC, faithful priests and Levites have accurately copied the Hebrew Old Testament. Likewise, from the days of the apostles, faithful scribes have made authentic copies of the Greek New Testament. Today, the Holy Scriptures are faithfully preserved as the Old Testament Masoretic Hebrew Text and the New Testament Received (Greek) Text (*Textus Receptus*).

The Old Testament portion of this new translation is based on the Ben Asher Masoretic Hebrew Text. Fred Coulter collaborated directly with Old Testament Hebrew Consultant, E. Michael Heiss, to develop this faithful version. Together they have copiously combed through each and every word and phrase, producing a version that is faithful to the original Masoretic texts, while retaining much of the grace of the *King James Version*.

The New Testament version is from Coulter's own 2004 translation—*The New Testament In Its Original Order*—translated directly from the Stephens Greek Text of 1550. In translating, Coulter has striven to accurately and clearly convey the meaning of the Greek text as defined by the rules of Greek grammar and syntax—guided by an absolute conviction that each word in the New Testament is authentic and essential for a full understanding of the whole of Scripture. In addition, Coulter consulted with experts in *Koiné* Greek when a term or phrase in the Greek was ambiguous or open to question. This combination of diligent effort and faith in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit has led to a translation that accurately and faithfully sets forth the true meaning of the text of the New Testament.

Criteria for Excellence in Translation

In his book, *The Word of God in English*, Leland Ryken explains that being truthful and faithful to the *original texts* is the **key to excellence** in an English translation. "The only legitimate appeal to readability comes *within* the confines of a translation's having been **truthful to the language of the original**. **Faithfulness to what the Bible actually says** is like a qualifying exam. If a translation does not give us that, it has failed the test, and we can be excused from inquiring into its readability. Within the confines of accuracy to the original text, a translation should strive to achieve **maximum readability by avoiding obsolete words and demonstrably archaic language**..." (p. 92, bold emphasis added).

He adds, "**We need a Bible based on certainty**. What is certain is what the biblical writers *did actually say and write*" (Ibid., p. 98, bold emphasis added).

Ryken notes that the best Bible translations follow these criteria: accuracy and fidelity to the original texts; effective use of diction; preservation of multiple meanings; conveyance of the full ex-

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getical potential of the original text; respect for the principles of poetry and rhythm; and maintenance of the dignity and beauty of the original texts (Ibid., pp. 289-293).

In summary, *faithfulness* in translation involves the following key areas:

- 1) Accurately conveying the meaning of the words of the original text;
- 2) Phrasing that accurately expresses the thoughts of the original writers;
- 3) An understanding of Hebrew and Greek idioms—which cannot be translated literally, but must be translated according to their cultural and historical usage;
- 4) Punctuation that is honest to the original meaning; and,
- 5) The careful insertion of words (in *italics*) to clarify the meaning.

In every respect, this translation has been an endeavor to uphold the true teachings of the Word of God—and to present the Holy Scriptures in their original, God-inspired order. While no translation is flawless, this translation far surpasses the standards of many recent English translations and has indeed fulfilled the requirements for a *faithful* translation.

Philip Neal
2007, 2009

Author's Preface

Why This New Translation?

In modern Western civilization, references to God and the Holy Bible have been largely removed from the public arena. Aside from profanity or cynical ridicule, God is rarely mentioned in the media or popular entertainment. A secular humanist worldview has emerged over the past fifty years, gradually eroding the knowledge of the true God. As a result, a form of “Christianity without God” has developed.

Lloyd Geering—an outspoken advocate of humanistic religion—writes that we in the Western world have been “steadily emancipating ourselves from obedience to a supposed supernatural heavenly Father...” (Geering, *Christianity Without God*, p. 136).

Unfortunately, Geering is correct. For the past 150 years this secularization of Christianity has occurred via a slow, steady incremental erosion of faith and trust in God and His Word, resulting in a destruction of the true knowledge of the Creator God. Geering writes that God has all but vanished from public consciousness: “All public bodies, national and international, are now fully aware that humans themselves must solve the problems of our time and that there is no ‘God’ out there who can be appealed to when all else fails. The once public ‘face of God’ has been forced to retreat to the subjective consciousness of devout individuals and traditional church gatherings” (Ibid., p. 143).

Relative to the removal of God from the public conscience is the progressive move toward “political correctness.” The “politically correct” public-speak language espoused today by government, liberal edu-crats and the media promotes tolerance toward all political, religious and ethnic groups, is gender-neutral and champions homosexuality. As a result, the emphasis of language has shifted to project the paradigm of a “politically correct” atheistic humanism which exalts man while debasing God and His Word.

As a result secularism has grown by leaps and bounds. The release of several best-selling books—such as Richard Dawkins’ *The God Delusion* (2006)—has put atheism on the front lines of current cultural conversation. Dawkins, an outspoken militant atheist with little tolerance for faith and Christianity, said in an interview with *Wired* magazine: “I think we’re in the same position the gay movement was in a few decades ago. There was a need for people to come out. The more people who came out, the more people who had the courage to come out. I think that’s the case with atheists. They’re more numerous than anybody realizes” (*Wired*, “The New Atheism” by Gary Wolf, Nov. 2006). Of Dawkins and others like him, Wolf commented: “The new atheists ... condemn not just belief in God but *respect* for belief in God. Religion [to them] is not only wrong; it’s evil.”

Indeed, thousands of years ago, King David wrote of such pseudo-scholars: “Why do the nations rage and **the people plot in vain**” (Psa. 2:1)—and, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God!’ ” (Psa. 14:1).

Central to this removal of God from the public conscience is the destruction of the Bible itself. Indeed, the foundation of **Christianity is being subverted and corrupted with new “easy-to-read” translations that alter the Word of God** so dramatically that the true message of God has become lost—unrecognizable to the reader. Numerous “contemporary” translations omit or add words—even whole verses. Some “translators” have boldly added entire books that were never part of the original, authentic canon. And today’s “higher criticism” has purported to expose so-called “weaknesses” and “discrepancies” in the authentic texts, undermining the faith of many.

In fact, this assault on the Word of God appears set on the elimination of God from the Bible itself! By changing and corrupting the Scriptures with new versions that use common street language and “politically correct” gender-neutral language, the Scriptures become secularized and profaned!

How Did This Happen?

Today, we are witness to a godless society suffering from the consequences of rejecting the Word of the Lord. God has, however, revealed His will and purpose for mankind in His Word, the Holy Bible—without which men cannot possibly discern the purpose of life.

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The prophet Hosea pulls no punches when he declares that people suffer when there is “**no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land**” (Hosea 4:1). God says: “**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected [true] knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children**” (verse 6).

How did such designs against the Word of God take root in Western civilization—the bastion of Christianity that has published and distributed the majority of the billions of Bibles in the world today? Why do we see a world so deluded, deceived, degenerate and immoral that it is readily embracing a “Christianity without God” and accepting debased, corrupted, blasphemous, “politically correct” Bibles with hardly a whimper of resistance?

We must not overlook the obvious: Central to this issue is the fact that since the 1611 *King James Version* numerous English Bible translations have been produced which tell the story of an insidious pattern of corruption of the Word of God. After the publication of the *King James Version*, virtually nothing was done to change the English Bible. Beginning in 1871, however, Westcott and Hort, with a committee of revisers, began to change the printed Greek text of the Byzantine family, commonly known as the *Textus Receptus* or the Received Text. They produced a revised New Testament Greek text to conform to the inferior *Sinaiticus* and *Vaticanus* Greek texts from which the *English Revised New Testament* in 1881 came, followed by the complete Bible in 1885, known as the *English Revised Version*. Thus began the slow, steady step-by-step, systematic corruption of the Word of God.

After the *English Revised Version*, scores of English versions began to be produced—such as the *American Standard Version*, 1901; *Douay Bible* (Catholic), 1941; *Revised Standard Version*, 1952; *New Testament in Modern English*, J. B. Phillips, 1957; *New American Standard Bible*, 1963; *Living Bible* (Paraphrased), 1971; *New International Version*, 1978; *New King James Bible*, 1983; *New Revised Standard Version*, 1990; and the *New American Standard Bible*, 1997.

Most alarming is the recent trend toward “contemporary” versions of the Bible, in which the emphasis on an accurate translation of the Hebrew and Greek texts has been abandoned in favor of a liberal paraphrase. One of the newest versions—*The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* by Eugene Peterson, 2002—is a freewheeling personal interpretation of the Scriptures that destroys the true meaning of the Word of God with its street-language English. Quite popular with younger people, such irreverent and inaccurate translations dangerously corrupt the inspired doctrinal teachings of the Bible. Yet, when the apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, for example, he used very *precise* Greek in order to fully explain the teachings and doctrines of Jesus Christ.

Other “contemporary” versions include John Henson’s *Good As New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures*—a perverse interpretation of the New Testament that literally destroys the sacred beauty and grace of the Word of God—and *Today’s New International Version* (2002), a “politically correct” gender-neutral version so radical that it is tantamount to having a “Bible without God.”

Such “pseudo-scholars” have rewritten and reinterpreted the Scriptures to fit a modern, post-Christian paradigm. Rather than teaching that people should be subject to the Word of God, they teach that the Word of God should be subject to the people. But believers do not frame the Scriptures; rather, the Scriptures frame the believers. We are to live by every Word of God—which must first be *faithfully* translated to reflect the inspiration of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Over twenty years ago, Edward F. Hills, author of *The King James Version Defended*, wrote a sober warning about the growing laxity of professing Christians. In his 1979 edition, Hills sounded the alarm that unless America returned to its heritage of faith in God the Father and Jesus Christ—diligently using the Bible as the standard for behavior—America’s fall would surely come.

Hills wrote: “As spiritually minded Christians we must work for the [spiritual] re-arming of our country and do everything we can to roll back the tide of atheism and communism which is now engulfing the world. But in order to accomplish this we must first arm ourselves with the *sword of the Spirit* (Eph. 6:17), namely, the true Word of God, which is found in the printed Masoretic text, the *Textus Receptus*, and the *King James Version and other faithful translations*” (Hills, *The King James Version Defended*, 2000, p. 242; bold emphasis added).

The Reasons for This New Translation

The onslaught of vicious attacks from every side against Christianity, God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Word of God have been so overwhelming that the true Word of God and true Christianity

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are in a desperate battle of epic proportions. Satan the devil and the political, secular, atheistic, sexist and religious establishments of this world have united in their efforts to destroy true Christianity and the truth of the Word of God.

It is time for everyone who loves God the Father and Jesus Christ to realistically confront these assaults and have the courage to make a stand for God and His Word—for “if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psa. 11:3). Indeed, God holds each of us accountable—not only to live by every Word of God, but also to stand for the Word of God and defend it.

Christendom has “grown rich and increased with goods and has need of nothing” (see Rev. 3:17). Its faith is so transparently weak that it is on the verge of destruction—ready to implode upon itself because it has grossly compromised with God’s laws and commandments and accepted the world’s philosophy of religious lawlessness. The truth of God’s Word has been replaced with an ungodly, emotional, feel-good religion—an insipid counterfeit Christianity. As a result, the bulk of Christendom is blind and ignorant—*asleep*, while the forces of evil have marshaled their armies to try to destroy the Word of God by corrupting it and replacing it with falsehoods!

However, in spite of the efforts of ungodly men to destroy and corrupt the Word of God with a flood of translations that range from inadequate to blasphemous, Jesus Christ promised, “The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but **My words shall never pass away**” (Matt. 24:35).

It is in response to this ongoing attack against the Scriptures that this new translation, *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order—A Faithful Version with Commentary*, has been produced—in a sincere effort to preserve the truth of the Word of God in an understandable, easy-to-read manner—free from “scholarly” corruption, political “correctness” and crude vernacular language.

The Proper Approach to Translation

This translation is not the work of any committee. Typically, translation committees have demonstrated that they are more interested in carnal-minded, special interest groups—who desire to make the Bible conform to a particular political, sexist or ecumenical religious agenda—than in accurately translating the Word of God. Moreover, they frequently corrupt the Word of God by using common street language and superimposing a gender-neutral language on the Scriptures in an effort to please radical feminists and homosexuals. In summary, they have allowed societal mores to determine how they should present their translations; in effect, they have allowed the community to “frame” the Word of God.

The obligation of any translator of the Scriptures is to present to the reader a *faithful* translation of the God-breathed words—precisely as God moved His faithful servants to write and canonize them. Thus, the philosophy underlying this translation—*The Holy Bible In Its Original Order*—is a return to translating the Word of God *faithfully* from the Hebrew and Greek into English. The goal of this version is: 1) To seek the truth and best represent the original texts’ meaning in English; 2) To convey the Word of God as accurately as possible with the same divine character that is conveyed in the original; 3) To recapture the original teachings of the Old Testament writers and the doctrines of Jesus Christ that the apostles taught the primitive Church as recorded in the New Testament; and 4) To cherish and uphold every “jot and tittle” of the Old Testament writers and of the apostles of Jesus Christ so that, today, true believers may know how to live by every Word of God in a personal, intimate relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Ultimately, the Word of God is a **call to repentance**—a call to return to the true faith of Jesus Christ as taught by the original apostles and written in the original God-breathed Scriptures. In his short Epistle to the followers of Jesus Christ, the apostle Jude wrote a most impassioned plea for true believers to **return to the faith once delivered**. When Jude wrote his urgent message, the apostolic age was coming to a close, a great apostasy was gaining momentum, and false apostles and ministers were leading Christians astray. Likewise, in our day, false teachers and pseudo-scholars are again busily seeking to undermine the Word of God and destroy the faith of true Christians. Jude wrote: “I was compelled to write to you, exhorting *you* to **fervently fight for the faith**, which once for all *time* has been delivered to the saints” (Jude 3-4).

May God the Father and Jesus Christ bless you with a humble heart, a contrite spirit, and a deep hunger and thirst for righteousness and eternal salvation.

Fred R. Coulter
2007, 2009

Why Are There So Many Bibles in the World?

In 1456, at Mainz, Germany, Johann Gutenberg printed the first Bible using movable type. It was a beautiful, artistic folio-size Latin Vulgate. Since that time, various individuals and agencies have translated, produced and distributed the Bible around the world. From Gutenberg to the early nineteenth century, the number of Bibles printed and distributed is not known, as records were not kept. Fairly accurate estimates are available, however, beginning with the early 1800s.

The Bible Society of the United Kingdom calculates that the number of Bibles printed between 1816 and 1975 was 2,458,000,000. By 1992 the estimated number rose to nearly six billion. Furthermore, worldwide sales of the Bible number more than a staggering 100 million each year, far outpacing any other book in history. Without a doubt, the Bible is the best selling book of all time.

This means that as of the year 2007, approximately 7.5 billion Bibles have been distributed throughout the world—with the vast majority still available for use! And these figures do not include the various digital versions of the Bible being used today by millions on computers, Blackberries—and now iPhones.

Currently, the complete Bible has been published in over 450 languages. The New Testament alone has been published in nearly 1,400 languages, with the Gospel of Mark in over 2,370 languages. Although these figures represent less than half of the languages and dialects presently in use in the world, they nonetheless “include **the primary vehicles of communication of well over 90% of the world’s population**” (ipl.org.ar/ref/QUE/FARQ/bestsellerFARQ.html).

Consider what this means. With the world’s population approaching six billion, **there is approximately one Bible for every living person on earth!** There is, however, an uneven distribution of Bibles among the nations of the world. Some countries have very few Bibles compared to their overall populations, such as the Asian nations, the Middle East and the countries of the former Soviet Union where religious freedom—specifically “Christianity”—is not tolerated or, at best, is greatly restricted. On the other hand, countries in the Western World may have more Bibles than people, such as in the United States. The *Harper San Francisco Book Catalog* recently published some interesting statistics. It states that the annual expenditure for Bibles in America is currently \$425 million and that the average American household contains four Bibles (*Harper San Francisco Book Catalog*, May-August, 2007, p. 15).

These statistics reflect the fact that the United States, since its inception, has been a Bible-reading and Bible-believing nation. This is evident in such founding documents as the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Also, the preamble of nearly every state constitution invokes the name “Almighty God.” Until recent times, the Bible traditionally was used for teaching the basic standards of private and public moral conduct. It has been the “foundation” of our laws and judicial system, as well as the moral standard for federal and state governments.

Because of our adherence to the Bible and its principles, the United States has been blessed beyond measure—making it the wealthiest and most generous nation in the world. Principally, the people of America contribute billions of dollars annually to churches and private charities. As well, the U.S. government contributes billions of taxpayer dollars in assistance to many of the downtrodden nations of the world.

In the twentieth century, America has been on the “forefront” when it comes to fighting wars in the name of God to rid the world of evil despotism. Furthermore, for over one hundred years, all denominations of Christian churches in the United States have been the primary leaders in preaching the Gospel to the world. Finally, the Bible Societies of America and Britain are responsible for translating and printing the Bible in hundreds of languages—and distributing them around the globe in a combined effort to bring the Gospel to as many people as possible.

Yet, these stark facts and figures chronicle a story far greater than numbers alone suggest. In reality, they document the awesome fulfillment of Jesus Christ’s prophecy that “assuredly” in the end times the Gospel—which is contained in the whole Bible—would be preached and published throughout the entire world before the end! “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be **proclaimed in all the world for a witness to all nations**; and then shall the end come.... **And** [before the end comes] **the gospel**

Why Are There So Many Bibles in the World?

must first be published among all nations” (Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10). Moreover, Jesus said, “The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall never pass away” (Mark 13:31).

In addition to any direct preaching or proclaiming of the Gospel, it is evident that **God has caused to be published and distributed** into all the world more than 7.5 billion printed and digital “witnesses” in the form of the Holy Bible—a personal written message from God, readily available to 90% of the world’s population. And there is no plausible justification for not reading the Bible. For those who have a Bible but fail to read it, those individuals have still received a written testimony from God! God has accomplished His part by causing it to be easily accessible, just as Jesus Christ prophesied.

Since the end of this age and the return of Jesus Christ appear to be in the not-too-distant future, we need to ask some pertinent questions concerning the Word of God: How many more Bibles will be published between now and Christ’s return? Will a “saturation point” be reached, with 100% of the nations having access to the Word of God before the end comes? Time will tell. But, truly, we can expect Jesus’ prophecies to be fulfilled exactly as He said.

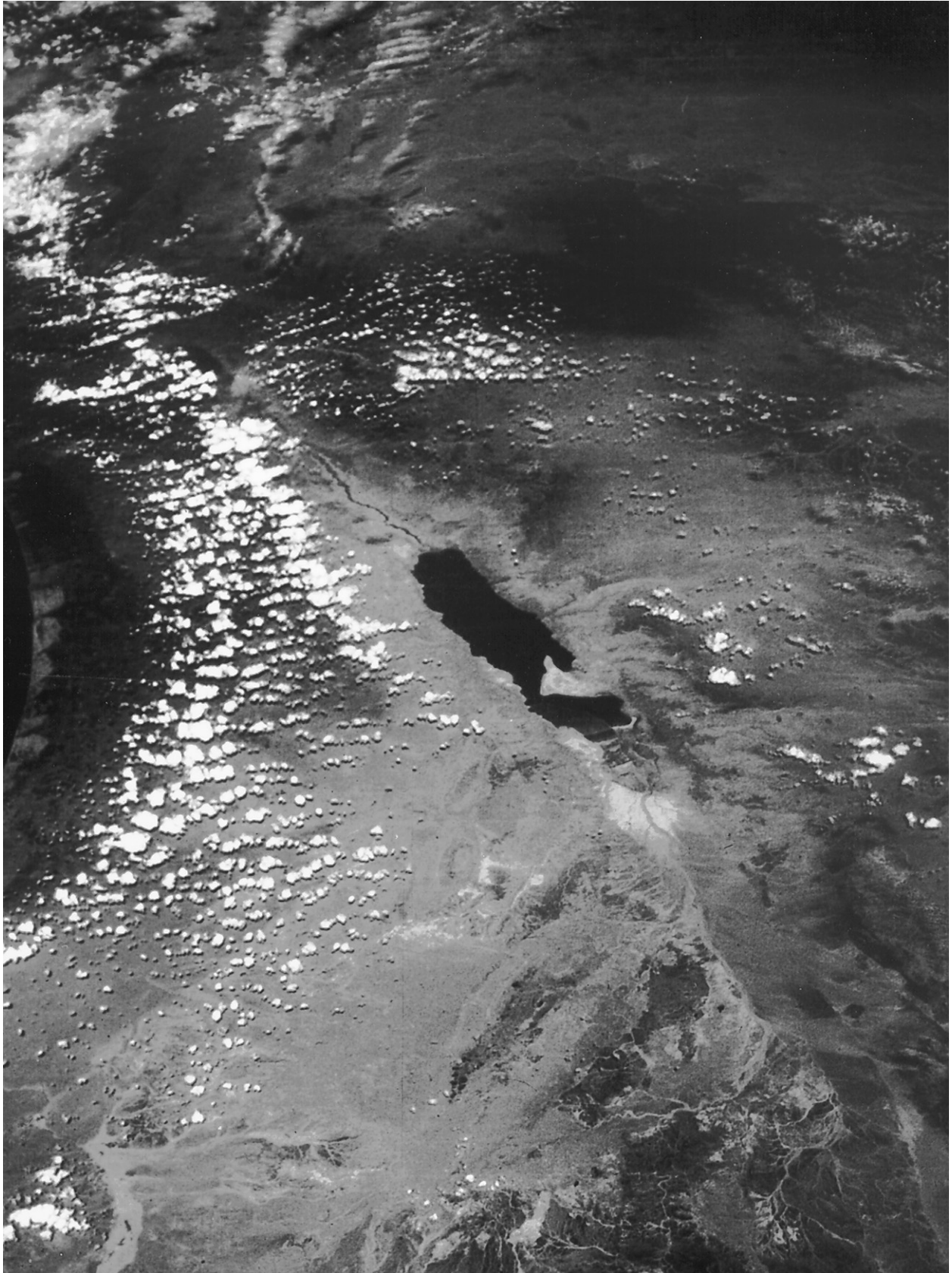
This is why there are so many Bibles in the world today. All those who love God the Father and believe in Jesus Christ as personal Savior should read and study the Word of God daily. It is God’s **personal instruction book for you**, so that in steadfast certainty you can live in this present age with godly faith, hope and love—all in preparation for eternal life and the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to rule this world as King of kings and Lord of lords.

*Hebrew
Scroll*



*A Thousand-
Year-Old
Greek Text*





The Holy Land from Apollo 7 (Mediterranean Sea to left — Dead Sea in right center)