

Bonus Reading

**Text Check;
Translation Check**

A religion with NO TEXT:

Mormonism (Their golden plates are allegedly in heaven.)

- **Translated** by a single person, **Joseph Smith**

A religion with a questionable textual history:

Islam (Their golden tablet is also allegedly in heaven.)

For other similarities between these groups, see

www.danishgrove.net/yildiz/writings/islam-and-mormonism.html, Dec. 2010)

- *One man*, the third caliph, **Uthman**, in A.D. 653, **decided certain manuscripts were true** revelations from the “heavenly source.” On his own authority, he **distinguished** them from Muhammad’s other utterances **then destroyed all others.**

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Religions with THEIR OWN TRANSLATIONS of the Bible:

Jehovah's Witnesses, the *New World Translation* in various languages, by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, mostly in order to teach that Jesus is a created being and is not eternal.

However, **Jesus is God, the Creator, and is eternal.**

See **John 1:1; 8:58; Hebrews 1:1-8** which they have changed.

The Roman Catholic Church, producing various translations with the **Pope's imprimatur**, adding **Apocryphal Books** in A.D. 1546 and translating away the mention of "saints" in order to accommodate their teachings.

However, **all Christians are saints**, "holy ones" to God.

See **Acts 9:32; Romans 1:7; 12:13; 1 Cor. 1:2, 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Philippians 1:1; etc..**

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Translations that miss the mark

Any paraphrase

For example, *The Living Bible (TLB)* claims to be a “thought-for-thought translation,” rather than a true word-for-word translation. As a result, some **major differences** are seen.

For example, **on how to be saved**, compare renderings of **1 Peter 3:21**, the context of which is the flood that Noah survived:

(ESV) Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you ... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

(TLB) That, by the way, is what baptism pictures for us: In baptism we show that we have been saved from death and doom by the resurrection of Christ.

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Translations that miss the mark (*continued*)

These are clearly *different thoughts*, so TLB fails in its purpose. Happily, a footnote in at least one edition of TLB straightens out the passage:

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you through the Resurrection.

Any translation by a single individual

It's simply too easy for one person to introduce bias – *intentionally or otherwise!* – when there is **no one to double-check** the work.

A translation by a single person may serve as an **interesting** point of comparison, as different wording may help us focus on some of the ideas differently, **but** should **not** be used as our **main study Bible**.

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The Bible has a rock-solid text *and* has been translated reliably.

The Bible has **thousands of manuscripts available for everyone** in the world to read, complete with their few and minute differences.

The Hebrew and Greek Bible texts are rightly **translated by committees (groups of scholars)** from various backgrounds directly into the language being read (such as English).

No translation is flawless, but **many reliable translations** are available: (New) King James, (New) American Standard, Revised Standard, English Standard, New International, etc..

Sometimes, a comparison of the various translations can shed light on a passage.