

The Story Of The English Bible

William Tyndale



**In the Dark Ages
Called the Medieval
period, spanning over
a 1,000 years,
{476 AD – 1500 AD}**



**they believed it
was wrong for
ordinary people
to read the Bible
for themselves**



**Today such
an attitude
seems
incomprehensible.**



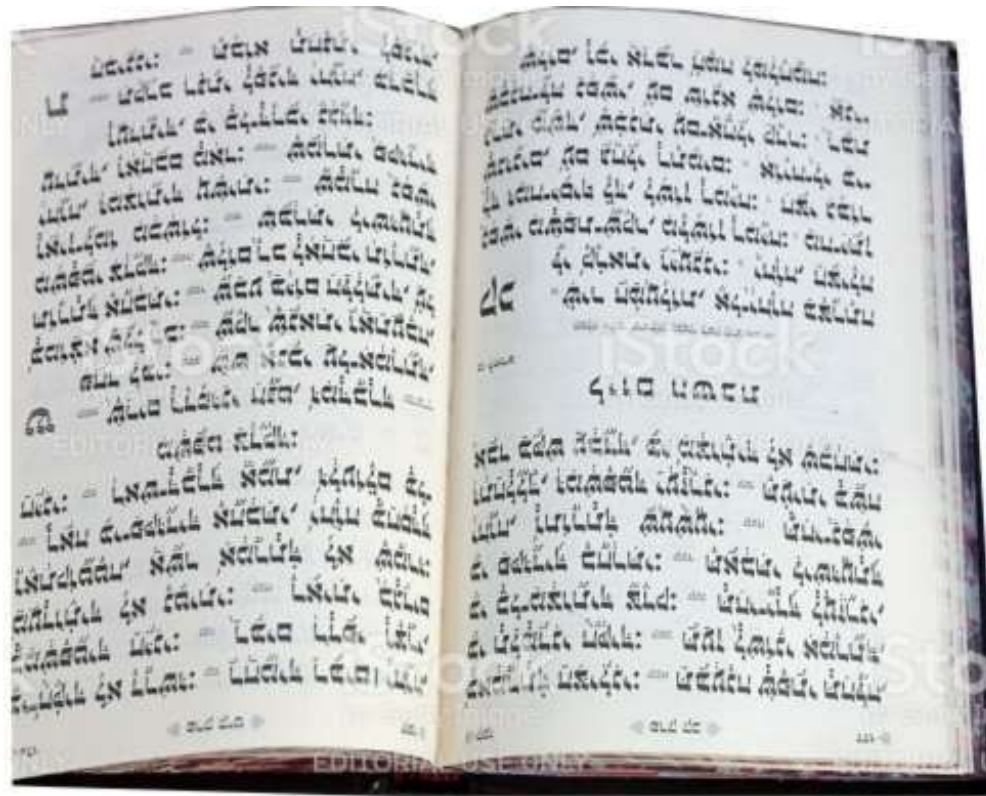
**The Bible is accessible to
virtually everyone and its
study is encouraged.**



**It is the world's most
widely translated book
available in more than **1,000**
languages and dialects.**

**But in
medieval
times, a Bible
was not
available in
Western
Europe.**






**The Old Testament was
generally available only
in Hebrew.**

John 3: 16 - 17

Οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον
ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκε
ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν
μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον.
Οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ
εἰς τὸν κόσμον, ἵνα κρίνῃ τὸν κόσμον
ἀλλ' ἵνα σωθῇ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ.

in a Greek translation
called the Septuagint and
in a Latin translation
called Vulgate.

**The New Testament was
available **only in Greek
and in the Latin Vulgate.****

Consequently, only 
scholars, educated clergy,
and a few others had
direct personal access to
God's word.



{Translations had been made into Syriac, Coptic, Gothic, Georgian, Ethiopic and Armenian in the second and fifth centuries.

A world map with a light gray background. The continent of Europe is highlighted in a solid red color. The word "Europe" is written in red text above the highlighted area.

Europe

**But these languages were
unknown to most
European. }**

**The first translation
into French, Polish,
Italian & Spanish
appeared in the 12th
and 13th centuries.**





**Some evidence point to
a Dutch translation as
early as the 10th century.**

**The beginnings of
the English Bible go
back at the **early**
eighth century.**



**The first known attempt
to render portions of the
Scripture into native
Anglo-Saxon was
Aldhelm's translation of
the Psalms in about
AD700.**

**In 735, as he lay on
his deathbed, the
historian Bede
finished a
translation of
John's Gospel.**





Late in the ninth century, King Alfred the Great of England gave his people parts of Exodus, Psalms, and Acts in their own tongue.

**But no effort was made
to translate the Bible as
a whole**

**The more the
people **heard**
God's word in
their own
language, the
more **they**
wanted.**



But with the passing of time, church leaders adopted the view that it was **dangerous for ordinary people to read the Scriptures without benefit for clergy.**

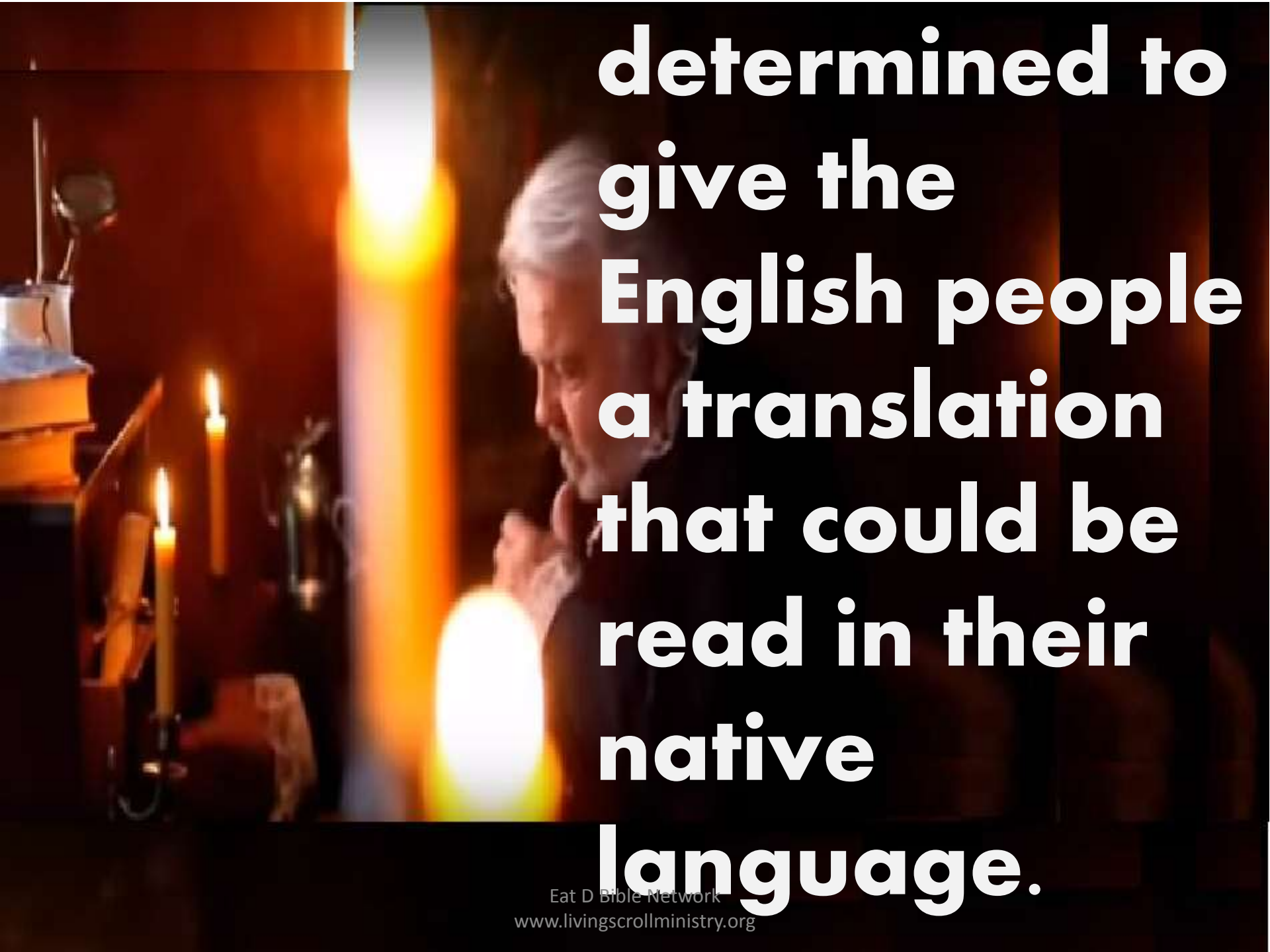
**Because of this,
translators found
themselves in an
increasing dangerous
business.**



**In some European
country it carried
with it death
penalty.**



John Wycliffe
Oxford
theologian and
14th century
English
reformer,



**determined to
give the
English people
a translation
that could be
read in their
native
language.**



**He and his associates
completed the
monumental task
about 1382.**

**The translation
was based on
the Latin
Vulgate, as he
and his
colleagues knew
no Hebrew or
Greek.**




**John Wycliffe died in
1384 at age 55.**

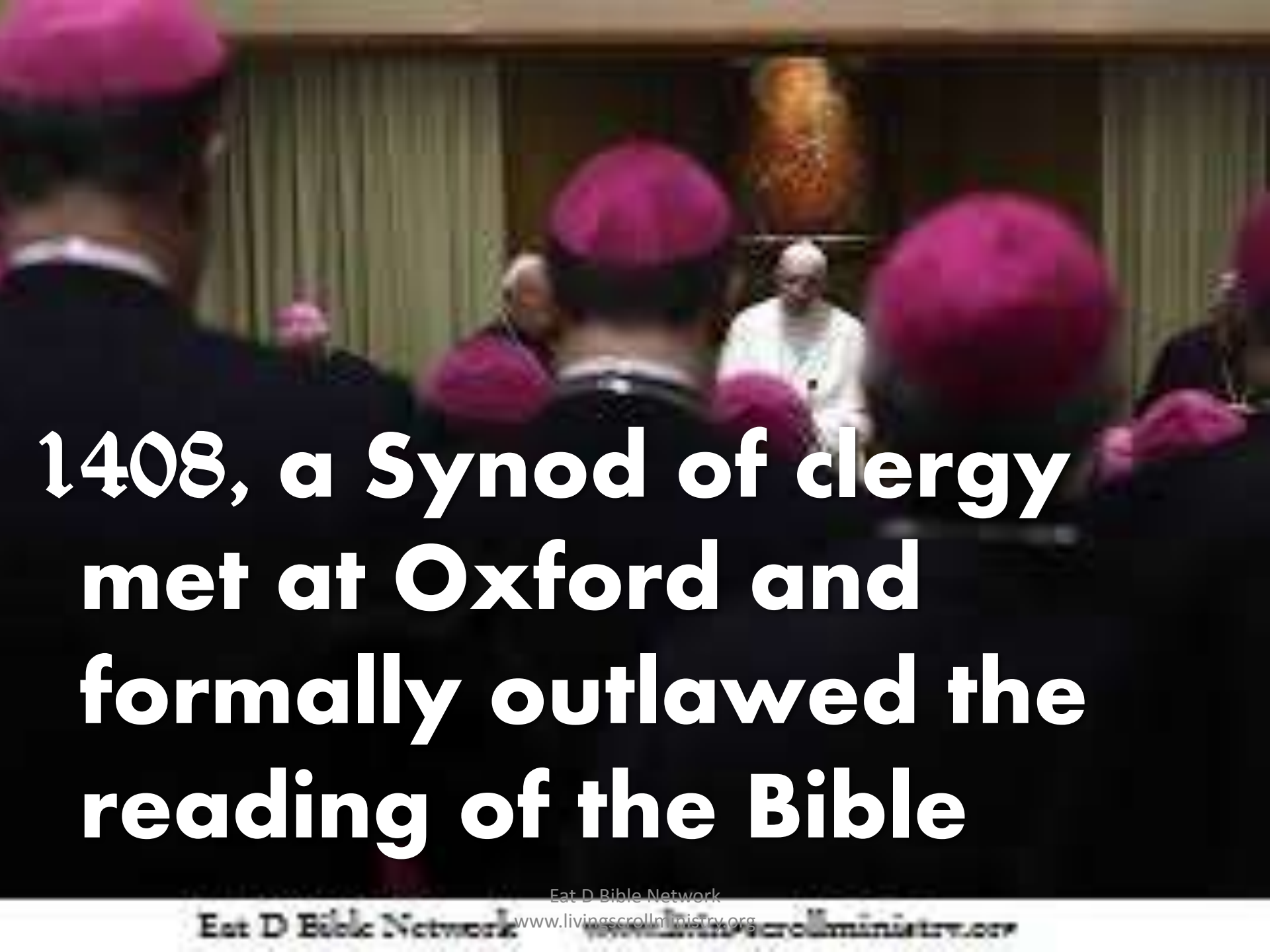




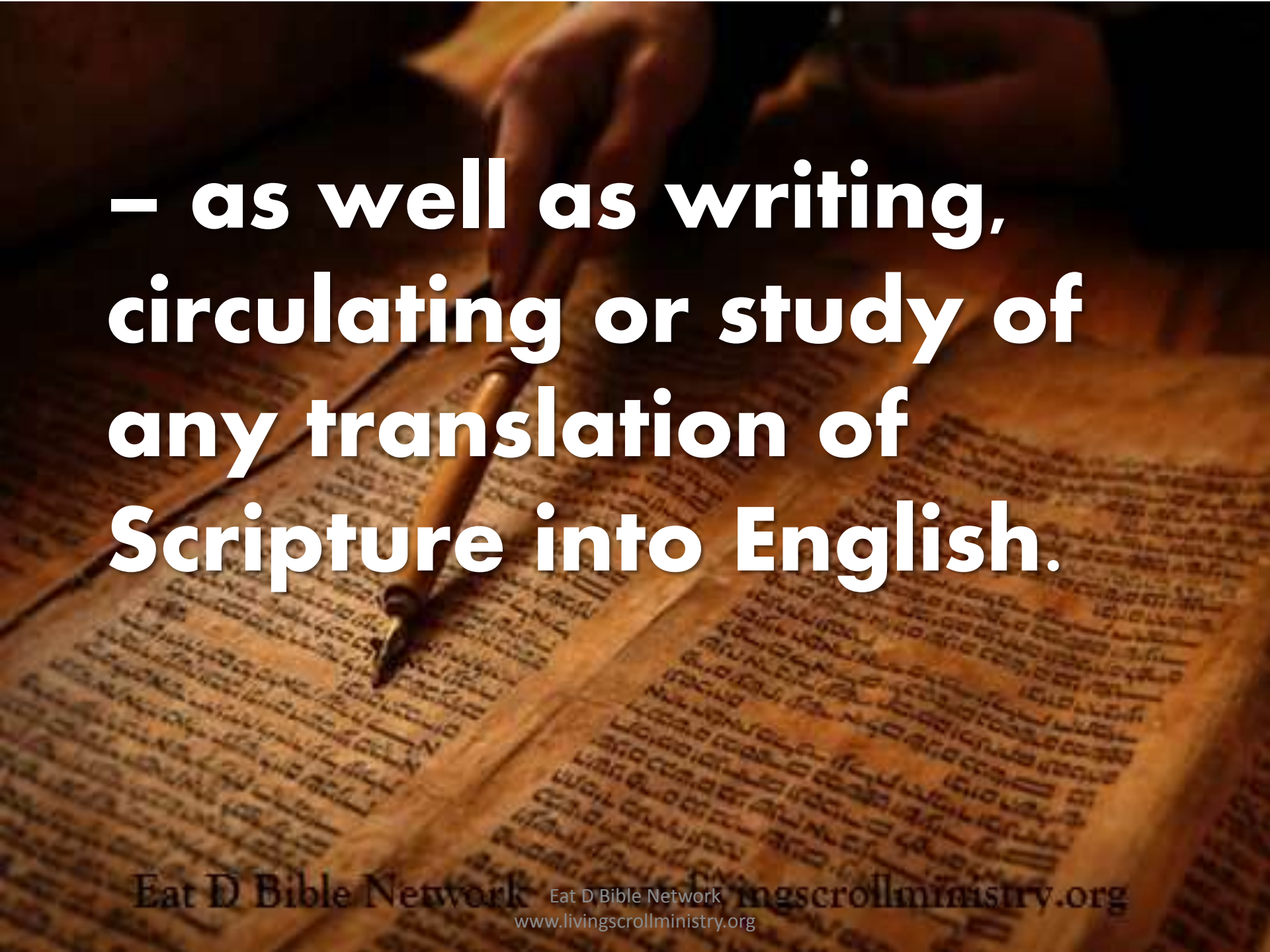
**As his
teachings were
forerunners of
those of the
reformation,
he is accorded
the title**



**“morning star of the
Reformation”, having
heralded the dawn of
that epic era.**

A blurred background image of a church interior. Several people are visible, wearing purple hats, possibly during a service or a special event. The focus is on the text overlay.

**1408, a Synod of clergy
met at Oxford and
formally outlawed the
reading of the Bible**

A close-up, warm-toned photograph of a hand holding a quill pen, poised to write on an open book. The book's pages are filled with dense, handwritten text in a historical script. The lighting is soft, creating a sense of focus and reverence.

**– as well as writing,
circulating or study of
any translation of
Scripture into English.**

England now had a hand-copied, hand-written Bible

– but it was a forbidden one.

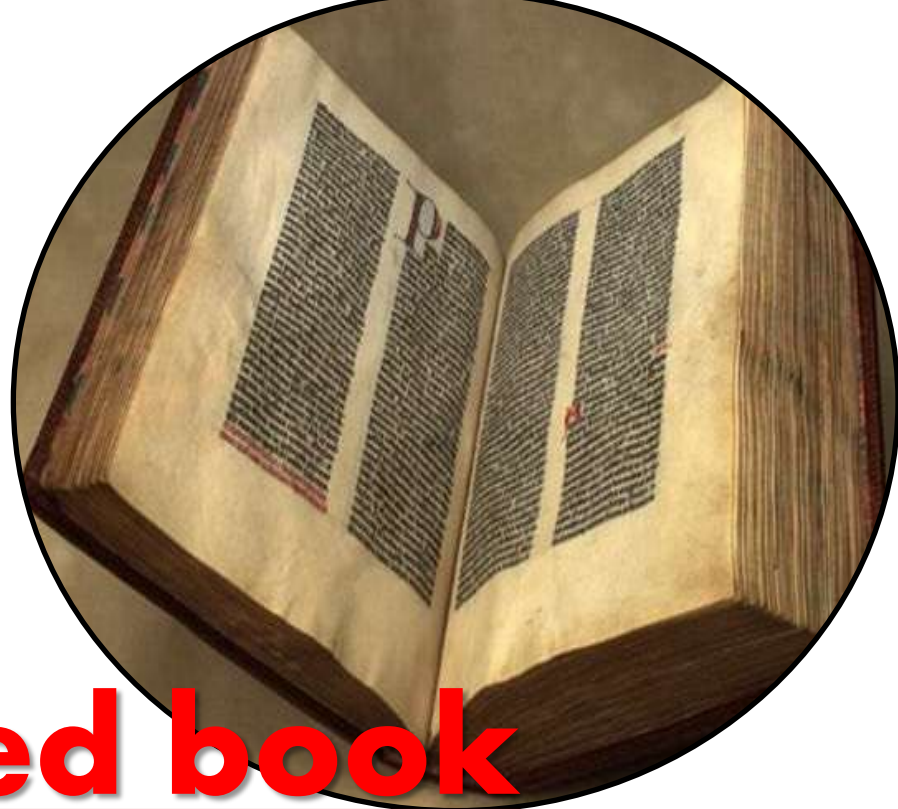


Seven decades after Wycliffe's death, the technology of printing opened a revolutionary new chapter in the history of the Bible.

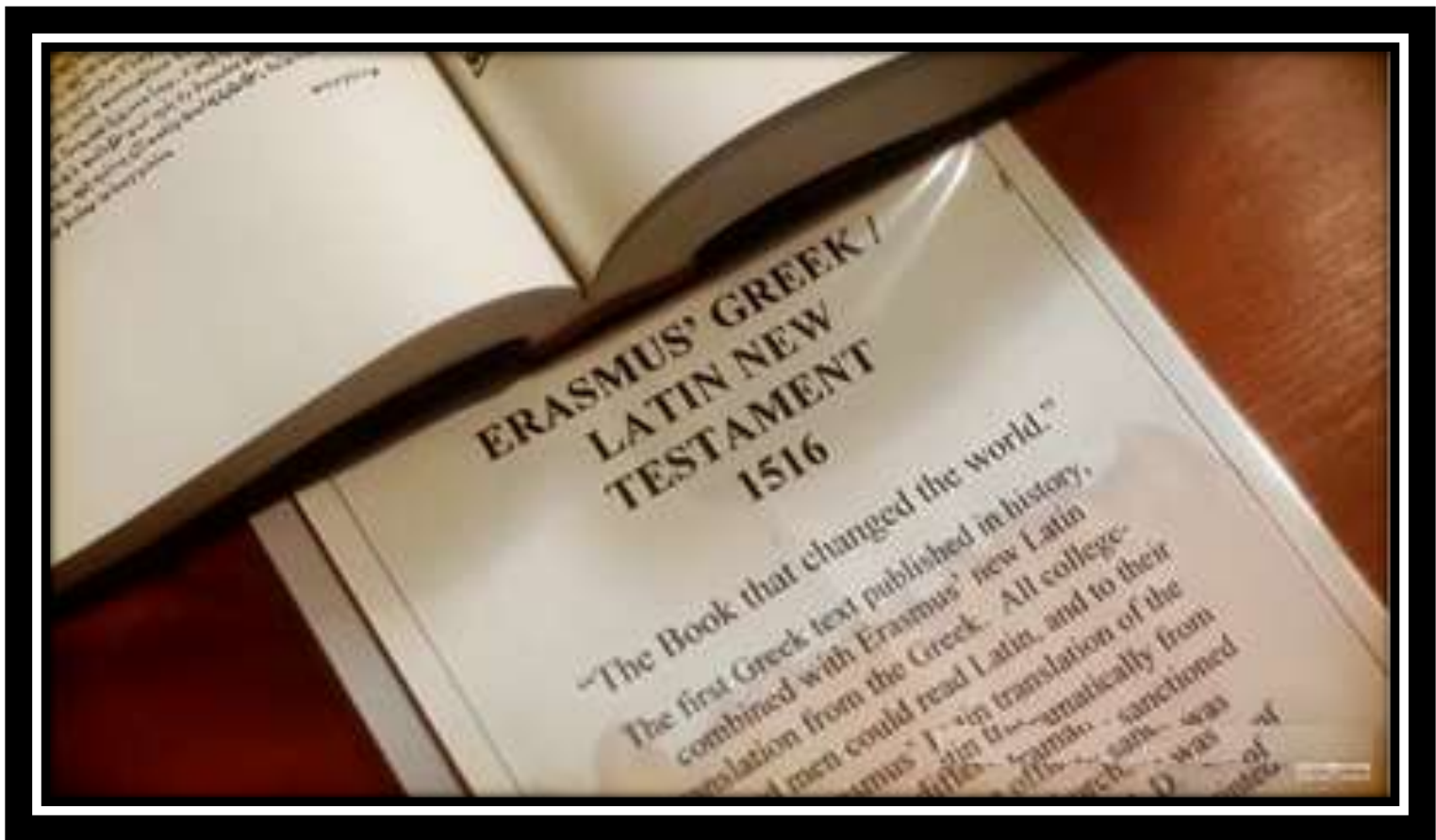


**The German
printer **Jonannes
Gutenberg** had
begun to
experiment with
movable metal
type early in the
1450's.**





**His first printed book
was the Holy Bible,
published in Latin,
about the year 1456.**



Erasmus Greek New Testament was printed in 1516



**Luther [1483 – 1546]
translated
Erasmus Greek
New Testament
into his famous
German version
of 1522.**

NOT COMPLETED

**Yet as at these periods
there was no complete
English Bible in print.**

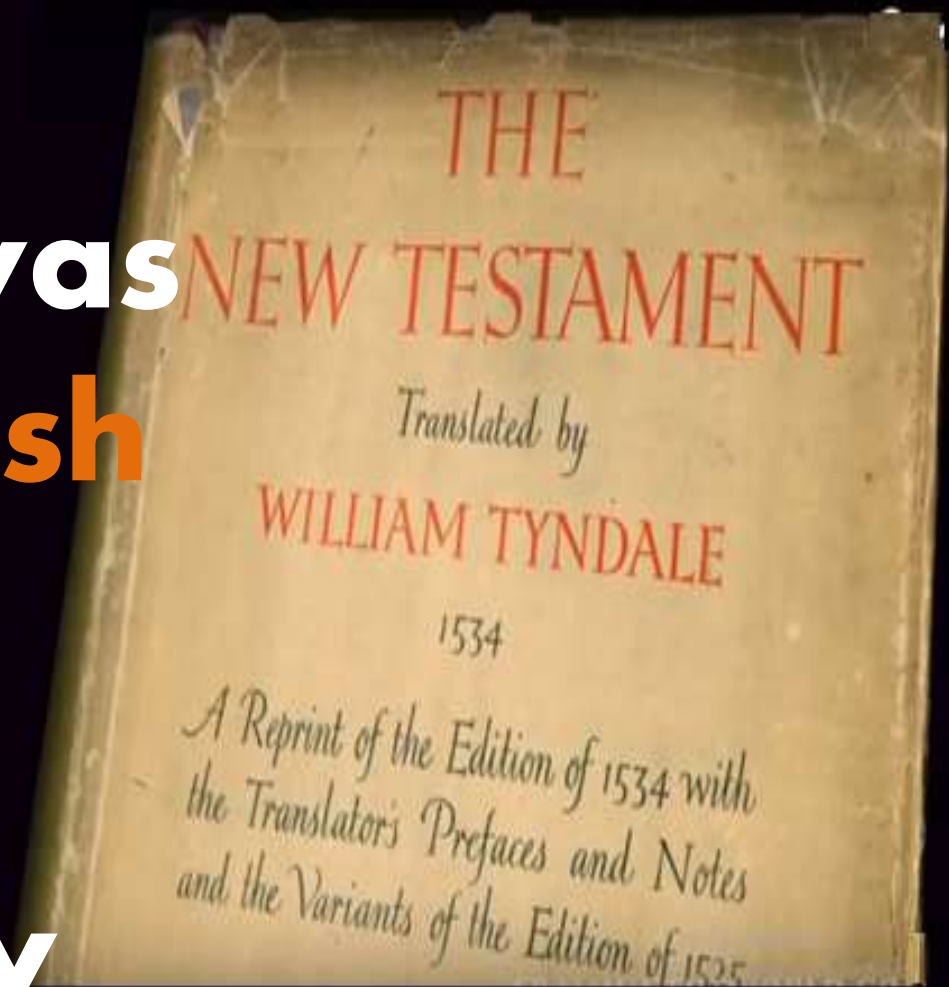
William Tyndale,
finding both
clergy and laity
ignorant of the
Scriptures,
Tyndale
conceived in 1522,



The ambitious project of translating the New Testament directly from Greek into English, bypassing the Latin Vulgate.



Tyndale
translation was
the first English
translation
ever to be
made directly
from the
Original Greek





**– not a translation
of a translation, as
was Wycliffe's.**

The **beauty** and
rhythm of his
language fixed the
style and tone of
the English Bible
for centuries to
come.





He is thus the
“Father of the English
Bible.”



WILLIAM TYNDALE

[1494 – 1536].

**... Ordained Catholic
priest, Bible translator and
publisher**



PASSION

**This was the
driving passion
of his life**

**—to see the Bible
translated from the
Greek and Hebrew into
ordinary English
available for every
person in England to
read.**



Germany

**Tyndale left England to
Germany on exile.**

**The King
of
England
sent for
him, he
replied;**





*"Will the King of England give
his official endorsement to a
vernacular Bible for all his
English subjects?*

If not, Tyndale will not come.



If so, Tyndale will give
himself up to the king and
never write another book . . .
and there most humbly submit
myself at the feet of his royal
majesty,





*offering my body to suffer what
pain or torture, yea, what
death his grace will, so this
[translation] be obtained.*

*Until that time, I will abide
the asperity of all chances,
whatsoever shall come, and
endure my life in as many
pains as it is able to bear and
suffer. ”*





**The king
refused.**

**And Tyndale
never went
to his
homeland
again.**

**Instead, if the king and
the Roman Catholic
Church would not
provide a printed Bible
in English for the
common man to read,**



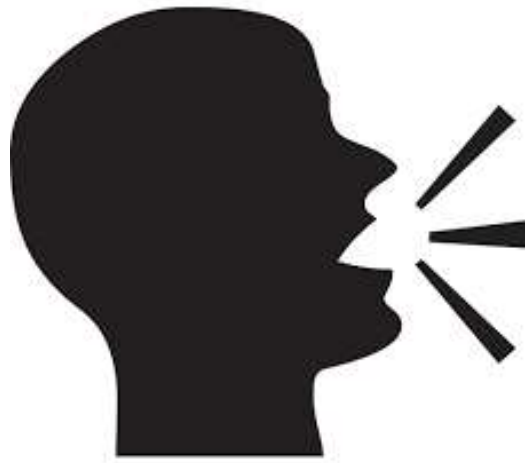
**Tyndale would,
even if it cost
him his life—
which it did five
years later.**



John Foxe tells
us that one
day an
exasperated
Catholic
scholar at
dinner with
Tyndale said,

**“We were better
be without God’s
law[WORD] than
the pope’s.”**

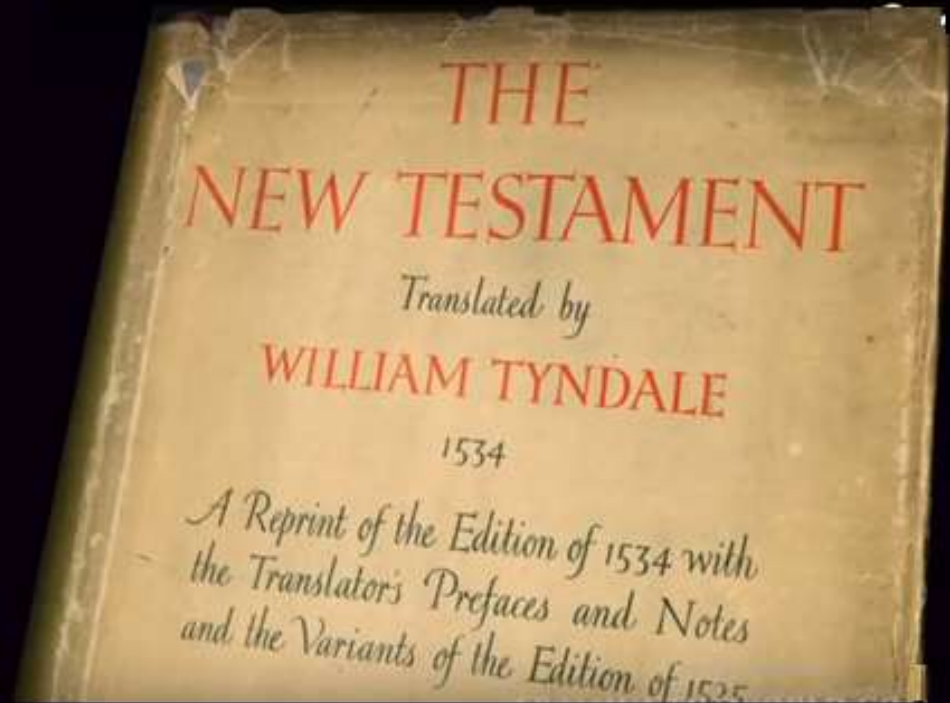




In response
Tyndale spoke his
famous words,

"I defy the Pope and all his laws. . . . If God spare my life before many years, I will cause a boy that drives the plow, to know more of the Scripture than you do."

Four years
later [1526]



Tyndale finished the
English translation of the
Greek New Testament in
Worms, Germany.



and began
to **smuggle**
it into
England in
bails of
cloth.

**Immediately
by October of
1526 the book
had been
banned by
Bishop Tunstall
in London, and
copies burned.**

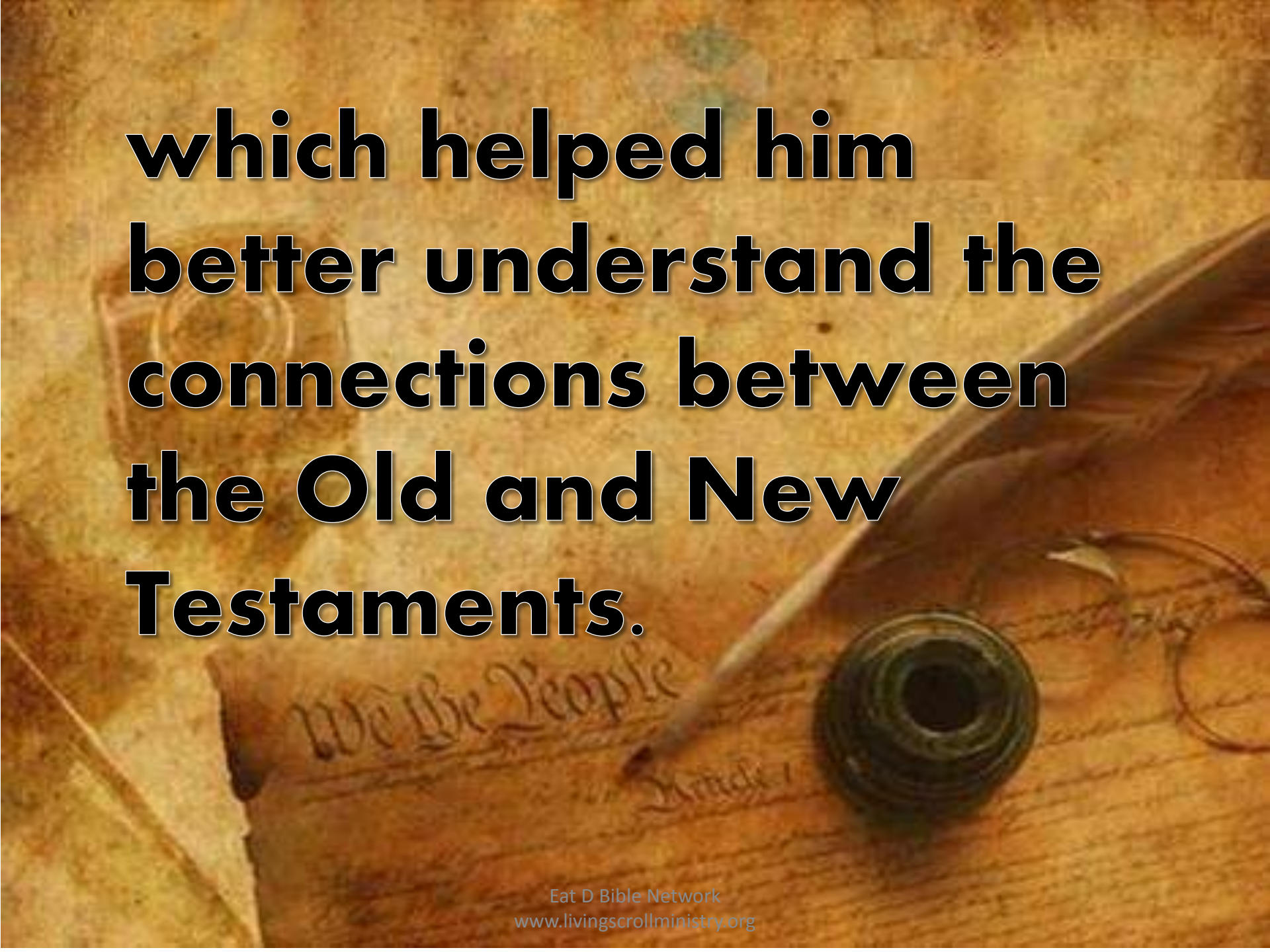


**The church
burned the
word of
God.**

**It shocked
Tyndale.**



**In 1534 Tyndale
published a revised
New Testament, having
learned Hebrew in the
meantime, probably in
Germany,**

The background of the slide is a warm, golden-brown image of an open book. A quill pen lies diagonally across the right page, and a small, dark inkwell sits on the same page. The left page shows the words "We the People" in a cursive script. The main text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**which helped him
better understand the
connections between
the Old and New
Testaments.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT

goshes all natione vnder the heauens shal be made to knowe the
of Mary Magdalene/ as the Spyller had been told: for those
are the best wouches which no man hath yett bene good they be.
b All that take the Circorde. as. Here both ouer Gaius our con
frime the temporeall Circorde: so that whosoever heeth it / ex
cept he be an exornate officer of the same, for the punishment
of euill doers/ he taketh the rotme of God vpon him / and is
condemned.
c. Legron. & legron after some mens reherunge is a nombre
of Cccc. thousande or there about.

**For the first time ever in
history, the Greek New
Testament was
translated into English.**

by Hardy Waller with an Introduction
by the Rt. Hon. Isaac Ford

A Upon the morrow all the prestes & elders of
the people helde a counsell agaynst Iesus
that they myghte put him to death: & bounde
him & led forth: & deliuered him vnto Pontius
Pilate the delinck. When thus a iudgement was
made: I sawe this that he was condemned vnto death

**And for the first time
ever the New
Testament in English
was available in a
printed form.**

**Before Tyndale there
were only hand-written
manuscripts of the
Bible in English.**

**These manuscripts we
owe to the work and
inspiration of John
Wyclif and the Lollards
from a hundred-thirty
years earlier.**

For a thousand years the only translation of the Greek and Hebrew Bible was the Latin Vulgate, and few people could understand it, even if they had access to it.

**Before he was martyred
in 1536 Tyndale had
translated into clear,
common English not only
the New Testament but
also the Pentateuch,
Joshua to 2 Chronicles,
and Jonah.**

**All this material
became the basis of
the Great Bible issued
by Miles Coverdale in
England in 1539 and**



**The basis for the
Geneva Bible
published in 1557—
“the Bible of the
nation,” which sold
over a million copies
between 1560 and
1640.**

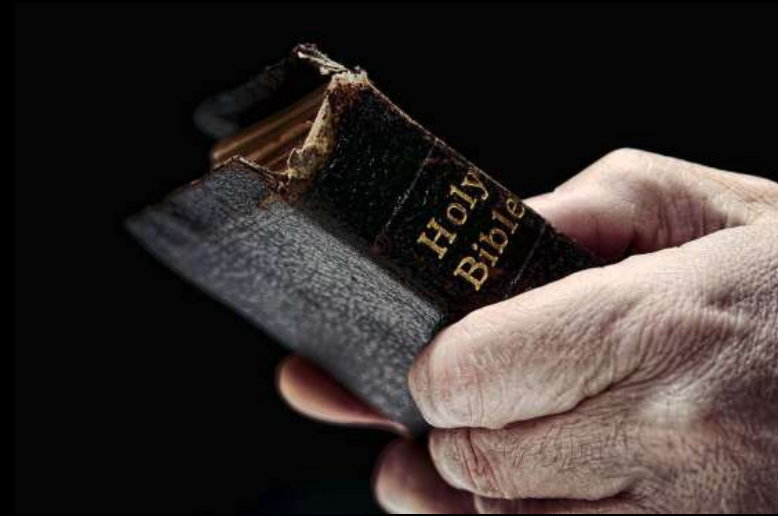


We do not get a clear sense of Tyndale's achievement without some comparisons.

We think of the dominant King James Version as giving us the pervasive language of the English Bible.

**But David
Daniell clarifies
the situation:**

**William
Tyndale gave
us our English
Bible.**



**The sages assembled by
King James to prepare the
Authorized Version of
1611, so often praised for
unlikely corporate
inspiration, took over
Tyndale's work**

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open book. The pages are yellowed with age, and the text is in a dark, serif font. The book is open, showing two pages with text. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the paper and the ink of the text.

**Nine-tenths of the
Authorized Version's
New Testament is
Tyndale's.**

The same is true of the first half of the Old Testament, which was as far as he was able to get before he was executed outside Brussels in 1536.

**Here is a sampling of
the English phrases we
owe to Tyndale:**

- **“Let there be light”
[Genesis 1:3].**
- **“Am I my brother’s
keeper?” [Genesis
4:9]**



**“The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine upon thee and be merciful unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace”
(Numbers 6:24-26).**

**“In the beginning
was the Word and
the Word was with
God and the Word
was God” (John 1:1).**



**“There were shepherds
abiding in the field” (Luke
2:8).**

**“Blessed are they that
mourn for they shall be
comforted” (Matthew 5:4).**



- **“Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” (Matthew 6:9).**
- **“The signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3)**



**“The spirit is willing
but the flesh is weak”
(Matthew 26:41).**




“He went out . . . and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:75). Those two words are still used by almost all modern translations (NIV, NASB, ESV, NKJV).



“It has not been improved on for five hundred years in spite of weak efforts like one recent translation:





**“cried hard.”
Unlike that
phrase, “the
rhythm of
his two
words
carries the
experience.”**

- **“A law unto themselves”
(Romans 2:14)**
- **“In him we live, move
and have our being”
(Acts 17:28).**

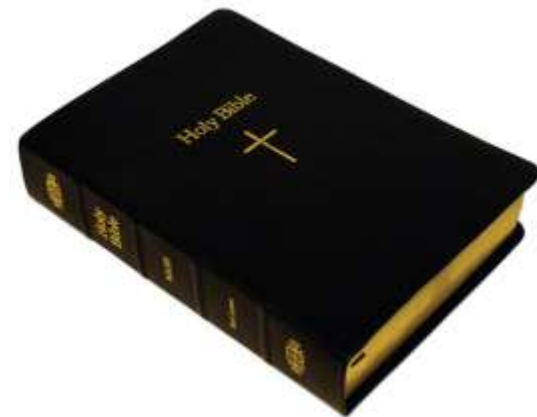


- **“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels” (1 Corinthians 13:1)**
- **“Fight the good fight” (1 Timothy 6:12).**



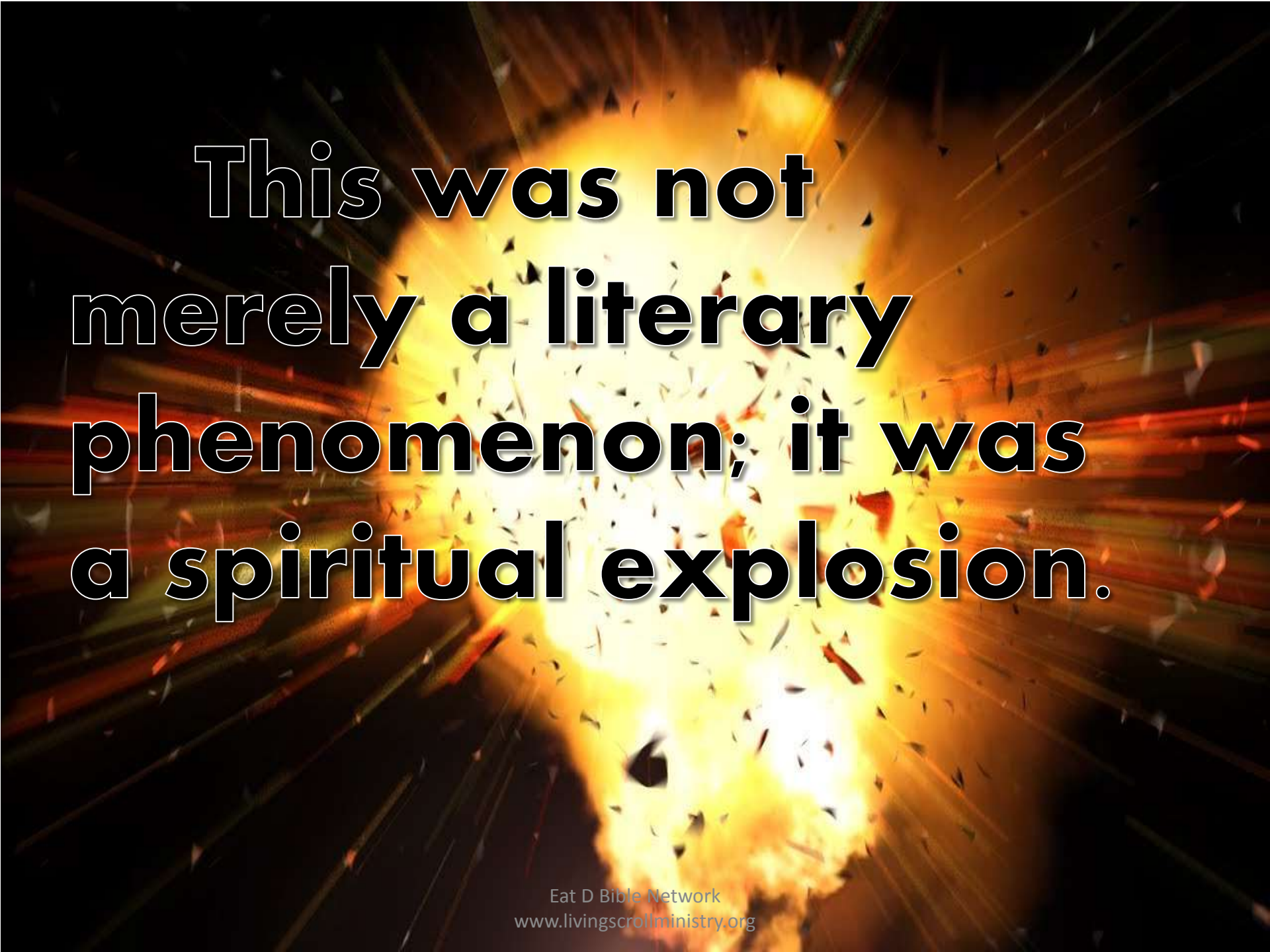
**According to Daniell,
“The list of such near-
proverbial phrases is
endless.” Five hundred
years after his great work”**

**newspaper headlines
still quote **Tyndale,**
though unknowingly,
and *he has reached
more people than even
Shakespeare.***

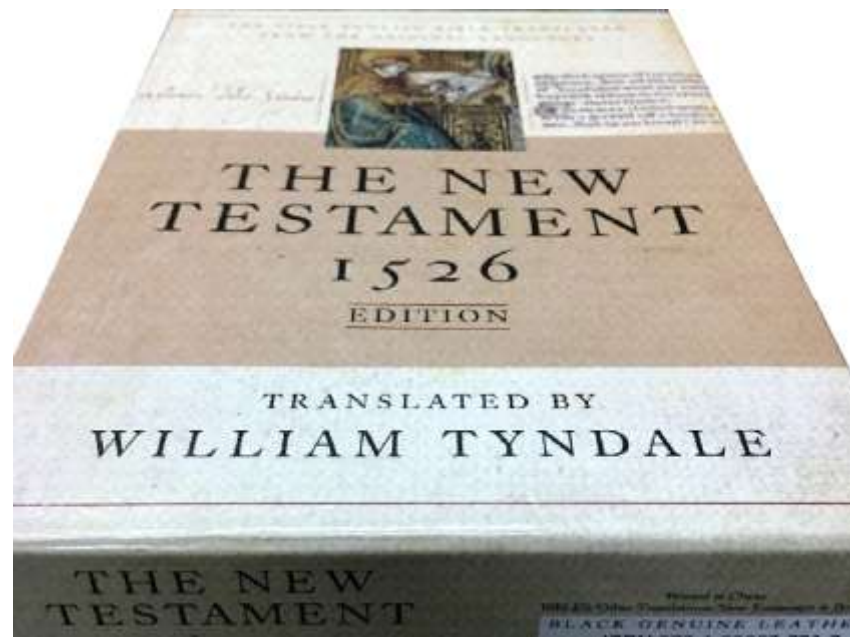


**His craftsmanship with
the English language
amounted to genius.**

**He translated two-thirds
of the Bible so well that
his translations endured
until today.**

The background of the image is a dynamic, high-contrast explosion. A bright, glowing yellow and orange core is at the center, with numerous dark, jagged fragments and streaks of light radiating outwards in all directions, creating a sense of intense energy and movement. The overall color palette is dominated by the warm tones of the explosion, set against a dark, almost black background.

**This was not
merely a literary
phenomenon; it was
a spiritual explosion.**



Tyndale's Bible and writings were the kindling that set the Reformation on fire in England.

William Tyndale laboured!

Tyndale knew **eight **languages:****

- 1. Latin,**
- 2. Greek,**
- 3. German,**
- 4. French,**
- 5. Hebrew,**
- 6. Spanish,**
- 7. Italian, and**
- 8. English.**

Paul says in 1 Corinthians

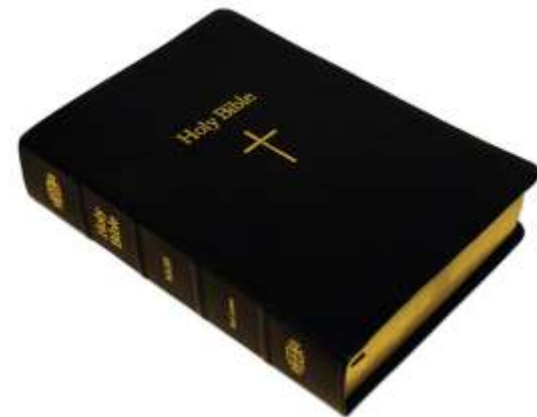
15: 10,

**“I worked harder than
any of them, though it
was not I, but the grace
of God that is with me.”**

**The key to
spiritual
achievement
is to work
hard, and to
know and
believe and
feel**

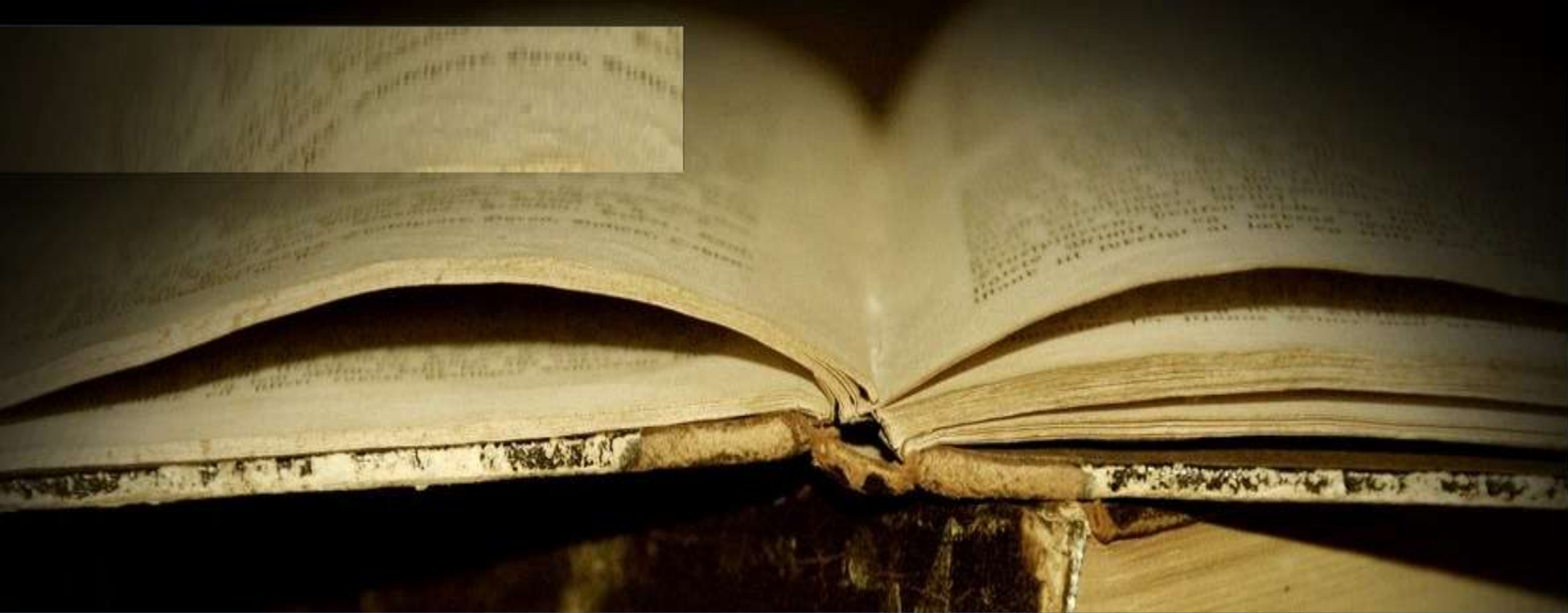


**and be happy that
God's sovereign grace is
the decisive cause of all
the good that comes.**



Tyndale believed:


Man is lost, spiritually dead, condemned. God is sovereign; Christ is sufficient. Faith is all.....



**This is why the Bible had to
be translated, and
ultimately this is why
Tyndale was martyred.**


**Bible
translation and
Bible truth
were
inseparable
for Tyndale,
and in the end
it was the truth**





**—especially the
truth of
justification by
faith—that ignited
Britain with
reformed fire**

**and then
brought the
death
sentence to
this Bible
translator.**

A black gallows with a noose hanging from it, set against a red background. The gallows is positioned on the right side of the image, with the noose hanging down towards the center. The background is a solid red color.

John Wyclif and his
followers called
“Lollards” had spread
handwritten
manuscripts of English
translations from the
Latin in the late 1300s.

**In 1401 Parliament passed
the law **de Haeretico
Comburendo****

**—“on the burning of
heretics”**



A flaming torch lies on a sandy surface. The torch has a long wooden handle and a bright orange and yellow flame. In the upper right corner, there is a small, faint Arabic calligraphic mark.

- To make heresy
punishable by **burning**
people alive at the stake.

**The Bible translators
were in view.**

**Then in 1408 the
Archbishop of
Canterbury,
Thomas Arundell
created the
Constitutions of
Oxford which
said,**



***"It is a dangerous thing,
as witnessed by
blessed St. Jerome, to
translate the text of the
Holy Scripture out of
one tongue into
another,***

**for in the translation the
same sense is not always
easily kept. . . . We
therefore decree and
ordain, that no man,
hereafter,**

**by his own authority
translate any text of the
Scripture into English or
any other tongue . . .
and that no man can
read any such book . . .
in part or in whole.”**

Together these statutes meant that you could be burned alive by the Ruling Church for simply reading the Bible in English.



The Implacable Opposition to the Bible

The dramatist John Bale (1495-1563)

**“as a boy of
11**



**watched the
burning of a
young man in
Norwich for
possessing
the Lord's
prayer in
English. . .**



**John Foxe records . . .
seven Lollards [followers
of John Wyclif] burned
at Coventry in 1519 for
teaching their children
the Lord's Prayer in
English."**

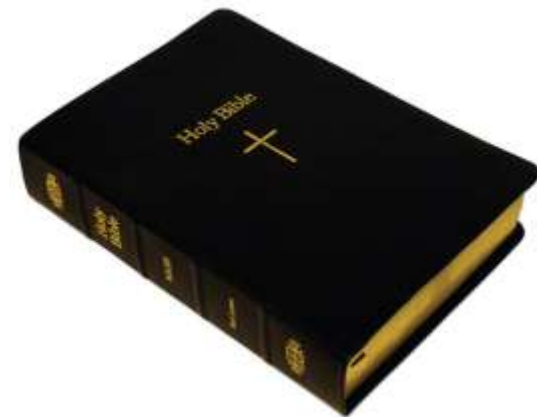


**Tyndale hoped to escape
this condemnation by
getting **official**
authorization for his
translation in 1524.**



**But he found just the
opposite and had to
escape from London to
the continent where he
did all his translating
and writing for the
next twelve years.**

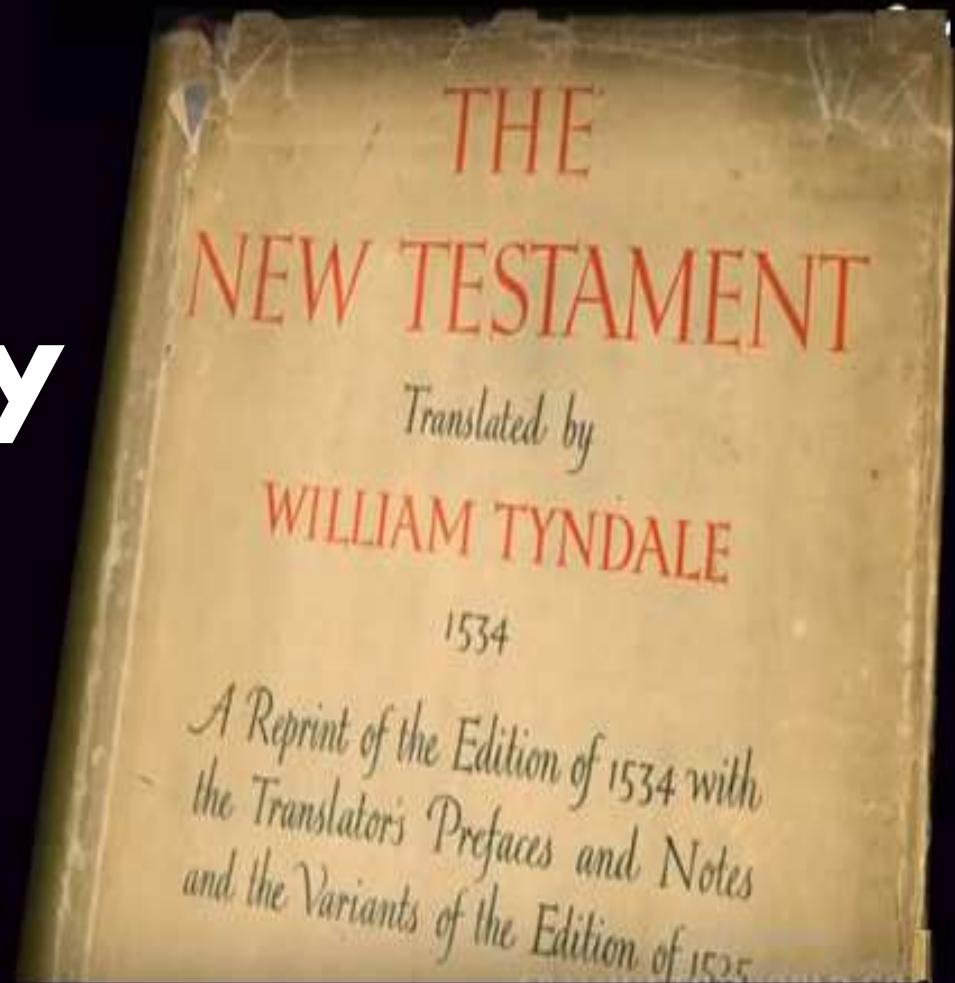
**He lived as a fugitive
the entire time until his
death near **Brussels** in
1536.**



**He watched a rising
tide of persecution and
felt the pain of seeing
young men burned
alive**



**who were
converted by
reading his
translation
and his
books.**



His closest friend, John Frith, was arrested in London and tried by Thomas More and burned alive July 4, 1531, at the age of twenty-eight



**Next to Frith,
Andrew Hewet,
24 year old
tailor's
apprentice and
several others
were also burned
alive.**



**Richard Bayfield ran
the ships that took
Tyndale's books to
England.**

**He was betrayed and
arrested, and Thomas
More wrote on
December 4, 1531,**

**that Bayfield
“the monk
and apostate
[was] well
and worthily
burned in
Smythfelde.”**



Three weeks later the same end came to John Tewkesbury. He was converted by reading Tyndale's Parable of the Wicked Mammon which defended justification by faith alone.

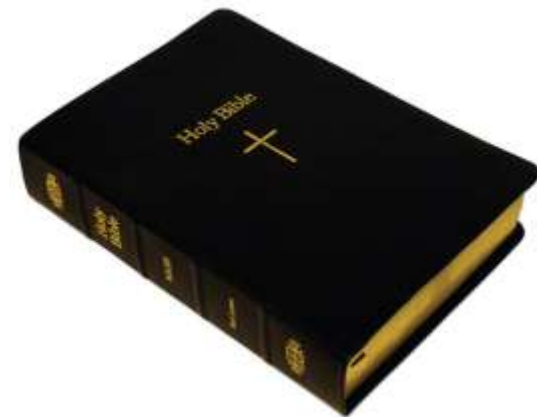
**He was whipped in
Thomas More's garden
and had his brow
squeezed with small
ropes till blood came out
of his eyes.**

**Then he was sent to
the Tower where he
was racked till he
was lame. Then at
last they burned him
alive.**



**Thomas More “rejoiced
that his victim was now in
hell, where Tyndale ‘is
like to find him when they
come together.’**

Four months later **James Bainham followed in the flames in April of 1532. He had stood up during the mass at**



**St Augustine's
Church in London
and lifted a copy of
Tyndale's New
Testament and
pleaded with the
people to die rather
than deny the word
of God.**

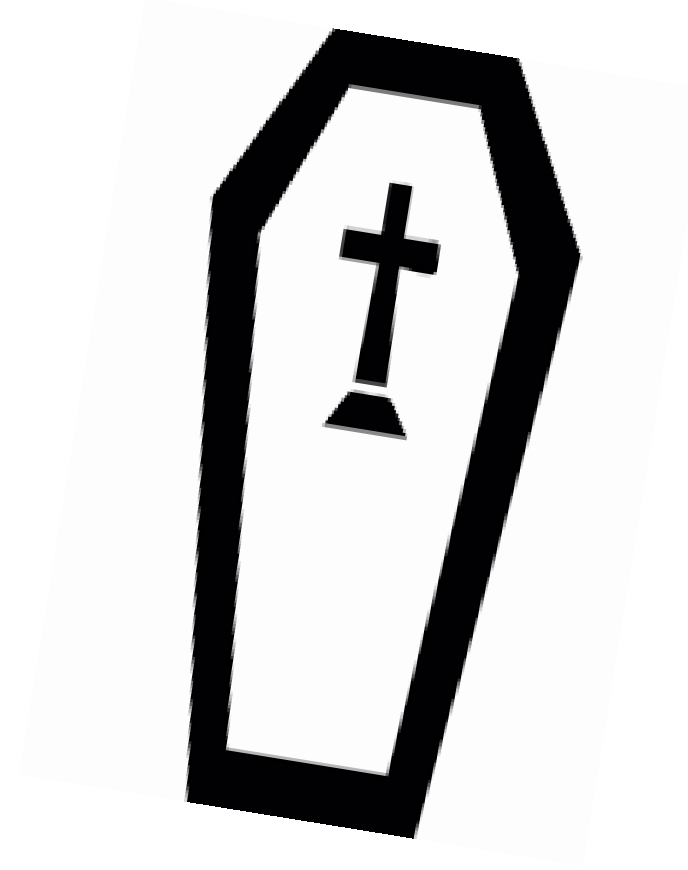



**That virtually was to
sign his own death
warrant.**



Add to these:

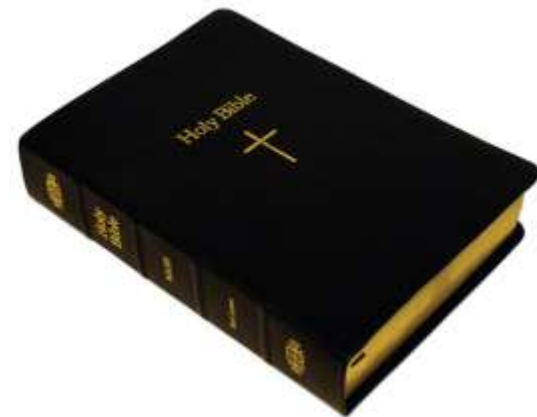
- ✓ **Thomas Bilney,**
- ✓ **Thomas Dusgate,**
- ✓ **John Bent,**
- ✓ **Thomas Harding,**
- ✓ **Andrew Hewet,**
- ✓ **Elizabeth Barton and
others.**





**All burned alive for
sharing the views of
William Tyndale
about the Scriptures
and the reformed
faith**

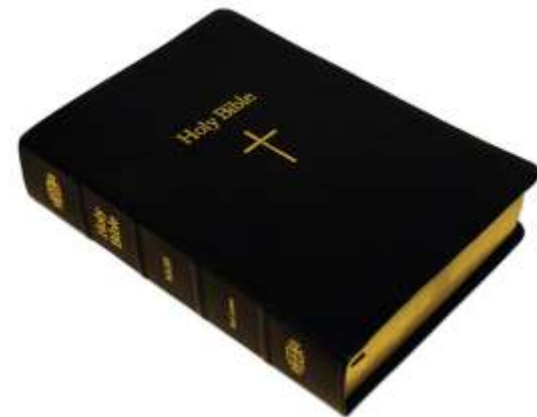
What It **Cost** Tyndale to Translate the Bible



**What did it
cost **William
Tyndale** under
these hostile
circumstances**

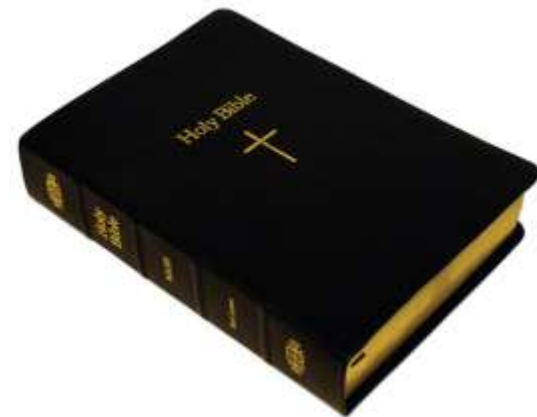


**to stay faithful to his
calling as a translator of
the Bible and a writer of
the reformed FAITH?**

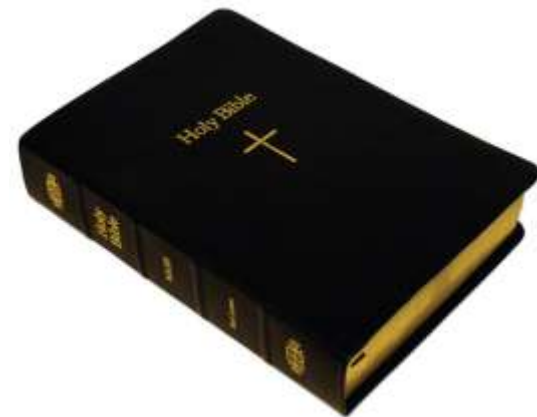


He fled his
homeland in 1524
and was **killed** in
1536.

**He gives us some
glimpse of those **twelve**
years as a fugitive in
Germany and the
Netherlands**



**in one of the very few
personal descriptions we
have from Stephen
Vaughan's letter in 1531.**

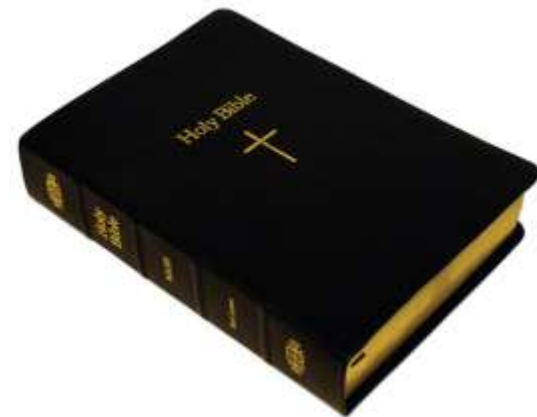


**He refers to “. . . my
pains . . . my poverty . . .
my exile out of mine
natural country, and
bitter absence from my
friends**

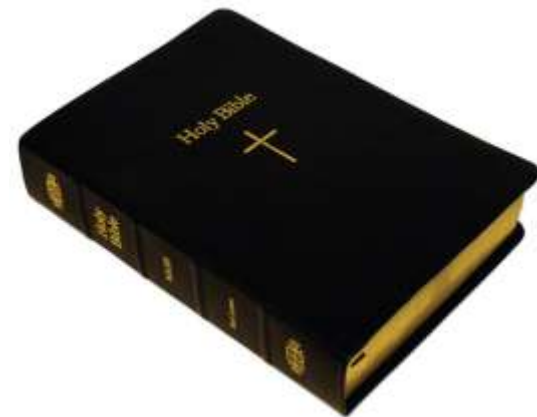


**my hunger, my thirst, my
cold, the great danger
wherewith I am
everywhere
encompassed, and finally
... innumerable other
hard and sharp fightings
which I endure."**

**So powerful was
Tyndale's doctrine and
the godliness of his life,
that during the year
and a half of his
imprisonment,**



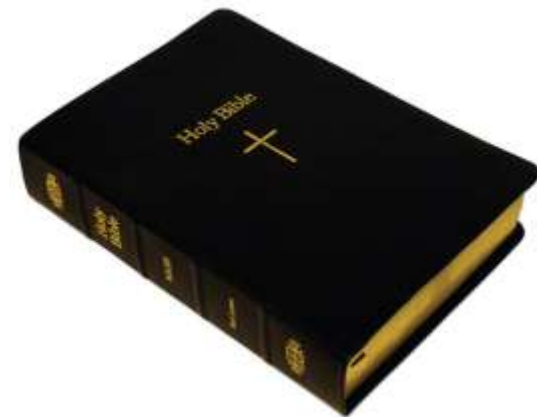
**it is said that he
converted the jailer
and his daughter and
several others of his
household.**



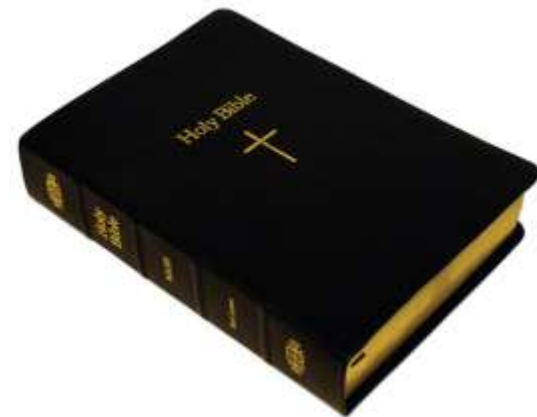
**All these sufferings
came to a climax on
May 21, 1535, in the
midst of Tyndale's
great Old Testament
translation labors**



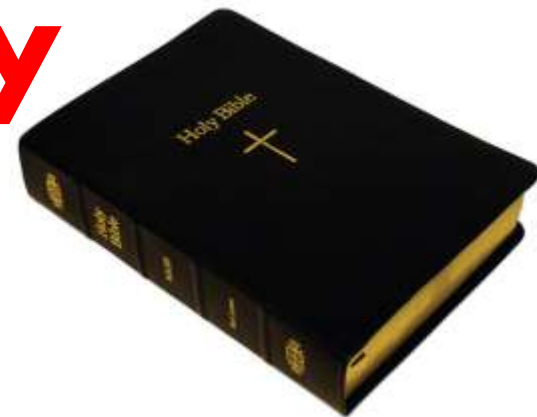
**We can feel some of
the ugliness of what
happened in the words
of David Daniell:**



***“Malice, self-pity,
villainy and deceit
were about to destroy
everything. . . .***



These evils came to the English House [in Antwerp], wholly uninvited, in the form of an egregious Englishman, Henry Philips."



Philips had won
Tyndale's trust over
some months and then
betrayed him.



**So in May 1535, Tyndale
was betrayed,
kidnapped and
imprisoned by papal
agents at Vilvorde
Castle near Brussels.**



**After about 18
months'
imprisonment
, he was tried
for heresy
and
condemned
to death.**



**A decade earlier they
had **burned the
translation;****

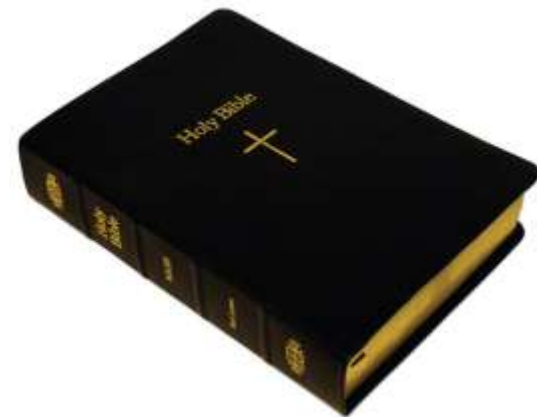


**Now **the resolved to
burn the TRANSLATOR.****

**He did stay in
that prison
through the
winter. His
verdict was
sealed in
August, 1536.**



**He was formally
condemned as a heretic
and degraded from the
priesthood.**



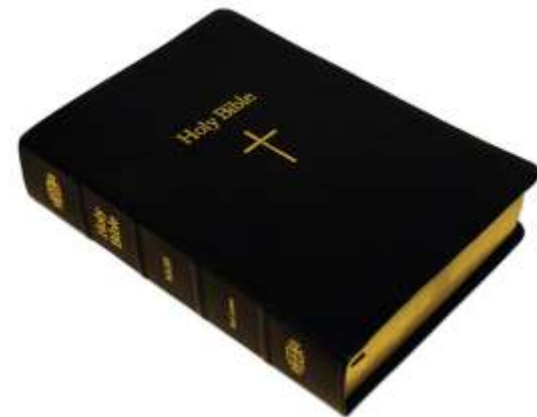
**Then in early October
(traditionally October 6),
he **was tied** to the stake
and then **strangled by**
the executioner to the
point of death, then
afterward **consumed in**
the fire.**



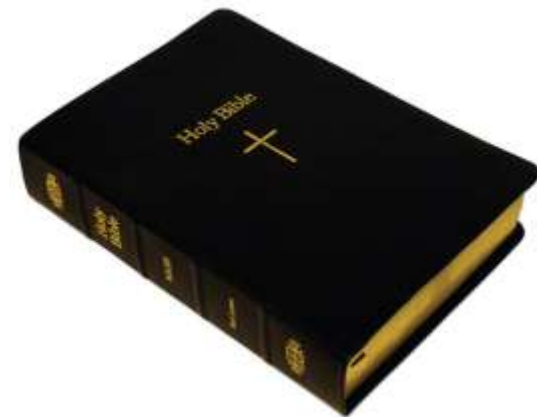


**Foxe reports
that his last
words were,
“Lord! Open
the King of
England’s
eyes!”**

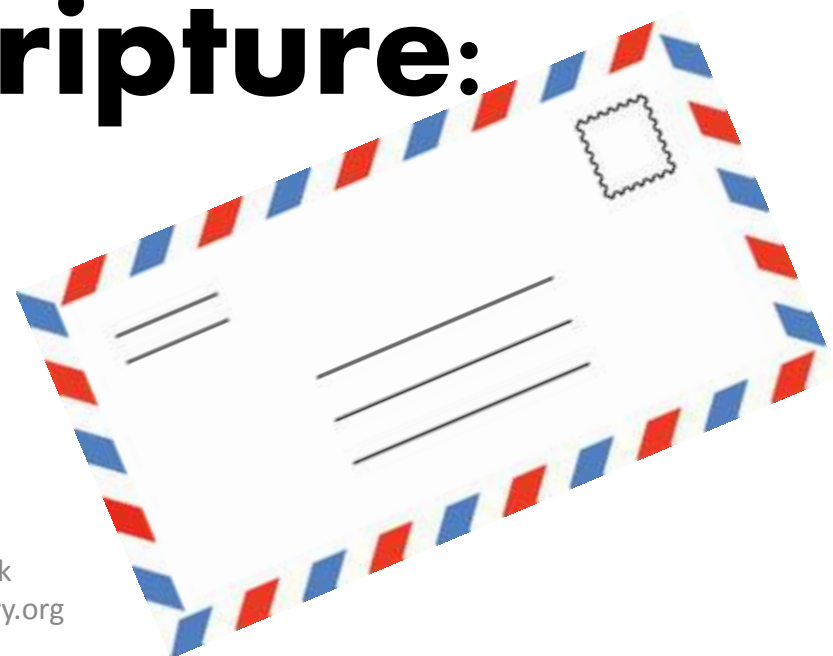
**He was forty-two years
old, never married
and
never buried.**



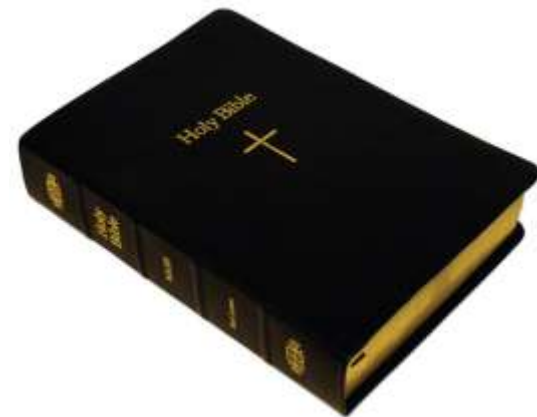
**So let Tyndale's very
last word to us be the
last word he sent to
his best friend, John
Frith,**



**in a letter just before he
was **burned** alive for
believing and speaking
the truth of Scripture:**



**“Your cause is Christ’s
gospel, a light that must
be fed with the blood of
faith. . . .**

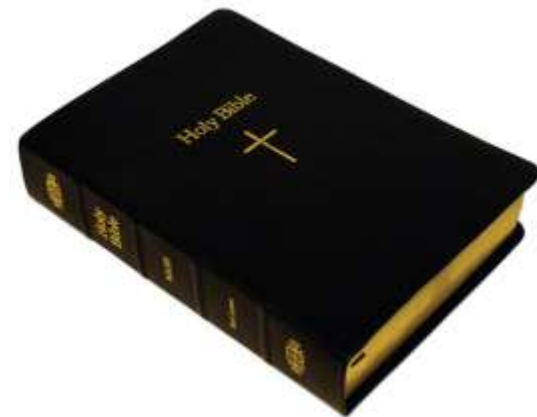


**If when we be tortured
for well-doing, we suffer
patiently and endure,
that is thankful with
God; for to that end we
are called**

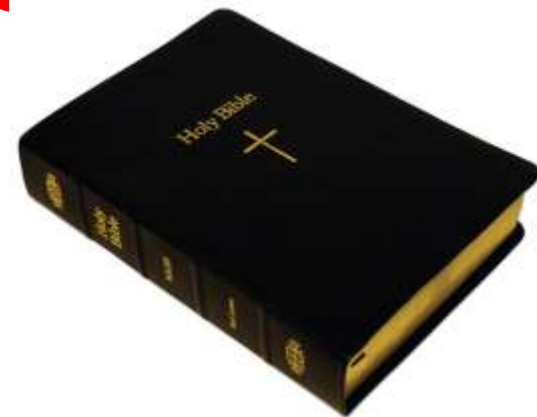


**For Christ also suffered
for us, leaving us an
example that we
should follow his steps,
who did no sin.**

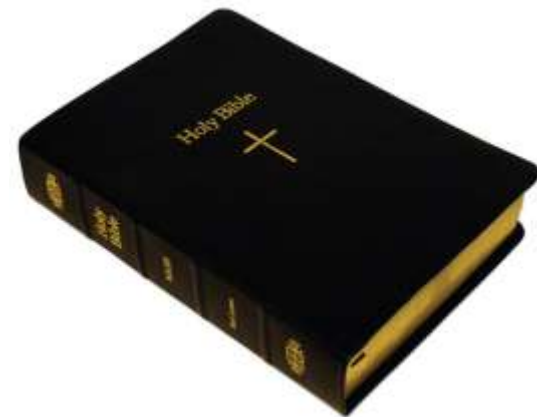
**Hereby have we
perceived love that he
laid down his life for
us: therefore we ought
to be able to lay down
our lives for the
brethren. . . .**




**Let not your body faint. If the pain be above your strength, remember:
“Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it to you.”**



**And pray to our Father in
that name, and he will
ease your pain, or
shorten it. . . . Amen”**

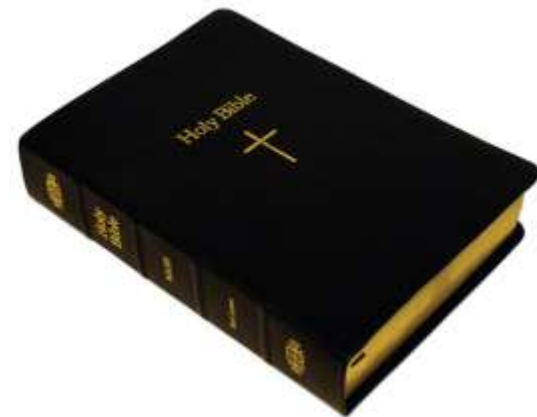


PRECIOUS HERITAGE



**Through
the
centuries,
courageous
men and
women have
treasured
the Scripture**

**and have struggled to
preserve and distribute
them amid great
opposition.**



**Some, as we
have seen,
have died to
get the Bible
into the
hands of the
common
person.**




**Their sacrifices should
inspire us to greater
study and application
of the Bible's teaching**



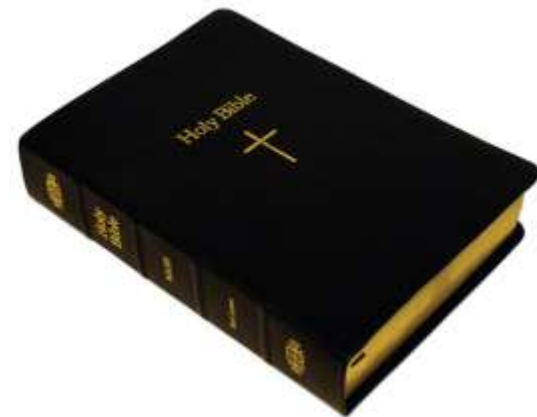
**Yet many today
take owning a
Bible for granted.
Indeed, although
the Bible is on the
bookshelves of
educated people,**



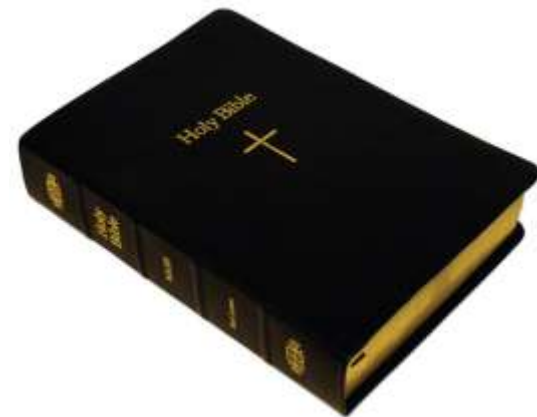
A photograph of a courtroom scene. An older man with white hair, wearing a dark blue suit, is holding a Bible and looking towards a younger man. The younger man, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and light-colored pants, has his right hand raised in a gesture of being sworn in. In the background, a judge in a black robe is seated on a bench. The courtroom has wood-paneled walls, an American flag on the left, and a gold lamp on the right. A circular seal with the word 'DISTRICT' is visible on the wall above the judge.

**the Bible is
all too often
seen only as
a symbol for
a court of
law,.**

**to be read at the
christening or quoted at
a funeral, but rarely used
in between.**



**Few read what it has to
say as a regular part of
their daily lives.**



Yet the words of the Bible
are of **no value** as mere
letter on the paper.

They must **live in the**
minds of people through
the **Spirit of God.**

The Bible is a **precious**
heritage and a **priceless**
gift.



**It reveals the true God
and his Son, Jesus Christ,
the Saviour of all
humanity.**

**Realizing that God
inspired many
dedicated Christians to
great personal sacrifice
should motivate us to
value the precious
heritage of the Bible**



**The once-forbidden
book now lies open
- - - – TO YOU!**



THANK YOU

REFERENCES

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjLXIFBPIW4>
2. Google search Images
3. www.desiregod.com