The History of the Bible
TYNDALE TO THE KJV

William Tyndale
(1494-1536)
and his contribution to the English Language.

Terms Tyndale Invented

Scapegoat. In Leviticus 16 the Hebrew word behind scapegoat simply means "sent away" or "removed." The word "scapegoat" didn't actually exist in English until Tyndale coined it.

Atonement. Tyndale coined this term to express the idea of being reconciled to God (atonement meaning, "at-one-ment") through the work of Jesus Christ. It appears in Tyndale's translation in many of the places you read "reconciliation" in the King James Version.

Passover. The Hebrew word פֶּסַח (pesah) is an entirely Hebrew concept used to describe a specific sacrifice and feast day. There was no word in another language to explain the idea. Tyndale took the use of the word in Exodus 12:13 where he translated it, *"whe I se the bloude, I will passe ouer you,"* and coined the new word Passover.

Jehovah. Though there is no "J" sound in Hebrew, Tyndale understood that many English speakers had become familiar with the way Latin words had been brought into English. The Hebrew word for God's name is יהוה (YHWH). Tyndale used the word "Jehovah" in some places but usually translated it LORde. (Meaning he also originated the all-caps idea!)

Tyndale's Translation Choices

Tyndale also included several translation choices which he understood would anger Catholic officials:

- EKKLESIA as "congregation" instead of "church."
- PRESBYTEROS as "elders" instead of "priests."
- AGAPE as "love" instead of "charity."
- METANOIA as "repent" instead of "do penance."

From Tyndale's Preface to the Reader:

"Geve diligence Reder (I exhorte the) that thou come with a pure mynde, and as the scripture sayth with a syngle eye, unto the wordes of health, and of eternall lyfe: by the which (if we repent and beleve them) we are borne anewe, created afresshe, and enioye the frutes off the bloud of Christ."

English Bible Timeline

1382 – *Wycliffe Bible* copied in England.

1408 – Possessing a Bible in English is a capital offense.

1445 – Johannes Gutenberg invents the moveable-type printing press.

1494 – William Tyndale born in Gloucestershire, England.

1516 – Erasmus publishes his Greek/Latin New Testament.

1522 – Luther translates the Bible into German.

1523 – Tyndale asks permission to translate the Bible into English.

1524 – Tyndale flees England.

1526 – *Tyndale Bible* (English New Testament) completed in Germany. It is smuggled into England in cotton bales.

1536 – Tyndale is strangled then burned in Brussels, Belgium.

1537 – *The Matthew Bible*, a complete English Bible, is printed and distributed.

1538 – King Henry VIII is officially excommunicated by Pope Paul III.

1539 – *Taverner's Bible*, edited by Richard Taverner is printed.

1539 – Henry VIII authorizes and funds *The Great Bible* for Church of England use.

1547 – Henry VIII dies and his Catholic daughter Queen Mary I ('Bloody Mary') assumes the throne.

1560 – Exiles from England complete *The Geneva Bible*. It has maps, notes and study aids.

1568 – Queen Elizabeth I approves *The Bishop's Bible*, often called the 'rough draft of the King James Version.'

1609 – Catholic exiles in France publish the *Douay-Rheims Bible*, an English translation of the Latin Vulgate.

1611 – *King James Bible*, a new translation authorized by James I is completed.