

## Translations of the Bible

### The Amplified Bible (AB)

Readability - Expanded and "amplified" by means of a system of brackets and parentheses, which sometimes make for abrupt reading

Grade Level - 8.5?

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation, plus additional amplification of word meaning

Format - Verse for verse

Translators - Frances E. Siewert, plus 12 others

Notes - A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. Published 1964 (updated 1987).

Theological Affiliation - Conservative, evangelical, and mainline

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 says, "He thunders speak (awesomely) concerning Him; the cattle are told of His coming storm."

### New International Reader's Version (NirV)

Readability - Very easy to read and understand; uses simple, short words and sentences

Grade Level - 2.9

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning, with an emphasis on meaning where necessary for simplification

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 40 (includes stylists and simplifiers)

Notes - A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NirV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational and transdenominational, conservative, evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 says, "His thunder announces that a storm is coming. Even the cattle let us know it's approaching."

### New Century Version (NCV) or International Children's Bible (ICB)

Readability - Simple and easy to understand

Grade Level - 3.9

Translation Philosophy - Priority to meaning rather than word translation

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - many translators (unknown to me how many)

Notes - The NCV and ICB are both designed for ease of reading and understanding. Some paraphrasing is used to avoid words that are not commonly used today. While the NCV and ICB are very similar, the ICB is a bit more simplistic stylistically. Published in 1987.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "His thunder announces that a storm is coming. Even the cattle show that a storm is coming (ICB)."

### The Message

Readability - An easy-to-read, modern-language paraphrase

Grade Level - 4.8

Translation Philosophy - Conversion of the original languages into the tone and rhythm of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - Eugene H. Peterson and few others

Notes - This paraphrase was translated using the rhythms and tone of contemporary English to communicate to the modern reader.

Theological Affiliation - Evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "The High God roars in the thunder, angry against evil."

### Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Readability - Clear and simple English that a child can understand, but with a mature style that adults can appreciate.

Grade Level - 5.4

Translation Philosophy - Meaning all important

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - Over 100 (including reviewers)

Notes - Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published 1995.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative, evangelical, and mainline

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "And the thunder tells of His anger against sin."

### God's Word Bibles (GWB)

Readability - A readable translation; employs natural English expressions to convey the meaning of the original languages

Grade Level - 5.8

Translation Philosophy - Priority to meaning rather than word translation

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 75

Notes - Using a linguistically based translation method, the work on God's Word was done by a denominationally diverse, 75-member team of translators, linguists, English experts, and independent biblical-language scholars. Published 1995.

Theological Affiliation - Lutheran/evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "The thunder announces His coming. The storm announces His angry wrath."

### New Living Translation (NLT)

Readability - A readable translation with commonly used vocabulary and language structures

Grade Level - 6.3

Translation Philosophy - Priority to meaning rather than word translation

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 90

Notes - A dynamic equivalent translation with roots in The Living Bible. The purpose of this translation "was to enhance the power and clarity of The Living Bible" and create a "translation as good for study as it is for devotional reading." Published in 1996 and strongly advocated by Billy Graham.

Theological Affiliation - Evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "His thunder announces His presence; the storm announces His indignant anger."

### New American Bible (NAB)

Readability - A clear and straightforward translation that reads very smoothly. Written in basic American English.

Grade Level - 6.6

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 55

Notes - Published under the direction of Pope Pious XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include deuterocanonical books. Published in 1970.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "His thunder speaks for Him and incites the fury of the storm"

### Today's English Version (TEV)

Readability - Very simple and readable version. Uses a very limited vocabulary.

Grade Level - 7.3

Translation Philosophy - Meaning all important

Format - Paragraphing with poetry and other special indentations

Translators - R. Bratcher in the New Testament and R. Bratcher with six others in the Old Testament

Notes - "A translation intended for people everywhere for whom English is either their mother tongue or an acquired language." Published in 1976.

Theological Affiliation - Evangelical and interconfessional

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "Thunder announces the approaching storm, and the cattle know it's coming."

### New International Version (NIV)

Readability - A smooth-reading version in modern English

Grade Level - 7.8

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 115

Notes - The best-selling translation and widely accepted by most evangelical Christians. The purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." Published in 1978.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational, transdenominational team of scholars, conservative, as well as evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "His thunder announced the coming storm, even the cattle make known its approach."

### Revised Standard Version (RSV)

Readability - Contemporary for its day. Very dignified with generic language in reference to humans

Grade Level - 11.2?

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 30 (Herbert G. May for OT and Bruce M. Metzger for NT)

Notes - A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version and the English Revised Version. Its purpose was to improve upon the King James Version. Published in 1952 complete (NT in 1946).

Theological Affiliation - Mainline and interconfessional (Protestant and Catholic)

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "Its crashing declares concerning Him, who is jealous with anger against iniquity."

### New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Readability - Contemporary, dignified with generic language in reference to humans

Grade Level - 10.4

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning

Format - Paragraphs with poetry

Translators - 30

Notes - A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Its purpose was to "make a good one better." Published in 1990.

Theological Affiliation - Mainline and interconfessional

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "Its crashing tells about Him; he is jealous with anger against iniquity."

### American Standard Version (ASV)

Readability - Highly formal, rather choppy reading

Grade Level - 12

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse with poetry

Translators - 54

Notes - A highly respected translation of the Bible. Often called the "church of Christ's" Bible. The purpose of the work was make a more accurate and more reliable English translation. Published in 1901.

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "The noise thereof telleth concerning him, the cattle also concerning the storm that cometh up."

### New American Standard Version (NASV or NASB)

Readability - Highly formal, rather choppy reading

Grade Level - 11.3

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse with poetry

Translators - 54

Notes - A highly respected formal translation of the Bible. The purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971 (updated 1995).

Theological Affiliation - Conservative and evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "Its noise declares His presence; the cattle also, concerning what is coming up."

### King James Version (KJV)

Readability - Poetic literary style using Elizabethan English. Most universally accepted translation for four centuries.

Grade Level - 12

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse

Translators - 54

Notes - Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand." Published 1611.

Theological Affiliation - Church of England, conservative, and evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "The noise thereof sheweth concerning it; the cattle also concerning the vapour."

### New King James Version (NKJV)

Readability - Easier word usage than the original, but stays true to 17th-century sentence structure

Grade Level - 9.2

Translation Philosophy - Priority to word translation rather than meaning

Format - Verse for verse

Translators - 119

Notes - A modern language update of the original KJV. Its purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.

Theological Affiliation - Transnational, transdenominational team of scholars, conservative, as well as evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 "His thunder declares it, the cattle also, concerning the rising storm."

### Easy-To-Read Version (ETV)

Readability - Very easy to read and understand; uses simple, short words and sentences

Grade Level - 3.2?

Translation Philosophy - Balance between word translation and meaning, with an emphasis on meaning where necessary for simplification

Format - Paragraphs with some poetry

Translators - many stylists and simplifiers (unknown to me how many)

Notes - A thorough simplification specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Also for deaf people as well. Published in 1987 complete (NT in 1978)

Theological Affiliation - Transnational and transdenominational, conservative, evangelical

Sample Passage - Job 36:33 says, "The thunder warns that a storm is coming. Even the cattle know it is coming."

There are many Bible's printed for special needs such as The Promise Bible (CEV), Good New For Modern Man (TEV), The Companion Bible (KJV), as well as devotional and study Bible's.

In the aforementioned material I have not discussed the Jerusalem Bible (1966), the New Jerusalem Bible, the American Bible, the New American Bible, the Modern Language Bible, the New English Bible (1970), or the Revised English Bible (1989).

I have also avoided the one man translations by Berkeley (1959), Goodspeed, Knoch, Phillips, Moffatt, Montgomery, Williams, Young, and others.

There is simply not enough time to permit the mention of every version and translation.

Be sure to read the "PREFACE" and introductory material in your Bible before reading it.