

New American Standard Bible

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Very literal to Hebrew and Greek	Possible premillennial bias (Is. 2:2; Micah 4:1)
- Easy to read, without compromising literal meaning	Interpretation rather than translation in areas (I Cor. 7:36-38; I Cor. 2:13)
- Dignified reading: no slang or embarrassing passages (such as I Kings 14:10 in KJV)	Single translation of word with plural meaning (sarx: “flesh OR body” – Rom. 4:1, 8:4)
- Extensive use of Greek and Hebrew manuscripts	Two Greek words translated by one Eng. Word (Abolish: Matt. 5:17; Eph. 2:15 Love: John 21:15-17)
	Use of archaic pronouns in reference to Deity Thee/thou – not holier than “you”
	Overuse of quotation marks (Is. 36:10; II Kings 19:7)

American Standard Version, 1901

- More manuscripts were available at the time of its translation than any previous version	Released just prior to major breakthroughs in translation and archaeology
- “Harmony of expression,” meaning that each Greek or Hebrew word is translated consistently	“Harmony of expression” not always employed (“teleios” translated “men” (Eph 4:13), “full-grown” (I Cor. 14:20) and “perfect” (elsewhere))
- Very literal: often criticized for poor “translation English”	Interpretation rather than translation in areas (same places as NASB, but also Heb. 12:2)
	Sometimes too literal to be comprehended fully (I Tim. 3:16)
	Uses archaic language, implying that it is holier

New International Version

- Translators were world-renowned scholars in Biblical languages from many backgrounds	Romans 1:17 – “by faith from first to last” (“By faith alone,” in other words)
- Editors invite input for revisions to the NIV	Eph. 1:13 – “included in Christ when you heard the word of truth”
- Perhaps the best contemporary English version	Psalm 51:5 – “Surely I was sinful at birth”
- Not too literal to understand, but not a complete paraphrase	Romans 10:10 – “For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified”
- “reflects without apology the Messianic interpretation of the Old Testament”	Misleading footnotes – II Tim. 3:11 “In the same way, their wives...” (footnote says “deaconesses”)
	Embarrassing passages – Gen. 31:35; 19:5.
	Noah’s ark made of cypress wood? (Gen. 6:14)
	“all things” rendered “always” (I Cor. 13:7)

### Revised Standard Version

- Eclectic text principle: used many Hebrew and Greek texts instead of traditional translations	Isaiah 7:14 – “Behold a young woman shall be with child”
- Readable; not “translation English”	Does not use italics to differentiate between translation supplements and original texts
- Verses arranged in paragraph form for increased readability	Gen. 9:20 – Noah the first tiller of the soil? What about Cain?
- Reviews suggestions from readers and promises a new edition every ten years	Romans 11:20 – “you stand fast only through faith” (“only” is not in the Greek)
- Does not read New Testament theology back to prophecy: leaves interpretation up to readers	Habakkuk 1:1 – “the oracle of God” (“Of God” is not in Hebrew text)
	Matt. 19:28 – “in the new world” should be “in the regeneration, new birth, or renovation”

### New King James Version

- Eliminates outdated KJV language	- Is based on the same Greek manuscript evidence as the KJV, so it does not take advantage of New Testament manuscripts discovered since then.
- Retains KJV word order to ease parallel reading	- KJV word order is not always as readable as modern word order
- Corrects most KJV weaknesses	
- Incorporates footnotes to mention what the Majority and United Bible Societies’ Greek text reads.	

### King James Version

Widely accepted	Paraphrase: I Kings 1:31; Gen. 25:8; Matt. 27:44
“Tried and True” since 1611	Misleading translations: Gen. 12:19; Psalm 77:2; John 20:17; James 3:2
More poetic and beautiful to read	Archaeology – Asherah (I Kings 16:33, Egypt/Assyria (II Kings 23:29)
Written at peak of English literacy	Different speech – Luke 17:9 (I trow not) Isaiah 3:22; I Timothy 1:6
Dignified	Word meanings changed – Acts 28:13 “We fetched a compass” (compass innovated in 13th century China)
Standard for reference works	Embarrassing in today’s context: I Kings 14:10; II Kings 18:27
	Manipulating text to attribute to Shakespeare – Psalm 46
	Doctrinal Issues: Acts 2:47; Heb. 10:38; Acts 12:4