
STUDYING THE BIBLE: TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Introduction to the Bible
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BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

- The warrant for Bible translations.
 - The example of the New Testament church.
 - Westminster Confession of Faith 1.8.
- Approaches to translation
 - Formal equivalence first and foremost attempts to preserve the grammatical structure of the original. Dynamic equivalence emphasizes a natural reading. These don't have to be mutually exclusive, but in translation you inevitably must make tradeoffs.
 - Dynamic equivalence aims at producing the same response in the reader of the translation as would have been produced in the reader of the original language. That way, they would understand the text in the same way.
- Survey of translations
 - Predominant use of formal equivalence (KJV, ASV, RSV, NASB, ESV)
 - Moderate use of dynamic equivalence (NIV, NET, TNIV)
 - Extensive use of paraphrase (The Living Bible, The Message)

RESOURCES

- Dictionaries
- Atlases
- Commentaries
- Concordance
 - A concordance is an alphabetical list of words used in the Bible and the Scripture references where those words may be found.
 - They can help you find verses in the Bible where you may only remember one or two key words. They may also help you trace themes throughout the Bible.
- Study Bibles
- Software
 - Several software packages bring many of these resources into one place.
 - Examples:
 - Logos
 - BibleWorks
 - ESV app